

Taming A Billionaire

#Chapter 611 - Six Hundred And Eleven :A Gem Called Jasmine - Read Taming A Billionaire Chapter 611 - Six Hundred And Eleven :A Gem Called Jasmine

Chapter 611 - Six Hundred And Eleven :A Gem Called Jasmine

The third point of view:

Akim sat down to eat his food and prepare for school when a piercing scream reverberated across the palace. He dropped his spoon with a sigh, he didn't need to guess, Jasmine must be missing again. She was the only person who could cause such pandemonium in the palace.

"Princess Jasmine!" one of the servants called out confirming his suspicion.

His sister Jasmine has gone missing again, his mother would go crazy once more.

On cue, his mother appeared in the dining, panicking,

"Akim!" She rushed to him, "Have you seen Jasmine?!"

"Isn't she supposed to be in her room?" He asked his mother who was going crazy with worry.

"The maids had bathed her and left the room, intending to get her governess, but she was nowhere to be found when they returned," She explained, pacing up and down the room.

While other kids went to school, Akim and his sister Jasmine were home schooled. Well, not anymore - on his part. Jasmine would need to get a little older before she could be let to study outside.

Akim knew his parents were only trying to protect them, it was beginning to get suffocating. It was no wonder Jasmine escaped the palace grounds with every little opportunity she had.

After the rebellion, it took a lot of years to stabilize the kingdom of Lincolnshire. They thought everything was good until the prince was attacked on his tenth birthday.

It was a failed assassination with some of the attackers caught and interrogated. There the truth was revealed, the families of the traitors who escaped execution tried to get

back at them. But then their plan was thwarted and the security around the palace tightened.

Thanks to that assassination, Akim's freedom was restricted for five years as his father worked hard at trying to fish out those traitors. It wasn't until his fifteenth year, he threw quite a huge tantrum and he was sent to a private school at last - with heavy security.

Sincerely, Akim enjoyed his mother's anxiety - even though he didn't want to. He just wanted his parents to give them a bit more freedom; he felt like a beautiful caged bird.

He knew Jasmine was probably hiding somewhere and would be caught before she moves far. His mother was just overreacting. What's the worst that can happen anyway? The palace was so tight that even a cockroach could not crawl. They should not fear for Jasmine's safety, if anything, they should pray she's not tero

"Have you checked the cameras?" Akim decided to lend a helping hand knowing he wouldn't be able to make it to school if his sister wasn't found.

"Yes!" Emily gasped, "The cameras," How could she have forgotten that?

Some might call her an overprotective mother but she was just trying to protect her kids. It was a big miracle to Emily when Jasmine came along because no one expected she would ever conceive again.

There was a huge celebration in the palace and kingdom when the news was released. However, having the baby was not the only problem, would the child survive in her womb? That had been the next trial to overcome.

Emily remembered clearly, during the months of being pregnant, she was treated like a fragile egg. Doctors and nurses were at her beck and calls at any slight discomfort in her body. She was placed under strict supervision and at the ninth month delivered through a cesarean operation.

She was named after the gemstone, Jasmine. Jasmine was God's gift to her and she would keep her safe especially from those bloodsucking traitors. Jasmine and Akim were her live now, she would die if anything happened to either of them.

"I should check the cameras!" Emily said to herself and was about to head to the control room when an announcement came,

"The princess is in the courtyard!" one of the servants screamed.

Without further notice, the both of them hurried over to the courtyard the servants were pointing at. Upon entering the green patch of lawn with a footpath, the both of them were dumbfounded as they stared at Jasmine up on a tree.

"Jasmine!" the emotional Emily screamed and tried to walk over to the tree but Akim held her back.

"Don't!" He warned her, "You might startle her! We want her in one piece, don't you?"

"Y-yes," Emily's senses returned and she clasped her hands together in prayer.

"What's going on here?!" a voice boomed from behind and Akim took a deep breath. Thank God, the king of this kingdom was here to resolve this issue. Now, he could go to school in peace.

Emily didn't say anything, rather she pointed to the treetop and there was their daughter happily seated on one of the branches.

Princess Jasmine's face lit up as soon as she spotted her father from that height.

"Daddy look, I'm a monkey!" She stood up and waved at him. However, in the process of waving, the girl slipped and fell - almost fell. Somehow, she regained her balance and stood tall at the branch with a grin as if she had intentionally teased everyone.

"No, Jasmine!" Emily's heart almost jumped out of her chest when the girl slipped. She closed her eyes and lost unconscious immediately.

"Emily!" Judy caught his wife immediately. He then glared at the employees, "What are you still waiting for?! Get her off that tree!" he commanded before carrying his wife out of there.

The servants tried to climb up the tree but no matter how much they tried, they ended up falling back to the ground. It happened that it had rained in the early morning hence the barks were slippery and wet. How Jasmine had climbed up the tree without slipping and breaking a bone? They all wondered.

Seeing that they were unable to climb the tree, they decided the next approach was to convince Jasmine to get off the tree and break her fall.

Immediately, some of the students hurried outside only to return with a mattress big enough to catch her.

"Princess Jasmine jump!" ordered one of the servants but the girl shook her head stubbornly.

"No! Leave me alone!"

"It's for your sake, princess!"

"No, I'm comfortable up here! Just leave me alone!"

"It's not befitting a princess to live on a tree," They still pressed.

"Then I won't be a princess!" She wrapped her arms across her chest with a huff, "I'll tell mommy not to make me a princess then so you won't have to take care of me anymore and I'll be free to climb trees whenever I want," The seven-year-old girl already made up her plans.

The servants were exhausted, they didn't know what to do anymore. They could not bellow at her since she was a princess of their great kingdom and would be treated with respect nonetheless. Neither could they startle her else she falls in the wrong direction.

The servants knew they couldn't entice her with chocolates and sweeties since she had access to all those in the palace. What then could they do? The king would kill them if his precious daughter was still up there by the time he returned.

"Princess -"

"Let me try," Akim said to the servant who had tried desperately hard to get her off the tree.

He came to stand at the front, staring up at the high tree. He couldn't help but admired her, she would be a talented climber. Unfortunately, those qualities were useless on a princess.

"Get off the tree, Jasmine," He told her.

"No," She stood her ground, "Even you can't change my mind. I like it here,"

"Really?" Akim knew she was lying, "You like the wet, uncomfortable, rough bark?"

The girl looked down at the branch, biting the inside of her mouth unsure. She simply shook her head, unable to come up with an excuse anymore.

"I'll take you to the upcoming festival outside the palace," Akim said and the girl's features lit up at once.

"You will?!" She was hopeful.

"Yes,"

Suddenly, she narrowed her gaze at him and shook her head, "No, you're just trying to get me off the tree. You're lying to me,"

"Have I ever lied to you?" Akim fixed her gaze on her.

Jasmine pulsed her lips, fidgeting with her hands, "No?"

