

## Still Loving You Nonetheless by Snow de Eira Chapter 31

Chapter 31 Feeling worn out, Meredith dragged herself back to the staff lounging area. Upon seeing her looking like a mess, the group of nosy ladies started wagging their tongues. "Seems like Mister Leon is indeed a pervert." "I'm sure it's because he got a glimpse of her face."

Only Zya hurried over to Meredith and asked concernedly, "Merelyn, are you alright? You don't look too well." "I'm fine." Shaking her head, Meredith changed her outfit while pulling into a bitter smile. "The wound on my back might have opened." It was only then did Zya realize that Meredith's back was bloody and it had gotten worse compared to last night. "Come with me, we'll drop by Zade's place and have him treat your wound."

Zya started walking out the room with Meredith's hands in hers but Meredith stopped her.

"Hold on, I haven't received today's pay." "Goodness, Merelyn. Just look at yourself, it's not the time to be worrying about your pay." "Zya, I need it urgently...please." After putting on her clothes, Meredith went straight to Miss Josie's office. Seeing Meredith in a bad shape, Miss Josie could only shake her head silently without saying anything. From the drawer of her desk, Miss Josie took out a total of five hundred dollars and handed it to Meredith. "This is for the two shows you did and for the time you spent with Mister Josiah." Counting the money, Meredith looked puzzled. "Miss Josie, is this all?" She usually got a hundred dollars per show. "Mister Josiah said that your time was only worth three hundred." Looking apologetic, Miss Josie patted her shoulders gently and added, "Sorry Merelyn, I didn't expect Mister Josiah to be this petty." Meredith simply pulled into a bitter smile. Shaking her head, she said, "That's alright, Miss

Josie, it's not your fault."

Meredith knew that Josiah had decided to humiliate her this way. After leaving the clubhouse, Meredith dropped by Zade's place to get her wounds treated. Seeing how she was harassed and tormented, Zade got furious yet at the same time felt bad for Meredith. Holding her hand in his, Zade said, "Merelyn, let's stop this, shall we? We'll find you another job."

Smiling, Meredith shook her head and removed her hands from his.

She needed money urgently and this was the only way that she could make quick cash.

Even though the pay for her performances was not high, there were times when some generous customers would tip her a lot. Besides, now that Josiah was the new owner of the Lima Club and as long as the contract was still valid, Josiah would not let her off the hook easily. After treating her wound, Zade took out an envelope from the drawer and put it in her hand. "Merelyn, I got my pay today. Take this and use it." This was not the first time Zade had given her money. But like always, Meredith had rejected his

kindness. “Zade, your pay is already low as you had just graduated. Plus, your parents need the money more than me for their medical bills. How could I take your money?” Merelyn...” Zade, I appreciate your kindness but I really cannot take them.” Merelyn, are you worried that I’d ask for something in return if you take my money? Don’t worry, I won’t ask you to be together with me just because of this.” It’s not that, Zade.”

Looking into his eyes, Meredith mocked herself, “Zade, you must have seen the hickies on my cheek, right? I’m not worth it, Zade.”

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Chapter 32 “I don’t mind it at all!” Zade shook his head and continued, “I know that you’re only doing this because you’ve no other options, so I really don’t mind.”

“But I do, Zade,” Putting aside the fact that she was in this pathetic situation, even if she was still the young madam of the Leighton family, Meredith was sure that Josiah would still harass her. Meredith could not bring herself to drag the Brooks siblings into her mess. “Zade, you don’t have to say anything anymore. I have to visit Nia at the hospital.” “Merelyn...” Meredith said her goodbyes and left Zade’s place. After paying the medical bills with the five hundred dollars she received earlier, Meredith walked into the ward where Nia was. Nia had just woken up and she was in the middle of eating. Upon seeing her mother, Nia pulled into a wide grin and called out to Meredith softly, “Mommy...” Seeing the bright smile on Nia’s face, Meredith suddenly forgot the pain in her body. “Someone’s eating well today. You’re amazing, darling.” Meredith walked over and stroked the top of Nia’s head gently and lovingly. It was only when she was with Nia that Meredith was able to smile as she meant it. “Grandma said that I have to eat well if I want to get better quickly to learn to play the piano from you.” Nia looked at her, beaming. Like her mother, Nia had a talent for playing the piano. She had started learning the piano when she was two.

