

## 44. "Once bitten, twice shy."

### Chapter 44

#### Adonis' POV

I was in the hospital room, sitting at Elena's bedside, staring at her form, sleeping peacefully like an angel.

Fatigue overwhelmed her after six hours of labor. Oh God, she had so much pain, and she bear them all bravely. I was so proud of her, though she was not so patient, shifted mood easily from calm to hysterical and angry... despite that, I salute her for overcoming the hardship of labor.

I was with her all the time, to comfort her, give her courage, and praise her for successfully delivering our baby boy, Sebastian.

I'm so proud of her for bearing them all. She's absolutely amazing, and I love her a million times today than the days that passed by.

I had varied emotions all mixed up. There was this moment of feeling so relieved happily, for Elena, that her unbearable pain was over, and reassurance that she and our baby was safe.

Tears of joy filled my eyes the moment I first met Sebastian. I was so amazed, and a little stunned too. The experience of seeing him delivered to the world was like a miracle. When I cut the umbilical cord of Sebastian, I felt an utmost happiness, that me as the father, was involved in the birthing process.

My head turned to Sebastian, sleeping calmly in the transparent medical crib.

I remembered, when I held Sebastian in my arms, I got overwhelmed with love and a action for him. He was so cute, and small, like an angel. The urge to protect and take care of him was so strong.

Except for his dark auburn hair, he was a little replica of me. He had this stubborn chin like mine when I was a baby. His eyes were dark, a hint of gray or blue. It would likely change as he grew older.

Elena stirred and opened her eyes.

"Adonis?" her hand reached out and touched the side of my face.

I held her hand, and kissed her palm, "you're so amazing."

She smiled a little, "you are, too. I'm happy that you were with me. I couldn't have done it easily without you."

I got teary-eyed again. The thought that she appreciated my being with her meant a lot to me.

"Thank you, for allowing me. It was a wonderful moment, I'm glad I was with you and Sebastian," I squeezed her hand a little, "I'm so proud of you Elena."

Tears welled in her eyes, then she turned to Sebastian, with a lovely smile on her lips, "I was so tired already, I did not have any energy..."

her eyes returned to me, "but you were there, holding my hand. You were my coach, you supported me..."

"I'm here for you, Elena, and for Sebastian."

We talked about baby Sebastian as we observed him sleeping on his crib. We were very proud parents, we could not believe that our little bundle of joy was with us already.

"I'm so happy, Elena."

"Same here," she extended her arms towards me, and said sweetly, "can I have a hug?"

"Of course. I was only waiting for you to ask," I sat on the bed, but she moved, giving me room to lay next to her.

It felt great to have her in my arms again. Her head buried on my neck, while my hand caressed her arm and back. She always smelled so nice, a combination of cologne, some kind of flower, sweet and very feminine.

"I miss this."

I heard her sigh, then she said quietly, "me too."

"Elena," my hand transferred to her head, caressing her silky hair gently, "I've been meaning to talk to you about us, but I'm waiting for the right time."

"When is the right time?"

It was my turn to sigh, "I don't know. Maybe, tomorrow, next week... next month... or maybe..."

"Next year, or never?" she snorted, "why not now?"

"Are you ready to talk?"

She nodded, and lifted her head to look at me, "It's been a while, Adonis. Whatever wound in my heart got healed now. We both made mistakes, we could not help it, we're humans. I learned to accept that we're not perfect, we have our own faults."

"Do you forgive me now, for what I did to you?"

"You mean, kicking me out of your house?" she chuckled, "and having a divorce notice in five days?"

"Yeah, that was very brutal," I tasked, feeling so dismayed of myself, "but it won't happen again, Elena. I promise, in my grave, that will never ever happen again."

She paused, staring at me.

I was afraid of her reaction, of what she would say next. What if she would say? 'It won't happen again, Adonis, because we're not getting back together.'

But all she answered was, "it better not."

That gave me courage to continue, and tell her everything that I had been meaning to say to her.

"You may not want to hear it, Elena, but I can't hold it any longer. My chest will explode if I continue to suppress my feelings for you."

"Adonis..."

I grasped her beautiful face with my hand, holding her eyes.

"I love you so much, Elena. I never stopped loving you, even I was angry with you, I still love you so madly. You mean the world to me."

"Do you really, Adonis?"

"Definitely. Absolutely. A zillion times. I'm so madly in love with you, even before I knew you were carrying Sebastian, I want to be with you," I caressed her face, her lower lip, loving the texture of her skin,

"I need you in my life, Elena. I love you so much... and I will love you forever."

She shook her head, "I'm afraid, Adonis. What happened, still haunting me, like a nightmare."

"I know I hurt you so badly. But please, just trust me this time. It won't happen again, Elena. I swear. We'll start all over again. I'll do anything, everything to make our relationship perfect. Just, please give me a chance."

"Oh, Adonis," she hugged me so tight, "I love you. I always love you, even more that I hated you before. I was such an idiot for not admitting it myself."

I instantly filled with joy, "my lovely, Elena," I dipped my head and pressed my lips against her jaw, "does that mean, your answer is yes?"

My thumb caressed her cheekbone as our eyes locked at each other.

"Yes," she gave me her brightest smile.

I grasped her nape, holding her still as I captured her mouth with mine. She moaned so sweetly, like music in my ears. I had been dying to kiss her, craving for her since eternity.

I'll take care of her and Sebastian, love them with all my heart. I won't ever let them go. I'll be there home. And they'll be my world, till the day I die.

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In the evening, my parents came in the hospital. They were very excitement and laughter filled the room when they met Sebastian. They could not stop talking how wonderful and beautiful he was.

It was their first time to meet Elena's mother as well. Mom and Celine bonded easily, as they talked about each other's life. Celine was very open about her illness and how she fought hard to survive it. Mom shared her favorite topic, which was history, and about our recent robotic project.

"I guess, you're also together now?" dad asked when he noticed that me and Elena were inseparable.

"Yeah," I nodded, and gave Elena a kiss on her lips.

"Ah- I'm so happy for you both," Mom hugged both of us, "at last, everything is well between you two."

"Thank God, He answered my prayers," Celine clasped her hands together, and looked heavenward.

"I can hear wedding bells soon," Mom teased, and I saw Elena's face turned red.

I wanted to marry Elena again, so badly. But I was afraid of asking her. It was too soon to open up the topic; I did not want to pressure her. So, I was taking one step at a time.

But Mom, opening the topic, scare the hell out of me.

Elena looked at me, then said quietly, "no, that's far from my mind. We're happy where we are now, that's what matters most."

My heart sank at her answer. What did she actually mean by that? That she was not planning to marry me again?

Yes, it had been my fear that after I gave Elena a rush divorce, she would not want to marry me again. Just like the saying, Once bitten, twice shy.

I believed in the sacrament of marriage, and all I wanted at the moment was to be married to Elena again. But it seemed like, we were not in the same page.

Now, I'm feeling like, I'm paying the price on what I did to her.

We really need to talk about it.

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AN: Hey Dreamers! Hope you enjoyed the update.

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lovelots,

**Neilani Alejandrino (swee dreamer33)**

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