"Then trust me as you've always done,"

"You would really take me to the festival?"

"Yes, I will,"

"Cross your heart?"

"Yes, cross my heart," Akim promised her, "Now get down,"

"Sure," The girl stood from the branch, clearing the back of her skirt and before anyone could guess what, jumped from the tree.

Akim's eyes widened at once and instinctively reached out his hands to catch her, her weight bringing them both to the ground. He groaned softly, the air knocked out of his lungs because of his sister's weight and the momentum of her jump.

"My prince! My princess!" the servants rushed to their aid. By the time Akim got to his feet and realized he was okay, he was as furious as hell.

"What did you do that for?! You could have killed yourself or even me?!" He bellowed at her.

Jasmine pouted her lips and blinked innocently saying, "You told me to get down,"

Chapter 612 - Six Hundred And Twelve: Finding A Boyfriend

The third point of view:

Ailee slammed her locker door closed and turned around, almost bumping into someone.

"Jesus christ!" She explained, taking a step back.

"Hi," He waved then said immediately, "Oh, I'm sorry, I didn't mean to startle you," The boy apologized.

"Well, nice to know that," Ailee said, then raised a questioning brow as if saying, "So...?"

"Ah, yeah," He immediately reached for his backpack and brought out a textbook - her textbook by the looks of it.

"You lend me your textbook last week," He said to her with a friendly expression, "I'm kind of done with it,"

"I did?" Ailee kept up with her questions while receiving the book from him.. No wonder, she has been looking for that textbook for her assignment.

"Yes, you did. Don't you remember?" he pressed his lips together, expecting a positive response from her.

Oh boy, Ailee scratched the back of her head awkwardly. How and where did she know him? She didn't want to disappoint the poor boy, he looked kind of cute and humble.

"Eh... The thing is that my mind sometimes comes and leaves -"

"You don't remember me," He saw through her.

"Yep," Ailee told the truth, it was useless lying to the poor boy when he seemed pretty smart.

"It's no problem," He covered up the hurt in his eyes, "I was not expecting you to remember me anyway - I'm not in the league of people you communicate with. It's quite surprising you even lend me your textbook by the way,"

"Hey, don't say that," Ailee retorted, he was making her feel guilty. Who said she was unapproachable, she was not some fucking princess.

"Don't say what?"

"The way you say it, it almost seems like we're practicing a caste system," Ailee pointed out.

"Isn't that the case? The powerful here are determined by the family they're born into -"

"Or their ability," Ailee interrupted him, "If you don't come from a wealthy home, then make it up with your skills and knowledge. You claim we are already powerful from wealthy family, do you think the money is all that there is to us. We work twice as hard as the average human to keep up to that high expectations set for us.

"Moreover, this is a dog eat dog world. The survival of the weakest and only the strongest?would stand at the top of the food chain. So sorry, if I don't agree with your reasoning,"

The boy blinked, surprised at her response. Obviously, he had wanted to play the role of a victim but it backfired at him.

"You're right, then," He chuckled awkwardly, "I shouldn't have said that," preparing to leave.

"I'm not entirely blameless, it's wrong of me to forget who I lend my book to," Ailee said to him, "If you don't mind, I would love to know your name once again -"

"Austin," He introduced himself before Ailee was even through her words.

"Whoah, Austin, that's a nice name," She breathed, taking him in. The boy was innocently cute and she didn't need to consider his glasses to know that he's a nerd.

Unfortunately, innocently cute guys weren't her type. Ailee needed a strong alpha male, one who was respectful yet took what he wanted. She bet one aggressive move from her and Austin would scramble away. So sorry, she doesn't date babies.

"A-hem," Austin cleared his throat awkwardly, "So I eh.." He scratched the back of her head, "I marked some valuable pointers in?in between the texts that would help you, not that you're not smart already" He rambled on, "I just thought you might need them,"

"Aww," she complimented him, "That's nice of you," while flipping through the pages and confirming his hardwork.

"This must have taken quite some time," She noticed.

"No, no," Austin shook her hands at once, "It was nothing and I'm glad to do it,"

Ailee glanced up from her book, "I don't know how to thank you,"

He boomed at her, "It's nothing but if you really want to thank me, you can go that over a cup of coffee,"

"Over a cup of coffee?" Ailee's brows shut up.

"In that cafeteria," Austin intentionally lowered his expectation instantly when he saw the way her face changed. He was not confident enough to ask her out directly and had used the idea of coffee to try his luck but it seems a failure.

Ailee did not frown, she was just surprised. But when he changed their setting to the cafeteria, a frown finally appeared. As she thought, he was not confident enough. But then, to honour her words, she said,

"Sure, I would have coffee with you in the...." She trailed off as she saw Neon come to stand behind Austin.

Wonderful, here they come again. She wondered, if they placed a camera on her or something because they seem to know the perfect moment to interrupt.

Her gaze returned apologetically to Austin who began to perspire as he too sensed the presence of a certain terror.

"Your brother is behind me, isn't he?" Austin asked nervously, his hands clammy from fright.

"Yes," Ailee answered, pinching the bridge of her nose.

"Which of them?" Austin was beginning to shake.

Poor boy, Ailee thought. Another victim to her brothers bullying.

"The lesser evil," Was Ailee's reply. She mouthed, "I'm sorry," to him.

"Neon," Austin recognized that and was a bit grateful for that. At least, his life was guaranteed.

He gave Ailee a wry smile before turning to the stoic faced Neon, he gulped.

"Get lost,"

It was just two words from Neon but Austin knew those words decided his fate and he hightailed it out of there. No little crush on Ailee was worth his life. He had heard of the cruelty of her brothers and didn't want to be a victim.

"Happy?" Ailee glared at her Neon. She was tired of their invasion. At this rate, she would die a virgin. Hopefully, she doesn't attend the same university with her brothers else she would hang herself. She can't take this shit anymore.

"Are you angry?" He tilted his head to the side inquiringly.

"No, I'm not," She faked a smile that barely lasted a second before increasing her glare as she asked him, "Do I look like I'm happy?!"

"Calm down," Neon told her, "This isn't worth getting worked up for,"

But that nonchalant attitude pissed her the more.

"I don't even interfere in your sex life!" She reminded him.

"I don't have a sex life," Neon was not ashamed to admit that.

"Of course, you don't. I won't even be surprised if you're gay," She retorted.

Neon frowned at her, "I'm not gay,"

She scoffed, wrapping her hand across her chest, "Really?"

"You want to confirm that?"

"What?" Ailee was confused by that ambiguous question. Why would she want to confirm that?

"Do you want to know if I'm attracted to women or not?" Neon asked, stepping closer to her and used his finger to trail down her arm seductively.

Ailee gulped, a shiver climbing down her spine.

"Do you want to know?" His voice lowered sexily and was quite tempting, while his eyes darkened as his gaze held hers.