If she was not bedridden, Nia would have been an amazing pianist. “Grandma is right.” Meredith nodded. Alayna smiled and said, “Nia is feeling a lot better today.” “Is that so? Seems like our Nia can be discharged soon and she’ll be able to go home with us.” Meredith pinched the tip of Nia’s nose gently. “Are you happy sweetheart?” “I am.” Nia nodded.

Taking the bowl of soup from her mother, Meredith said to Alayna, “Mom, go get some rest at home. I’ll be here with Nia.”

“It’s alright. You’ve just got off work and you have to go back the first thing in the morning. You’ll overwork yourself.” “It’s fine, Mom.”

Seeing how her mother did not want to leave, Meredith could only scare her. “Mom, you’re

the person who will be donating your bone marrow to Nia. It won't do any of us any good if you get sick

Vareedith's words worked wonders and Alayna left the hospital right away.

Are a statue, Josiah stood by the bed as he stared silently at the woman lying still on the bed. *ven after three years of treatment*, she did not get any better but instead had gotten thinner *y the day fter taking* medications for a long period of time, her already pale face looked paler by day. *taring at her face*, Josiah was suddenly reminded *of Meredith's scarred face*. The last bit of *ty that he felt for her* had vanished completely.

it was *not for Meredith*, *Yena would* not have been stuck in the hospital for more than three

*wardly*, he was seething that *someone like Meredith* survived when she did not deserve to *e another day*,

Sister *Josiah*, it's *getting late now*. *Are you not* heading back to get some rest?" The doctor *charge asked concernedly*. *ich came back* to his senses and criticized, "Why does Yena look paler than the last time *I Ther?*"

*y apologies*, *Mister Josiah*. *Because Miss Yena's* blood type is rare, it's hard to find someone the *same type*."

*ing how Josiah's face was darkened*, the doctor quickly added, "But you don't have to *Ty*, *Mister Josiah*. *We found someone* with the same blood type at a hospital in *Delmas n*. *We'd be able to supply blood to Miss Yena* in two days."

## Still Loving You Nonetheless by Snow de Eira Chapter 33

Chapter 33 "Good. I hope this will be settled soon." "Don't worry, Mister Josiah." Leaving Yena's ward, Josiah headed straight toward the lift. At the corner of the hallway, he suddenly noticed a familiar silhouette. He stopped in his tracks and glanced coldly toward the familiar person. Meredith did not expect to run into Josiah at the hospital. Startled, she hurriedly turned around and headed toward the fire escape exit.

"Stay where you are!" Meredith heard him ordering.

But she did not stop and quickened her steps instead.

All Meredith could think of was to avoid getting caught by Josiah. She could not risk letting Josiah know about Nia, if he did find out about her, Nia would be in danger. .

However, the more she ran away from him, the faster he chased her.

Because of the wound on her back, Josiah caught up to her easily.

“Meredith Leighton, do you really think that you can outrun me?” Grabbing her wrist, Josiah cornered her against the wall.

Meredith felt another piercing pain spreading through her back. She guessed that her wound was open again. “Let go of me, Josiah Shelby.” Avoiding his gaze, she turned her head to a side coldly. Josiah obviously did not let go of her. Glaring at her coldly, he said, “Meredith Leighton, it’s already been three years, are you still not willing to let Yena go?”

Meredith was puzzled. “I don’t understand what you’re saying.” “What are you doing here sneaking around Yena’s ward with a water bottle in your hand at midnight? Don’t tell me that you’re simply sleepwalking.”

Meredith was slightly taken aback. She did not know that Yena was transferred to this hospital.

It explained why Josiah thought of accusing her. Unbothered, she smiled and said, “Whatever you say. You won’t believe me anyway.” . Gritting his teeth, Josiah seethed, “Meredith Leighton, do you know that I hate how you always act so nonchalantly?”

“Have you forgotten how I was kneeling at your knees, crying and begging for you to believe me three years ago? I thought you hated how I looked back then too?” Josiah was rendered speechless. She was wrong. If he had to compare, Josiah preferred the way she was back then. He liked the way she pleaded and begged with him like a pathetic dog, rather than her behaving like a porcupine, full of

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thorns.

“Please excuse me, Mister Josiah,” said Meredith. Josiah tightened the grip around her wrist and seethed, “You’re going to just leave?” “I did not harm Yena.” “Just because you didn’t harm her this time, it didn’t mean that you didn’t back then.” He then dragged her along with him toward the door and added, “You showed up just in time. Yena is urgently in need of blood.” Meredith nearly tripped by his brute force.

Trying to keep up with his steps, Meredith tried to explain, “I said that it wasn’t me who harmed Yena. I was already forced to pay for something that I didn’t even do. What else do you want from me?”

“I said it before too, as long as Yena stays unconscious, you can forget about having better days.” Josiah pushed her toward the doctor in charge and bellowed, “Doctor Leonard, I’ve found someone that has the same blood type as Yena. Take as much as you need from her.”

Staring at Meredith who was on the floor, Doctor Leonard was startled. "Mister Josiah, where did you find her?"

Ignoring his question, Josiah tugged the corners of his lips into a smirk and replied, "She has given her blood to Yena before. You don't have to run any tests on her."

Doctor Leonard called for the nurses right away. Tears ran down her cheeks as the long needle pierced into her skin.

## **Still Loving You Nonetheless by Snow de Eira Chapter 34**

### Chapter 34

Chapter 34 Although she was in so much pain, Meredith said nothing as she bit down hard on her lips. She looked on as bags of blood were taken away from her body and Josiah did not look like he was going to stop them anytime soon. She finally started begging, "Mister Josiah, I am a patient too and I am injured. Please have mercy on me..."

She was not scared of dying but she was worried that no one would pay for Nia's medical bills and both her mother and daughter would lose the only person that they relied on. "Aren't you full of pride earlier?" Josiah made a hand gesture for the nurse to stop. It was only then the nurse removed the needle from Meredith's arm.

The two other nurses too let go of their grasp on Meredith and she fell back onto the ground. Meredith was already injured and because too much blood was taken from her, she felt faint. She got a grip of herself and started getting up onto her feet effortfully. Holding onto the wall, she took heavy steps toward the door. Nia was still waiting for her in the ward. Her daughter was waiting for her to get water. She was terrified that the devil standing behind her would drag her back to hell. But the more she was anxious, the more that her legs gave her away. In the end, before she could even leave the room, Meredith fell to the ground.

Doctor Leonard did think that they had taken too much blood from Meredith but he dared not go against Josiah. Upon seeing Meredith dropping to the ground, he hurried over to her. "Are you alright, miss?"

Josiah furrowed his brows slightly but he kept a straight face.

"Mister Josiah, she looks underweight and malnourished. It would kill her if we were to take another 800 milliliters from her."

"Well, did she die?" He asked coldly.

"No, but..." Doctor Leonard felt chills run down his spine.

He had heard of how cruel and ruthless Josiah Shelby was but he did not believe the rumors as he knew how Josiah was good to Yena. But the incident today...

"It's fine as long as she's not dead." Getting up from the sofa, Josiah added, "For Yena's sake, she must live."

Doctor Leonard swallowed nervously. He quickly sent help for Meredith.