Ailee wanted to take her eyes away but at the same time she was enticed by the emotion in there and for a moment, she was tempted to take up his offer. Her heart danced to a weird pitter patter tune and to her horror, she was turned on.

"Why would I want to know that?" She expressed disgust, "Gosh, I'm your sister, Neon!"

At the mention of "sister" Neon's eyes turned icily dark and Ailee gulped, wondering what she had said wrong. His grip around her arm tightened to the point that Ailee had no choice but to cry out, "You're hurting me, Neon,"

At that comment, the coldness in his gaze lowered as he loosened his grip as well.

"I'm not gay," He said, then looked to her arm, "And I'm sorry for that,"

"S-sure," Ailee muttered. She wasn't sure what was going on with him anymore.

Then he reached out and tugged her hair behind her ear, "So beautiful," He muttered.

Ailee's heart missed a beat and she scolded herself for it. This wasn't the first time Neon was being this loving with her, so why was she making it a big deal lately. God, what was wrong with her? She had to stop this madness soon and the only way to do so was to find a boyfriend.

"Don't flirt with boys," Neon said, his gaze boring into hers as if he knew what she was thinking.

Ailee rolled her eyes to heaven, this was simply ridiculous. At that moment, she made a decision never to give birth to boys if she ever got married - she didn't envision a life with any man at the rate of her brother's possessiveness.

For a guy to be her boyfriend, he had to be stronger than Allen, slyer than Neon and smarter than her. Where would she find a guy like that?

Chapter 613 - Six Hundred And Thirteen: His White Ass

The third point of view:

Having the same class with Allen was the worst torture destiny could ever give Ailee. She hated it and for valid reasons.

Right now, a girl was seated across her brother's laps while they made out unashamedly. It didn't help matters that they were right in front of them since Allen choose the seat before hers.

As if that wasn't enough, the girl on Allen's laps used to be her best friend. Yeah, so you finally get why she hates her twin so much. Allen didn't twice before hooking up with someone she thought was her bestie - her friend forgot all about girl's code.

Her once innocent best friend changed overnight after her brother paid her attention. The girl who used to wear sweaters and shy away from boys gave herself wholefully to her stupid brother - her dressing right now was not less than a slut.

Thinking of it now, Ailee wondered if the girl had truly been a friend or if she had approached her with ulterior motive.. Her best friend, Alicia, must have played the innocent part and used her to get close to her brother. God, she must have been a fool.

But then, they were all bunch of fools. Did Alicia know her brother kissed and touched another girl before his feet touched the school ground? Women were so stupid. Her brothers reputation wasn't exactly surreptitious yet they keep coming to him. What exactly is special about Allen? Except that he's handsome - even she hates to admit that - tall, smart, good at sports,?and most of all, powerful abs and rich.

Well, she already said it all, most women were materialistic and into men who provides such luxury for them. She just wished they had some dignity! Ugh! It was so annoying to see them throw themselves on her brother and the idiotic Allen accepts and uses them as he pleased. So like their father - in the past. Bloodline never lies.

However, Ailee couldn't help but think that her brother was doing this on purpose. Sleeping with all the best friends she ever made and making sixty percent of the females at school obsessed with him? Was Allen so bored that his idea of fun was to make her uncomfortable? What a huge sadist. She would not be defeated by such petty moves!

Ailee dragged her attention to Neon who was at the backseat. After that conversation in the hallway that turned sour, he still hasn't spoken to her and that made her the more confused. The men in her life were quite confusing. First, Allen seems to be after her for reasons best known to him and now, Neon was pissed at her for reasons best known to him. God! Why were they doing this to her?

Suddenly, the door to the classroom opened and the teacher finally came in which was a huge relief to Ailee - now her brother would stop his torture. But she noticed that two other unfamiliar students followed after him. Her eyes narrowed at them, new students?

"Hey everyone?" The teacher says before his gaze rested on Allen and Alicia who were still locked in each other's embrace like newly married couples.

"As I always love to remind Allen that this is a classroom and not a motel. One more warning and the reports goes to your parents,"

At the mention of parents, Allen stiffened and it pleased Ailee to know that the thought of their mother knowing about his adventures in school was a huge leash around his neck. Perhaps, she would take advantage of that. Goodluck.

Alicia didn't hesitate to get off him and was just about to sit beside him when Allen said, "Is this your seat?"

"Huh?" she was confused. Alicia then tugged her hair to the back of her ear as she smiled awkwardly, "After what we just shared, I thought you would want me to -"

"Your perfume is too overpowering and nauseates me, I want to be able to fully concentrate when the lecture is going on," He claimed.

Alicia had never felt humiliated in her life. Her perfume had not been overpowering when they made out, is that so? However, the girl gulped down her humiliation and left for her seat which was two rows away from Allen's.

Ailee did not feel one bit of sympathy for the girl, what had she been expecting mingling with her brother?

"A-hem," The teacher cleared his throat after the drama, "Now, look up everybody," he gestured and this time, everyone's attention shifted to the male and female at the front of the class who shared striking similarities - Allen even stared.

"Today, we have two new foreign exchange students joining us for the calender year, so expect them to last here for a while. Be good to them," He then stepped aside to allow the kids introduce themselves to the class.

The girl was the first to introduce herself, she had strawberry blonde hair and charming green eyes, she introduced herself boldly, "My name is Eve Donovan,"

"Eve?" Allen spoke up immediately, "Like the one who deceived Adam with an apple?" Allen cocked a brow at her.

Ailee rolled her eyes, it was not surprising anymore. Typical Allen, always delighting in putting people in uncomfortable positions.

The girl was not embarrassed, instead she smiled wildly, "Not that Eve," She said, "But the Eve who would whoop your ass if you taunt her once more,"

"Ooh," The class cheered immediately. This was the first time a girl was standing up to Allen and they couldn't wait to see what happens.

Allen was not deflected by that open declaration, instead he smirked, "Sure, can't wait for that. Afterall, the girls can't get enough of my white ass,"

Ailee wanted to puke at that statement. So gross. And please, do not remind her of that memory of seeing Allen's white ass. It was not intentional and she wished she could erase that memory out of her mind. For eternity.

Bless this shameless author with your golden ticket ????

Chapter 614 - Six Hundred And Fourteen: Hit On You

The third point of view:

It was purely an accident. That day, their mother Reina had sent her to Allen's room to get the stupid boy downstairs. But when she knocked on the door no one responded.

Ailee knocked on the door several times and when there was no response, she pressed her ear against the door to discover that her idiotic brother was playing rock music. She had been wasting her energy all this while. Wonderful! Just wonderful!

Aggravated, Ailee kicked the door open and went in without any care - she was done waiting - but she halted in her footsteps.

Lo and behold, there was her brother, Allen, butt naked with his jeans heaped around his feet (he must have been in a hurry) while slamming into the girl pushed up against the wall.