The doctor was not aware of the wound on her back and had her rest with her back on the bed. In the end, Meredith woke up from feeling too much pain in her back. In a daze, she heard a doctor giving orders to the nurses. "Mister Josiah wants her alive. Let's have her on an IV drip for three days."

"Noted, Doctor Leonard." The nurse turned around and left the room.

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"No!" Meredith shouted suddenly. Doctor Leonard was slightly startled and exclaimed, "Miss, you're awake!" "I don't need any IV drips, I don't need them..." "Miss, you're really weak right now. If you don't take them..." "I said I don't need them." Struggling to get down from the bed, she added, "I don't need to be admitted. I have something urgent to attend to...thank you, doctor." She could not even afford to pay Nia's medical bills, how was she supposed to pay for the IV drips? "Miss, we can't allow you to leave the hospital in this way." "It's fine. I'll be careful." Meredith then left hurriedly. By the time she returned to Nia's ward, Nia was already sleeping soundly with the teddy bear that Meredith had gifted her. There were tear stains on her cheeks.

Nia must have been frightened. "I'm sorry, Nia...Mommy had something to do." Feeling bad, Meredith stroked Nia's head softly. Nia might have heard her and mumbled softly, "Mommy, you're back. I was really scared. Sorry my darling, it's all my fault." "I love you, Mommy," Nia mumbled and went back to sleep.

This time around, there was a smile on Nia's face. But this made Meredith feel even worse.

## **Still Loving You Nonetheless by Snow de Eira Chapter 35**

### **Chapter 35**

Chapter 35 Because of the hell that she went through when her blood was taken, Meredith fell asleep quickly laying her head next to Nia's bed.

The next day, she woke up as usual at seven in the morning. She fed Nia some breakfast and accompanied Nia when she got her injection. Before she left, Meredith kissed Nia's forehead. "Have a good day, Nia. I'll come to see you in the evening." "Have a good day too, Mommy." Nia flashed her a big grin. "Thank you, darling, I

will." Meredith was working in the same hospital as Zade. By the time she reached her office, Zade had already bought her breakfast and left it on her desk. "Merelyn, you look even worse than you did yesterday. Is the wound getting worse?" "No, the wound is getting better." She did not tell Zade about what happened last night as she did not want him to worry.

The emergency room was as busy as always. After a whole day of working even though she was sick and exhausted, Meredith rushed home to do laundry and have a shower.

Upon passing by a wet market, she noticed the owner of the pork stall was clearing away the leftover meat and he was about to throw away a pork liver that had changed color. She walked up to him and asked, "Sir, if you are throwing away the pork liver, could you give it to me instead?"

The owner looked at her, puzzled.

"You want this? To feed the strays?"

It was understandable that he was puzzled as this was the first time he met someone as young as Meredith who was asking for leftover meat.

Meredith nodded awkwardly. "Sure, here you go." The owner wrapped up the pork liver and gave it to her. Taking it from the owner, Meredith thanked him gratefully, "Thank you so much. Can you please keep any pork liver aside for me if you don't want them?" "Sure. You can pick it up in the evening." "Thank you so much." As soon as she reached home, Meredith started making a soup with the pork liver. After showering, the soup was ready. Trying a spoon of the soup, Meredith nearly threw up from the strong fishy smell. But for the sake of replenishing herself from all the blood lost, Meredith pinched her nose and gulped down the entire bowl of soup. She then rushed toward the sink and started retching.

"Merelyn, what are you doing here?" Upon seeing Meredith at the clubhouse, Zya asked in surprise, "You're still injured, aren't you? What if Miss Josie have you spend time with the sir

again?"

"Don't worry, it won't happen." Meredith smiled. She believed that after Mister Leon caught a glimpse of her scarred face, he had spread rumors around the town and no one would possibly want her service. Her first performance of the day wrapped up smoothly and she received a few hundred dollars as tips.

Toward the end of her second performance, a young lad walked over to her with a bouquet of flowers in his hands, covering his face. The man came to a stop in front of Meredith and Meredith was startled by his sudden appearance.

“Merelyn, I like you. Can you be my girlfriend?”

It was Zade Brooks.

There was an uproar of cheers in the crowd. Zade lowered the bouquet of flowers, revealing his face as he stared lovingly at Meredith who was sitting in front of the piano.

“Merelyn, I’m sure you’re already aware of the fact that I have had feelings for you for a long time. I don’t care how you look and neither do I care about your past, I...”

“Wait.” Meredith hurried over to him, grabbed his wrist, and hissed, “What are you doing Zade? Do you want to die?” Eade was confused, of course. He was simply confessing to Meredith...why was Meredith calking about dying?

## Still Loving You Nonetheless by Snow de Eira Chapter 36

| Chapter 36

Merelyn, I..”

“Just stop and follow me.” Meredith dragged him off the stage, passed through the crowd, and headed toward backstage.

The clueless customers saw how the both of them left the hall hand in hand and assumed that Meredith was simply shy from the sudden confession and started cheering for them.

Once they reached backstage, Zade handed the bouquet to Meredith and beamed, “Merelyn, these are your favorite flowers, tulips. I...” . Before Zade could finish his sentence, Meredith took the bouquet from his hand and put it aside. She then walked him toward the backdoor. “Zade Brooks, leave right now! Hurry up!”

“What’s wrong? Why are you rushing me out? Zya told me that you only had two shows today

“I said leave, don’t you hear me?!” Meredith sounded as if she was about to cry. Zade thought that Meredith was only acting this way simply because she could not reciprocate his feelings.

“Merelyn, it’s okay if you can’t accept me now. I’ll wait until the day you’re willing to accept me.”

“Zade, didn’t you always ask me how I got the wounds on my back? Fine, I’ll tell you now. I was hurt by a monster, and that monster is the owner of Luna Club, and you can’t afford to offend him. If you don’t leave right now, you’ll end up like me! Or maybe even

worse!" Meredith had not forgotten about how Yoel Harper had lost his life because of her.

- But Yoel was at fault too so Meredith was not as concerned.

But Zade was different. Zade was her best friend.

She remembered how Qira had lost her life simply because she was associated with her, hence she did not want Zade to get involved with her.

Zade, on the other hand, was not convinced. Unwavering, he said, "So what if he is the owner? Who does he think he is to meddle in his employee's relationships?"

"Zade..."

"Merelyn, fret not. I am not afraid of him!" "I see some guts that you've got there." A cynical remark was heard coming from the door. Just the voice was enough to make Meredith's skin crawl. "Who are you? You..." Studying Josiah who was walking toward them, Zade suddenly stammered.

"Zade, this is the new owner of Luna Club. You should really get going," Pulling Zade with her, Meredith headed for the door.

But Josiah stood himself in front of her, blocking her way. Looking at Zade, he smirked,"

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"Would you like to know the other identity that I have?"

"What...what is it?" Zade tried to act calm.

"Her husband." Placing his hand on the back of Meredith's head, Josiah pulled her into him and pressed his lips onto her. Zade was dumbfounded.

It was only when Zade had left, that Meredith then pushed Josiah away. "Mister Josiah, he is one of the staff members, the flowers and confession, he was just doing what he was told to. The stage director wanted to heighten the atmosphere." "Oh is that so? Why aren't I aware that my club offers such a touching performance?"

"I made a request to the stage director. I wanted to get more tips."

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"If it was really just a show, then these flowers must be just a prop, right?" Josiah put down the bottle of red wine in his hand and started admiring the bouquet of tulips. "Yes, it's a prop." "Is that so?" "Please, believe me, Mister Josiah." "Sure, but only if you eat this." Josiah shoved the bouquet of tulips in front of her face.