Ailee wanted to scream, her mouth opened wide, but no words came out of her mouth. Her eyes were wide as she stood there shocked and traumatized. What the hell?

It was the scream from the lady in Allen's arms when she realized they were no longer alone that roused Ailee from her shock and she ran away as fast as her legs could take her.

Her heart was pounding in her throat as she ran into her room and locked the door closed, leaning against it as she tried to catch her breath and forgetting all about her mother's errand. It was through that incident that she came to know that Allen sneaks girls into his room.

However, the image of her brother's white ass pointing in the air before slamming into his girlfriend was forever seared into her memory and no one could erase it.

Back to presence, the whole class burst into laughter at Allen's suggestive comment that even the teacher couldn't calm them down.

Nonetheless, Eve still stood with her head held high and Ailee decided at that moment that she would make her a friend.

Eve made a good first impression on her and Ailee needed someone who wasn't moved by her brother's tactics - someone who would never sleep with her brother. From the fire in her eyes, Eve despised Allen and that made her the right candidate to fill in the position of her bestie.

"The only white ass that my sister would be touching is the one that I crush," the male beside Eve threatened Allen. However, amid his speech, everyone heard only,

"Sister?!"

That was when Ailee looked more carefully. Although she suspected the both were siblings based on appearance, she needed more evidence. Now, she couldn't tell if they were siblings in the same grade or twins - like she and Allen. She was intrigued at once.

Their whole attention shifted to the male who introduced himself at once, "My name is Theodore Donovan or you can simply call me Theo,"

"You both are twins," the words were out of Ailee's mouth before she could stop it. It was supposed to be a mere thought, but now the whole class heard her.

As if that wasn't enough, Theo's gaze zeroed in on her and her heart missed a bit. God, he was beautiful. He shared the same blonde hair with her sister, but unlike Eve's green eyes, his were a piercing Hazel - more green than brown though. They were fraternal twins - obviously - yet still alike.

Meanwhile, Neon who was seated behind all of them didn't fail to notice the attraction between Ailee and Theo and it made his breath hitch in his throat while his hands balled into a fist.

Ailee was his.

Theodore smirked at her and it made her heart skip a beat once more. He said, "You're certainly better than him," he referred to Allen, having surmised the both of them were twins as well - thanks to their similarities.

Ailee could feel the students' curious gazes on her and her brother and then back at Eve and Theodore. She could tell what they were thinking, the emergence of new twins, would the power change?

"Alright, that's enough bickering," the teacher came just in time, "Just less than a minute and you've made yourself at home already," He said sarcastically.

He then gestured to the class, "You should take any empty seat and make yourself comfortable,"

And that was where the real test set in. There were three empty seats in total; one beside Allen, another beside Ailee and the last, Of course, beside Neon.

It was a custom her brothers established and the students observed it strictly - no male sits beside her in fear of her brother's wrath. Although Allen normally has a companion, Neon was an exception; no one sits beside him.

Ailee expected Eve to come to her side since she despised Allen and her brother, Theo, to sit with Neon since he also disliked Allen.

But to her shock, Eve chose to sit beside her brother Allen and her face fell at once. What just happened? Didn't Eve dislike Allen, then why was she sitting beside him? Unless she had been pretending all along. At the end of the day, girls would always choose her brother over her - she could feel her brother smirking over his victory.

The thought of seeing Allen with his new conquest made Ailee sick to the stomach. She couldn't wait to graduate and have her own life away from him.

But then, her attention shifted to Theodore who was walking over to her, she blushed at once. However, just before he could take the seat beside her, someone said behind her,

"Take this seat!" There was authority in Neon's voice as he tapped the seat by his side.

"W-what?" Theo was taken aback by the authority in his voice.

They all turned to watch the ongoing drama, it was tension filled yet entertaining. Neon never let anyone beside him while the new guy almost committed a death sentence by trying to sit beside Ailee.

"Come and seat here," Neon continued, "You won't regret it,"

They all waited for his reaction when suddenly, Theo leaned down to whisper into Ailee's ears, "We'd see soon," and headed over to Neon's side.

Ailee blinked, did this guy just hit on her?

Bless this shameless author with your golden ticket ????

Chapter 615 - Six Hundred And Fifteen : Wordlessly

The third point of view:

Ailee thinks it's a plot or something because she couldn't get a chance to meet up with Theo throughout that day. She was the leader of the cheerleader and had responsibilities on her shoulders.

Unlike her brother, Allen, who was known for the bad things, his intelligence being his only redeeming quality, Ailee was everyone's favorite.

Teacher's pet, miss lovely and a strong woman, Ailee was quite famous in school. To the boys, she was a star in the sky that they could only admire yet can't touch.

Everyone envied her and wished to be in her shoes, but unknown to them all, Ailee was lonely. She had many friends yet had no friends at all, it was a tiring journey. Ailee could see friendly faces but she knew most of them were with her because of what they could benefit from her while the others were sharks waiting to devour her when she loses her footing.

"What are you doing?" Ailee was surprised when Neon got into the passenger seat. They weren't supposed to leave without Allen..

"Get in," He said.

"What about Allen?" she inquired.

"He's perfectly capable to take care of himself," he retorted, "And I'm sure you don't want to know what he's up to,"

Ailee gulped, she didn't want to know because she already had a rough idea what he was up to. She bet Allen was already somewhere making out with the new girl. Ailee found herself resenting Allen at that thought. She hated him for making her school life miserable. She regrets being his twin.

But to her surprise, she saw Eve and Theo walking across the school's open spaced parking lot. Huh? Was her eyes playing games with her? She thought Eve would be with Allen. They - Eve and Allen - must have finished quite quickly or had she misjudged the poor girl.

As if Theo sensed her staring at them, he turned at that moment and their gaze held. Ailee gulped, she was not going to lie, she was crushing on the hot guy.

Theo was hot and he looked sturdy like her brothers - she bet he was involved in sports like them too. Moreover, it was refreshing to see a guy with blonde hair since her entire family were brunettes - it was quite boring -?the only exception being Neon.

Neon noticed the secret interaction between Ailee and that Ken doll and his anger increased once more. His hands wrapped tightly across the steering wheels and if his eyes were bullet, poor Theo would have been long dead.

He was threatened and he knew why, he was afraid of losing Ailee. He had liked Ailee since childhood and had kept that secret well. Even Allen, his closest male buddy, doesn't know about his feelings for his sister.

He had never seen Ailee as a sister, not since day one he set his eyes on the girl. That was why he had fought tooth and nail against?Niklaus adopting him as his legal son. He knew once he was legal, it was game over for him. This way? He had higher chances of courting her without consequences - hopefully.

Why hadn't he confessed his feelings yet? Because he was afraid to lose her. Neon might be sure of his feelings for the girl but Ailee only saw him as a brother. If he made the wrong move, not only would he lose the chances of being by her side, he might have to leave the household as well - it would be awkward for her if he remained afterwards after his confession.