*Meredith was aghast. He wanted her to eat the flowers?*

## **Still Loving You Nonetheless by Snow de Eira Chapter 37**

At the sight of the spilled red wine on the floor, Miss Josie asked carefully, "Sir, did Merelyn do something that upset you? I'll apologize..." "There's no need for that." Josiah interrupted her and ordered, "Have her serve more customers, and, starting from this moment, she is not allowed to leave the club until she clears her debt for this bottle of red wine." Josiah then walked toward the door. "No!" Meredith ran toward him, grabbed the sleeves of his shirt, and begged, "Sir, I can't be locked up here! I...my family is in the hospital and I have to take care of her, please, I beg you..."

*Meredith was crying now.*

Puzzled, Josiah arched his brows. "Family? You still have family?" From what he knew, the Leightons had cut ties with her when he pressured them to do so three years ago. "Yes..." Meredith sniffled.; "Tell me, who else do you have?" "My...my mom." Wiping away the tears on her face with the back of her hand, she added, "My mom had not been well since she was kicked out from the family. Sir, my mom had always liked you and treated you well. You...shouldn't do this to her."

"Is there anyone in Jehovah City that doesn't like me? So what? That didn't stop them from stabbing me in the back." Josiah pushed away from her hands and continued walking out. Meredith froze. What should she do?

What about Nia? Not only was she losing her salary, but she was also losing her freedom. Miss Josie did not know what to say. Putting her hands on Meredith's shoulders, she said, "Merelyn, I'm sorry that you got entangled with Mister Josiah." "Ma'am, you have to help me. I really can't be locked up in here." With tears rolling down her cheeks, Meredith begged. Miss Josie shook her head. "The only way that I can help is to have you serve customers that are slightly better. As for the rest, I really can't do anything about them." After Miss Josie left, Meredith felt a churning pain in her stomach and at the same time, nauseated.

Rushing to the washroom, Meredith shoved fingers down her throat, trying to make herself throw up. She wanted to get the tulips out of her stomach.

After several attempts, Meredith gave up and could only chug down tons of water in hopes to dilute the poison from the flowers.

*Exid Meredith's life could have been in danger if the poison of the tulips were strong.*

After resting, Meredith was assigned a new job. She was sent to some VIP guest room as a companion. Miss Josie promised to have her serve customers that were more accountable but Meredith was skeptical about it.

However, no matter what reputation the customers had, they would still drink and get drunk in such places.

When she got married to Josiah, Meredith had trained herself to hold her liquor as she wanted to be the perfect wife for Josiah by being his companion when attending all sorts of events and parties.

“Aren’t you the lady that was playing the piano earlier?” One of the men asked in surprise. Meredith nodded slightly. “You have a good eye, Mister Garrett.”

“Goodness, it is really you. You played really well earlier. Do you mind giving me your contact number...”

“Ehem...” His girlfriend that was sitting beside him cleared her throat awkwardly and glanced toward Meredith. “No matter how well she plays, she’s still a bar hostess at the end of the day. Why are you getting all excited?” Brushing off her remarks, the man said, “So what if she’s a hostess? It’s not like she’s stealing or snatching.”

“You – !”

Seeing how the lovebirds were about to start a fight, Meredith quickly stepped in. “Sir and ma’am, it’s all my fault. Please don’t fight just because of me.”

“Since you admit that it is your fault, you must finish drinking everything on the table!” Meredith scanned the table with more than ten glasses of beer still on it.

## **Still Loving You Nonetheless by Snow de Eira Chapter 38**

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## Still Loving You Nonetheless by Snow de Eira Chapter 39

Chapter 39 Did Miss Josie not guarantee her customers decent characters? \*\*So are you drinking or not? I’ll make a complaint to your boss if you don’t!” The lady threatened.

The man tried to stop her. “Come now, she’s just a lady. She’ll die from all this alcohol.”

“So what? If there comes a day where I end up being a hostess in such a pathetic place, I’d rather kill myself than embarrass myself.” The lady’s words pierced through Meredith’s heart like sharp knives.

If it was not for Nia, she too would have rather killed herself, just like that very year. But at this stage, other than putting up with the humiliation from others, what else could she do?