Thanks to that, he has been hesitant to confess his feelings because he didn't want to lose Ailee as a friend and the so-thought siblinghood as well. So he chose to drop subtle hints of his interest in her while chasing away other love interests - making Allen think he was on his side. A low move on his side, yes, but it's all about survival.

Neon longed for her so much that he always chose to stay in the back seat, that way, he could watch over her and admire her without anyone noticing. He loved her so much that he put her needs above his, giving her the brotherhood she craved so much even though his whole being fought against it. He didn't want to be her brother; he wanted to be more than her friend; he wanted to be her lover.

But then, this Theo guy was about to ruin everything, he couldn't let him. However, what could he do if?Ailee falls in love with him - Theo- and not him? Nothing. He could only give them his blessing - even if it hurts him. No, he had to stop them before it was too late.

"Are you getting in the car or not?!"

Ailee almost jumped out of her skin when Neon bellowed at her. She had been so engrossed staring at the Donovan twins, it scared her.

"Sure," You didn't have to shout so loud, she added under her breath. Gosh.

The ride home was a silent one and Ailee couldn't help but wonder why Allen didn't join them. Did he have practice? No, Neon would have joined him as well since they were both on the same team and she would be notified as well as the captain of the cheerleaders.

She took that opportunity to stare at Neon, he was quite handsome - if he could stop being angry. Ailee sighed, she had not even said something wrong and he was frowning at her throughout the day.

It seems like she would have to go find him a girlfriend.... that idea didn't exactly please her. What if Neon turns up like her brother, it would then be all her friends. Moreover, she liked Neon the way he was - a girlfriend would limit the time they spent together.

She continued to stare at his features, the sharp and angular jawline, those beautiful blue eyes.....Ailee froze as their eyes met through the rear view mirror. Her heart raced and her mouth opened wordlessly.

Ailee took her gaze away, that was weird.

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Chapter 616 - Six Hundred And Sixteen: Model Her Clothes

The third point of view:

If it had been awkward earlier, it intensified after their weird eye contact. Ailee didn't talk about it and Neon didn't either, thankfully. None of them said a word to each other till they got home.

"Hi mom," Ailee greeted as soon as she made it inside. But to her surprise, Reina was all dressed up and in a hurry to leave for somewhere. Work probably.

"Going somewhere?" She asked calmly when her mom didn't give any response, obviously distracted.

"Oh yeah," Reina finally heard her, "An emergency meeting came up and now, I need you guys to get the kids from school,"

"Oh no," Ailee didn't know when she groaned out. She had been so relieved to escape this awkwardness with Neon only to be thrown back into it - the errand was for the both of them. The triplets were so notorious that it took more than one person to keep a watch on them..

"I know it's hard," Reina misunderstood the reason for her groaning, thinking she was overwhelmed by the errand having known her children's reputation.

It was only Neon who narrowed his gaze at Ailee, noticing how wary she was of his presence already. He sneered inwardly, she would rather be with her darling Theodore, how convenient.

"Just do this for mommy, okay?" Reina already took it that her request was accepted even before Ailee conceded.

"Thank you, see you later," Reina kissed her on the forehead before moving to Neon and doing the same to him when something happened.

After the kiss, Reina patted Neon on the shoulder and was about to walk past him when she halted in her step. She retraced her steps and came to stand before Neon who was confused as everyone else in the room by Reina's action.

To Ailee's shock, her mother began to touch his chest before tilting her head in a contemplative manner.

"How did you become so muscular? Almost like Nik's in his prime?" Reina murmured under her breath but they all heard her.

Neon went red in the face while Ailee nearly choked from her saliva. Weirdly, Ailee was a bit pissed off at her mother's actions - she didn't like her touching Neon. But she tried to look at the situation reasonably, mothers have the right to examine their sons, right?

The other day, her mother had even commented at the tattoos on Allen's body and even stripped his chest, and she was not even bothered by that. Why was Neon's case different? Perhaps, because Neon was dear to her and she has been very protective of him from childhood. That must be it, right?

Meanwhile, Reina was ignorant of her daughter's jealousy and was busy examining the product - at the moment Neon was one - in front of her. She glanced up with a shrewd smile - that her children never liked. That smile meant she was up to something that wasn't in their favor.

"Neon dear," Their mother Reina said with a sweet voice that sent shivers down Ailee's spine. She didn't like that smile, her mother was up to something.

"Yes mother," Neon gulped, now affected by the woman's suspicious demeanor.

"You wouldn't mind earning a few?bucks in mommy's company, right?" Reina said.

"A few bucks?" Neon was bewildered.

"Not exactly a few bucks," Reina enticed, thinking he was more concerned about the money, "Quite a sumptuous amount of money,"

"By doing what?" He inquired.

Reina's eyes widened and so did the glint in her eyes brighten, "By using your body," she said.

"No!" Ailee expressed her disapproval before Reina could even go into details of the offer.

"No what?" Reina was stunned.

"Neon wouldn't do that," Ailee stood her ground and she didn't even know why.

Reina pressed her temple, left for Neon alone, she was confident to win him over, but with Ailee in the mixture, it was going to be a tough one. Not to mention the fact that Neon answers to Ailee as if she's his maker. Moreover, why was Ailee getting involved with this? It was between her and Neon.

"Why wouldn't he do this?" Reina couldn't understand Ailee, "It's just to model my clothes," She explained.

"Don't you have models? You have enough money to hire millions of them, why Neon then?" asked Ailee.

She didn't like the idea of Neon baring his body to the camera who would then put his body in a magazine that people would buy and ogle his body. Ailee shivered, she didn't even dare to think what the perverts would do while staring at his picture in private. She doesn't like it one bit.

"Why Neon?" Reina couldn't believe the question, she then gestured to Neon's body, "Why hire a model when I have a handsome son who can pull it off flawlessly. Have you even see his body?"

At the mention of body, Ailee went red in the face from embarrassment or shock or both - she couldn't tell.

"You have seen his body?"

Reina grinned, "I'm your mother and seen a lot in this life. I don't need to see..." her gaze scrutinized while she motioned to Neon as if he was an exhibition, "Just a glance and I know what's beneath those clothes,"

Neon turned sharply at Reina, that comment was a bit misleading. He shivered, wondering what else she could see. He was no longer at ease with where this

conversation was headed to. Why were they even talking about him as if he wasn't standing before them? He had an opinion, you know.

Reina cleared her throat, "A-hem," then smiled proudly, "Why do you think I agreed to your father in the first place?" she giggled sheepishly at the memory like a high-schooler who fell love for the first time.

The goosebumps climbed up Ailee's arm this term. Of all families, she had to be born into? Why this one?

Why wouldn't her mother agree to her father when she was a sucker for gorgeous faces. But then, Neon was not falling into her mother's web which was why she suggested,

"Why don't you ask Allen then,"

Reina gave her a deadpanned look.