Meredith wanted desperately to avoid more fury from Josiah, so she quickly plastered a smile on her face and said, “You’re right, ma’am. I should drink this as a punishment.” She then started chugging down the glasses of beer one by one. The liquid ran down her throat, burning her stomach. Her eyes turned red from the uncomfortable feeling.

In the end, she passed out from all the alcohol. It was Zya who helped Meredith get back to her dorm. Feeling bad and sorry for Meredith, Zya started sobbing, “Merelyn, it is all my fault. You wouldn’t have offended Mister Josiah if it wasn’t for me!”

Sprawled on the toilet, Meredith started throwing up violently. After she was done, Meredith said, “It’s not your fault ...Josiah and I were already on bad terms since a long time ago.....I hate him!” “What exactly is your relationship with him? Why is he doing this to you?”

Wiping the corners of her lips, Meredith flashed a smile at Zya. “Will you believe me if I tell you that he is my ex-husband?”

Zya did not say anything.

So the rumors spreading in the club were all true? Merelyn was the young madam of the respectable Leighton family and Josiah Shelby was her husband.

Meredith shook her head. "I can't do this. I cannot be locked up here. I have to visit Nia in the hospital..."

She then staggered and stumbled toward the door.

Zya stopped her immediately. "Merelyn, have you forgotten that Mister Josiah had stopped you from leaving the clubhouse? If he knows that you went against his orders, he'd definitely find ways to torment you." "I don't care..." Meredith shrugged her off and added, "Nia is still waiting for me, I must go..."

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"Your mom is looking after Nia, isn't she?" "My mom is not well herself and she has to take good care of herself to get ready for the musculoskeletal transplant surgery...it'll be too tough for her to handle!"

Meredith tried to open the door but she was immediately stopped by two bodyguards. "Miss Meredith, Sir had ordered your confinement. You're not allowed to leave." One of the bodyguards warned coldly. Meredith tried to fight off the bodyguards. "Who does he think he is?! I have to leave, I must leave...ahh!" Being pushed, Meredith fell back onto the ground. Zya hurriedly ran over to her. "Merelyn, are you alright? Merelyn!" Meredith shook her head but she started crying. "Josiah Shelby! You'll be punished for this!" Meredith cried while cursing at Josiah. "Nia, my darling Nia...". Usually, at this time, Meredith would have already shown up at the hospital to see Nia. But today, Nia had waited by the door of the ward for a long time but she had not seen her mother anywhere. One of the nurses noticed Nia who was waiting by the door in her thin hospital gown and to her, "Honey, you should hurry back to bed."

"Mís, I'm waiting for my mom," Nia replied softly. "Your mommy will be here in a bit. You should go in first." "What about my grandma?" "Your grandma has returned home to rest," The nurse replied annoyedly. Nia had been staying in the hospital for a long time and her guardians were always late on paying the medical bills which caused an inconvenience for a lot of people in the hospital.

If Alayna had not asked her for a favor to keep an eye on Nia, she would not even be bothered with this child.

"Don't make me repeat myself, child. If not, I'll kick you out of the hospital." The nurse threatened her and walked away. Nia was after all only a three-year-old kid. She was of course frightened by the threat. As soon as the nurse had left, Nia started looking for her mother. While walking around, Nia called out weakly, "Mommy, where are you? I'm scared..." "Mommy...!" The doors of the lift opened and Nia stepped into the lift. Her small and frail body bumped against a pair of long legs. She wrapped her arms around

the leg and looked up As soon as she saw the man, Nia stopped crying and started smiling. "Daddy, I finally found you," Nia exclaimed softly. Josiah had an obsession with cleanliness since young. The moment the sobbing child hugged him, Josiah frowned He furrowed his brows even tighter when the kid called him 'Daddy'. Indifferently, he replied to Nia, "I am not your daddy."