Ailee scratched the back of her head, did she say something wrong?

Chapter 617 - Six Hundred And Seventeen: Her Brother Had Feelings For Her

The third point of view:

Ailee had another valid reason for wanting to stop Neon from modeling her mother's clothes. If he agrees with her mother, it was obvious that Neon would have to work with those thin female models airbrushed to perfection.

She knew how those models worked, there was no way they wouldn't want their claws on fresh meat like Neon - who was also the son of their employer. It would be a perfect opportunity to upgrade their status and flaunt him like a model worn around the neck. Sadly, Neon was too kindhearted and naive to deal with such experienced women. That was why she had to protect him - by stopping him from modeling in the first place.

If Neon wanted a girlfriend, he needed a responsible one to love him back and who wouldn't play with his affection. Allen, her brother was better suited to those models.

"What?" Reina asked as if she heard the most ridiculous thing ever.

"Allen is stronger and more experienced,"

"This project needs to be wrapped up as soon as possible. The only thing Allen is good at is seducing and delaying my models," Reina spoke from experience.

She didn't want to remember that annoying experience. It irritated her that Niklaus was not doing something about that boy - Allen was turning out to be like him. Reina just

hoped someone changed Allen the way she was able to change Niklaus else he's dommed for life.

"That still doesn't change the fact that Neon is not going to do it," Ailee insisted.

Reina frowned at her, "Why are you even speaking up for him? Neon can make his own decision,"

Thanks to that comment, Neon decided to finally speak up, "You're right, I have the right to -"

"I'm making the decision because I'm his sister and know what's best for him," Aimee interrupted him.

Neon wanted to reject the offer because Ailee was against it. She must really be really concerned about him, he had thought. But then, when he heard her use that "sibling" excuse once again, his gaze turned cold.

Perhaps, because he was too comfortable with Ailee, that was the reason she sibling-zoned him. However, Neon decided that moment he wasn't going to be a gentleman anymore. He was done being gentle and wouldn't hold back his feelings anymore.

"I'll do it," He said with his head held high feeling Ailee's shocked gaze at him.

"What?" The girl couldn't believe it. This was the first time Neon went against her decision.

"I'll be your model mother,"

"Sure," Reina smiled harmlessly. The woman was just happy that she ended up victorious but to Ailee, she was crushed. Why was Neon against her? Everything she did was for his sake.

"Sure, we'd speak when I'm back from work," Reina pecked him once more in the cheeks before turning to her daughter to rub her victory all over her face.

"You forgot he's my son as well," Reina grinned at her and took her leave.

Silence descended on them with Reina's absence and both stared at everywhere but themselves.

"We should leave," Ailee was the one who broke the silence through gritted teeth, reminding him of the little errand their mother put them up to before the whole stupid modeling thing.

"You are angry," Neon noted, taking hold of her arm, "Why are you angry?"

"That's quite an amusing question coming from your lips," Ailee sneered, trying to pull out of his grasp all to no avail.

"Let go of me!" She demanded, trying to wriggle out of his grasp and wondering when he became this strong?

"Why were you so adamant about me not modeling?" Neon still needed an answer to that. He had given in to his mother out of anger and frustration, but now he thought about it, he needed to know.

"You clearly don't need my opinion anymore which is kind of useless anyway," Ailee retorted and tried to twist her way out of his grasp but she forgot one thing. Every move she knew, Neon knew as well, because he was her sparring mate.

Hence, when Ailee thought she was free, she only successfully backed him as Neon countered her move, restricting her arm behind her.

It hurt her but she had encountered much pain during her training. Hence Ailee tried to elbow him with her free arm, he dodged it. But then, it upset his balance and Neon tripped.

Unfortunately, because Ailee elbowed him with all her might, the momentum brought them both to the ground. Ailee lied on her back on Neon who took the brute of the fall and she didn't bother to ask if he was okay because he was. You see, when you grow up in a family like hers, you'd see that violence as nothing but an everyday lifestyle.

Ailee wanted to yell at him, kick him in the place where the sun never shines or something. But instead, she began to laugh while still lying on him.

Her laughter must have been quite infectious because Neon joined her too and it became the both of them lying on the floor and laughing like lunatics.

"Your moves are getting sloppy," Neon commented, still laughing.

"Says someone who couldn't handle a girl," Ailee retorted, the laughter unceasing.

However, her laughter gurgled to a halt when Neon's hands suddenly wrapped around her waist, pulling her off him and to the ground such that they faced each other.

All traces of laughter vanished from Ailee's face as she stared into Neon's blue unwavering eyes. Ailee couldn't help it when her toes curled, she gulped. What was going on with her?

Neon knew this was a big opportunity, a rare chance for him to show his feeling for her. He tugged her hair behind her ear, his fingers trailing across her cheeks and noticing how silky it was.

His gaze flickered down to her lips and Ailee let out a sharp gasp. No way. Her brother possibly didn't have feelings for her, right?

Chapter 618 - Six Hundred And Eighteen : Scared Of What Isabella Would Do To Him

The third point of view:

"Goodmorning, sleepy head," Isabella woke Pedro up with a smile on her face. He was the most handsome when he slept and she couldn't resist the urge to pinch his adorable cheeks.

"Umm," Pedro groaned, burying his face into her body as his hands wrapped around her waist.

"I want to sleep more," He mumbled under his breath hugging her closer to him.

"What you need right now is to wake up, don't be a lazy ass," She hit his ass for emphasis.

Pedro couldn't help but laugh in amusement, sometimes he wondered who the woman in this relationship was.

"Fine, you have more sleep while I wash up," Isabella compromised, getting off the bed.

Pedro lifted his head, "You sound like you're going somewhere?" he inquired..

"I need to meet your mother,"

"My mother?!" His voice went a tone higher, "Why do you want to see my mother?" Pedro knew she and Cecil?don't get along anymore since she became adamant on not giving her a grandkid.

Every time they had a need to visit his mother, he always needed to come with her because both women would always end up in an argument. His mother Cecil was quite determined and Isabella was headstrong, hence it was always unpeaceful when both went at loggerheads with each other.

"No," He rephrased his question as if he sensed what Isabella was about to ask, "I need to come with you," Isabella has every right to see his mother who would soon be her mother-in-law.

"You won't need to come," Isabella said.

"I won't?" Pedro was surprised.

She came to sit on the edge of the bed, "I won't fight with your mother this time, Pedro. Moreover, that's childish of me. So in one word, I'm waving the white flag,"

"W-what?" He was stunned. What the hell was going on? This was a huge decision and change in Isabella. Is this the same Isabella he knew?

"But then, you know the reason for your quarrel in the first place. How are you going to solve -"

"Have you forgotten how smart I am?" She grinned at him, "I'm the great Isabella, I'll surely figure something out,"

"Uh.. Sure," He was slightly doubtful of those words. You can't blame him though, Pedro has seen enough fight between his mother and Isabella that it seems like a fairy-tale for them to reunite all of a sudden. Moreover, what solution does Isabella have in mind? He hoped it wouldn't worsen the situation.

He simply smiled at her, what could he do anyway except trust her.

"Thank you," she said and pecked him on the cheek before walking in the direction of the bathroom.

Pedro relaxed on the bed with his hand behind his head, a huge relief in his heart. There was something different about Isabella lately and he really liked it. It was almost as if she was changing -for good? What brought on the sudden change? He wondered.

He was just relaxing when his phone beeped and he took it from his nightstand to discover it was a message. He clicked on the message only for a picture to open on his screen and Pedro sat up at once as if he was electrocuted.

His eyes widened and his lips trembled as he stared at the ultrasound image. What the fuck was this? Almost immediately, a text came into his phone.

-Since you refused to honour my appointments, I decided to send the messages to you. I hope we meet now -

Pedro's jaw clenched tightly but beneath that anger, there was fear. He was not afraid of how pissed up Isabella would be at him. Isabella could hit and slap him, he wouldn't care. Rather, the disappointment in her eyes was what scared him the most. The pain of knowing that he failed her.

-Where do we meet? -

He texted her back immediately. This was a critical issue and he had to solve it before it escalated - before Isabella heard of it. He would not let anything destroy his happiness with Isabella.

A message came into his phone, and Pedro was just about to open it when the door to the bathroom was pushed open and he almost dropped the phone.

Thankfully, because the room was quite large and spacious, before Isabella could get to him, he had already picked the phone and organized himself.

"What?" Pedro asked when she stopped in his direction.

"What?" She asked back.

"Why are you staring at me that way?" Did she sense anything wrong? He pondered. After all Isabella was smart anyway.

He forgot Isabella was lenient when it comes to him.

"You look flustered," She noticed, staring at him with her ever observant eyes.

Pedro gulped, what does she sense?

His breathing became erratic with every step Isabella took towards him, he could hear his heart pounding in his chest. He might as well die of a heart attack before she uncovers his secret.

Isabella took more steps towards Pedro and until her feet could touch the bedside, she leaned down towards him. His breath hitched and she guessed it was from excitement, she liked that - if only she knew.

Then she smirked, "What dirty thoughts did you have of me while I was in the bathroom," her smirk widened.

Pedro let out the breath he didn't know he had been holding. Isabella had mistaken his anxiety for excitement. And he takes back his word, he was scared of what Isabella would do to him when she finds out the truth.

"Relax," Isabella patted him on the chest with a knowing grin, "Why are you so tense? I'm just pulling your legs," she stood up and in the process, took off her robe.

Isabella shamelessly and nakedly went into their walk-in closet and put on her clothes while humming a tune. She knew she was a huge tease and enjoyed seeing the blush on his face.

Meanwhile, Pedro took that opportunity to delete the messages on his phone, making sure he left no traces as he was afraid that Isabella might stumble into it - The both of them were open and transparent with their phones.

Pedro was determined to take care of everything and the both of them would continue the way they are, this time, they would be happily married. He knew this was a ploy to disrupt his marriage by his many enemies and he would not let them succeed. In this life and the next to come, Isabella would be his wife and his only wife.

"How do I look?" Isabella came to stand before him in a bright blue long-sleeve blouse tucked in belted relaxed-fit black cropped trousers and completed with snake-skin printed pumps. Her hair stumbled over her shoulder in waves and she didn't have to work hard to look beautiful, her confidence covered it all.

"You're beautiful," Pedro muttered.

Absolutely beautiful.

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Chapter 619 - Six Hundred And Nineteen: Lets Call A Truce

The third point of view:

"Mommy, you haven't done here," Mimi, Cecil's six years old daughter complained as her mother braided her hair.

"Shh," Cecil cautioned her, "Don't be faster than your shadow," she leaned down to say, "Mommy, would surely make you look pretty again,"

The girl nodded, exposing two missing front teeth as she smiled at her mother who continued to make her hair.

It had been kind of risky but Cecil determinedly got pregnant during her menopausal stage. She remembered how mad Emerald had been when she broke the good news to him.

He heard the chances of conceiving naturally at that age was less than five percent each month, and the miscarriage rate in the first trimester is seventy to eighty percent. He flipped.

But then, what could he do? She was already pregnant. So he had no choice but to keep an eye on her - much stricter than when she had dash - and made sure her appointments with her medical practitioners were steady almost every day.

However, Cecil was not afraid for once. The month she was sure she conceived her baby, Cecil had a dream and in that saw a Phoenix hovering around the house. Thanks to that dream, she predicted the sex of the child even before the scan revealed it.

After the birth of Dash, she prayed a lot for a baby girl and was sure the baby was God's answer to her prayers. Hence, while Emerald was anxious and careful, Cecil was calm and brave. Nothing was going to happen, not when her baby was a miracle.

And finally, she gave birth to her baby without a single complication, it was nothing short of a miracle.

"Miracle?" she named her baby girl that. Although everyone chooses to call her, "Mimi" for short.

Suddenly the doorbell rang, rousing her from her thoughts. Cecil didn't bother to answer it knowing the maids would do that. She was now done with her Mimi's hair when footsteps echoed in her direction and her baby girl was the one to announce the visitor's presence before she could lift her head.

"Isabella!" her daughter jumped up from the mat she had been sitting on as she worked on her hair and hurried over to Isabella before she could stop her.

"Mimi!" Isabella caught the girl who ran to her, before throwing her up in the air and catch her, playing with each other.

Watching the scene, Cecil snorted, for someone who doesn't want a child, she sure knows how to play with one - other children.

Carrying the child on her waist, Isabella walked over to Cecil and greeted her, "Good morning, Cecil,"

"Good morning," Cecil grumbled. Truth be told, she was not in the mood to entertain Isabella's greetings but she didn't want to set a bad example in front of her daughter. Children were quick to catch on to what they see and hear - she had experience with Dash and his father, Emerald.

Cecil looked beside Isabella, her gaze searching.

"I didn't come with Pedro, if that's what you want to ask," Isabella saw through her, "Today, I'm here to speak to you alone,"

"Really?" Cecil found that hard to believe. In the past, each time they met, there was Pedro always ready to defend her.

When they were younger, she had thought their affection for each other was adorable. But now, she finds herself even competing for her son's attention. Pedro was so protective of her that one would think that Isabella charmed him with black magic she thought that.

How could two perfectly healthy couples choose not to have a child? It was abnormal and Pedro was in support of it. She would not stay alive and watch that happen - Pedro must produce an heir.

The only reason Cecil was this calm was that Isabella had not suggested Vasectomy to Pedro else she would have removed her by her son's side by all possible means.