Even though the child looked pretty, Josiah found people who cry and whine annoying. He tried to remove his leg from her grasp but Nia hugged him even tighter. Still staring at him, the child looking all sad, asked, "But you're my daddy. Do you not want me anymore?"

"I already said that I'm not." Josiah was getting frustrated.

Tears started welling up in her big eyes again and there was no one else in the lift beside the two of them, Josiah dampened his impatience and asked, "Tell me who is your daddy, I'll make a call to him."

Nia was frightened by his stare but whispered softly, "My daddy is Josiah Shelby." "What did you say?" Josiah froze and squinted at the young child as he took another good look

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Josiah asked again, "*What did you say your son's 1829 I*"

"Meredith Leighton, *do you not rememberben argizona!*

Josiah heard her loud and clear this *time,*

He took another careful look at the *young child in front of house*

She looked like she was three years old and Meredith was once prezu tre years as virs Yoel's child, but he remembered killing the child with his own banis Ji SITIOSSÍve 114 the child in front of him was the one he killed.

## Still Loving You Nonetheless by Snow de Eira Chapter 40

Chapter 41 Josiah quickly took his phone out. He scrolled to the bottom of his photo album on his phone and showed Nia a picture. "This Meredith?"

Nia saw how Josiah had a photo of her mommy on his phone. She immediately laughed in delight, "And you say that you're not my daddy? Not only do you remember who mommy is, you still have a photo of her on your phone." Josiah's expressions turned even uglier. : Was this child really that woman's daughter? The family that she meant was this child? Hmph! "Daddy, are you angry?" Nia asked confusedly. Josiah nodded. "Yes, I'm angry." "Why are you angry, daddy?". "If you call me daddy one more time, I'll break your neck." Nia was frightened half to death as she scrunched her neck. She looked at Josiah with fear in her eyes.

Did her mommy not say that her daddy loved her a lot? Why did it not seem like it?

The elevator has reached the ground floor. Josiah lifted Nia up with one hand and strode out of the elevator.

Although it was a joyous thing to be carried by her daddy, Nia still asked in confusion, "Daddy, where are you taking me to? I need to have an injection."

"I'll say it one more time. I am not your daddy."

Nia shut up once more. She thought about how weird her daddy was. He was clearly her daddy, yet he kept denying it.

Alayna could not get through to Meredith's phone, so she called the nurses instead to ask if Meredith had reached the hospital. Upon hearing Alayna's voice, the impatient nurse answered perfunctorily, "She's already here. Stop calling us. We're busy." "I'm sorry. I just can't get Meredith, that's why I..." Before Alayna could finish her sentence, the other person hung up the phone. Alayna sighed helplessly. She placed her phone down and started tidying the house. Alayna's health was already in a bad condition. Accompanying her granddaughter for the past few days made it worse. She had to leave the hospital early and head home to sleep so she could get well and provide for Nia.

Bearing through the pain, she washed Nia's clothes and finished the other house chores before going to bed.

Chapter 41

The next morning, as usual, she got up early to cook some porridge. When she brought the porridge to the hospital, she found out that the bed was empty. Nia was not there. Neither was Meredith. Meredith's phone was still off. Alayna immediately ran to the nurses. When the nurse heard that Meredith and Nia were not there, she answered sheepishly, "Are they not here? Maybe they went for a walk." Alayna immediately understood what happened when she saw the nurse's expression. She immediately asked, "Did my daughter come to the hospital yesterday? You lied to me, right?" Meredith would never turn her phone off. Even if her phone ran out of battery, she would charge it soon. The nurse did not like Alayna's questioning tone. She replied curtly, "I'm not your personal caretaker. How could I help you only look after them all day long?"

"So did you see her or not!" Alayna was flustered.

"I did, but I can't say whether I mistook her for someone else or not."

"Won't the nurses make their rounds at night? Don't you check the rooms?" Alayna was so anxious she was losing it. What was happening? Did Nia go missing? Did something happen to Meredith too?