Cecil liked Isabella but she loved her son, Pedro more and won't let the girl's childish decision ruin her son's future. Pedro was her priority.

"Mimi," Cecil called to her daughter, "Go, get your backpack and your brother in his room, the chauffeur would get you both to school,"

But the girl shook her head stubbornly, "No, mummy, I want to stay with Isabella," She clung further to Isabella's side, afraid that her mother might snatch her away.

"If you don't get to school, your father would be angry. I'm sure you don't want to disappoint papa?"

Mimi but on her lips unsure.

"Don't worry, you should go little one," Isabella attempted to persuade, "I'll visit once again," she promised her.

"You will?" her eyes brightened with expectation.

"Yes, and the next time, I'll come with your brother, Pedro,"

"Yeah!" Mimi celebrated yet the smart girl added immediately, "Pinky promise?" she brought out her pinky finger already; Mimi wanted to be sure their deal was sealed.

"Sure," Isabella brought out her finger as well, and together, they locked their pinkies.

"Done,"

And with that, Mimi got down to her feet, satisfied with their agreement. Isabella wouldn't fail her, she doesn't go back on her words.

As soon as the girl left, Isabella took a seat and an awkward silence descended on them until Cecil asked, "Tea or coffee," as a maid came to serve them.

"Coffee," was Isabella's reply.

"Tsk," Cecil clicked her tongue, "Just like your father," She lifted her head, asking boldly, "Aren't you afraid that I might drug your coffee," She hinted at her father, Niklaus' phobia to people preparing his coffee.

"Sure, you can try," Isabella smirked at her, "Unfortunately, you don't have it in you,"

Cecil scoffed, "Your confidence is quite annoying, to be honest,"

"That's why your son likes me," Isabella replied, accepting the coffee served to her and took a sip from it.

"My father's coffee tastes better, they should taste a crash course from him," She gestured to the maid who served her.

"Stop beating around the bush, Isabella," Cecil was all down for business, "Tell me, why are you here?"

"I want us to come to a truce,"

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Chapter 620 - Six Hundred And Twenty: The Monster In Him

The third point of view:

"I want us to come to a truce," Isabella said to Cecil causing her to be stunned for a while.

She went on, "I'm just saying no more quarrels or fights between us. I'm quite tired of it," Isabella confessed.

But Cecil was not a fool, "At whose benefit?" she asked, "Unlike you, it's not just a fight to me, It's a fight to secure my son's future - Pedro's future. His lineage cannot die off like that because of your selfish reasons and his blind affection for you," Cecil stood her ground.

"Do you think I'm unconcerned about his future as well?"

"You care only about yourself, Isabella! Only about the things and people that are beneficial to you! Perhaps, it's high time you realized that!" Cecil raised her voice at her.

"I'm not selfish!" Isabella didn't believe that, "Why do you think I'm going to give him a child! "

"W-what?" Cecil was stunned by her confession.

"I changed my mind," Isabella told her, "I'm going to give Pedro a child," She added immediately, "But just one child. I'm not cut out for motherhood and it's high time you as well realize that not everyone can fit into such responsibility,"

Cecil swallowed, realizing she was quick to judge too fast. But then, her pride wouldn't let her apologize as well. If it wasn't for her push, Isabella wouldn't have come to this decision, she let herself believe that.

"Umm," she cleared her throat awkwardly, "I'm fine with one. I won't demand another grandchild," Cecil said, "Thank you,"

"Don't thank me," Isabella refused her gratitude, "It would be my child as well, you make it sound like I'm selling her off to you,"

"Sorry, I didn't mean to put it that way but you said you're not fit to be a mother," she pointed out.

"Then what's your obligation then?" Isabella asked her straightforwardly.

"What?" She was confused.

"Aren't you my mother-in-law, isn't that your duty to guide me?"

"Oh," Cecil said, scratching the back of her head as she realized what Isabella was trying to do. The girl was trying to bridge the split between them; she was attempting to repair the rift in their relationship.

"Sure, sure," Cecil agreed, the atmosphere suddenly becoming uncomfortable. What was she going to say next? This was the first time in a long time the both of them were having a normal conversation with them arguing.

"What about Pedro? Is he treating you well?" she inquired just to rid away the awkwardness between them.

"Of course, he's treating me well. What do you expect when he has your heart?" Isabella was amused.

However that smile didn't last for long as Cecil said, "He might have my heart but he has his father's as well and I pray you never bring out the monster in him,"

Isabella didn't say a word as Cecil stared into her eyes saying, "Blood never lies and it would be on you if you activate that monster I've fought to keep dormant for years,"

Isabella chuckled, "Why are you suddenly being dramatic?"

"No offense Isabella but I'm just looking out for my son and you would do the same if you were in my shoes. Well, no worries, you'd soon have a child and know what it is like to want to give your child the best," Cecil told her.

"My own child won't have to depend on me to give her the best, she'd be the best," Isabella replied to her. She already had great plans for her child; her baby would surpass all her achievements.

"With the look in your eyes, I pray you don't overexert my grandchild,"

"She would have to be born yet to know her capabilities," Isabella said, then dropped her finished coffee on the tray.

"And I guess this is where we call it a day," Isabella released her crossed leg, standing to her feet.

"You should come to have tea with me tomorrow. As a new bride, there's a lot you need to learn," Cecil told her without even looking her in the eyes. If anything, she said it grudgingly.

"I know what I need to know," Isabella was tempted to say to her, however, she recognized at that moment that it was an invitation of friendship. Cecil was working hard on her part as well to mend their relationship.

"Sure," Isabella said, expressionless as usual.

Cecil added, "Don't think much about it, I only created an opportunity to fulfill your promise to Mimi. The girl is quite persistent and unyielding, you both have to meet,"

"Sure," Isabella said once again, but this time there was a hint of a smile tugging at her mouth. Even in the end, Cecil wouldn't let go of her Pride. Ever since she became Emerald's wife, she became cheekier.

"See you tomorrow then, mother," Isabella called her and left before Cecil could recover from the shock.

This was the first time Isabella called her "Mother" she always called her by her name. Cecil contemplated, maybe she was changing for good this time.

"Mission, eighty percent successful," Isabella muttered as soon as she made it outside and got into her car.

She could have told Cecil the news of her pregnancy but Isabella was still a bit pissed at her mother-in-law so she should wait a little more for the good news - a little more patience wouldn't kill. Moreover, Pedro would be the first to hear of it - Anabelle knowing that was a mistake. But on the good side, she was on good terms with Cecil now.

Invigorated, Isabella was just about to start her engine when her phone beeped with a text message. Without thinking, she opened the text and saw,

-He's lying to you-

Her brows furrowed at once as she stared at the message over and over again. It didn't make sense to her at all.

Isabella checked the sender and discovered it was an unknown contact. Perhaps, the message was accidentally sent to her? She chose to believe that instead of the growing fear in her heart.

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