Chapter 60: Safety First

door gave in.

protection.

making her realize he was close.

"Evan! Evan, I'm here!" She called. Tears

found a fire extinguisher. Evan used his

jacket to cover Shantelle as they walked

Shantelle did not get burned as they exited

why or have the time to assess the situation.

repeatedly, but she did not know

building. Some guests had used the

victim had died in the fire.

passage.

Shanty."

wounds.

his left arm.

cleaning him."

asked.

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to find one."

sorry, Evan. I'm sorry.'

cover this kind of scar."

direction.

win!"

asked.

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to Evan. Her eyes also

"Shanty, I need to know. Did you see

whoever pushed you inside the room?" Evan

"Yes, Shantelle replied. "It was Peter Haris."

West get a free pass. She remained on the

his connections to get as many insiders

commissioner tried to dismiss Shantelle's

"So what you are saying is, whoever is

"Looks like it," Keith confirmed.

Both Keith and Evan frowned.

Morgans are into dark trade."

"Dark trade?" Shantelle sought.

Keith looked at Evan and then at Shantelle.

safety is first. You are better off back in Rose

He said, "I hate to admit it, Shanty, but

mentioned that the commissioner seemed distressed as well."

transplant surgery. He clearly said this during our conversation."

behind Peter Haris is someone above the police commissioner," Evan sought.

"Do you think it's the mayor? After all, that was where it all started. At his event?" Evan

within the police station.

influential in Warlington."

Keith added. "He also

the police

case.

sought.

said.

Hills."

waitlist for the heart donor.

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bathroom or lingered further in the west

While Shantelle's burns were treated in the

emergency room, Keith apologized. He

come with only Miguel. Better yet, she

minutes. A nurse was cleaning off his

The sight utterly squeezed her heart.

"Um, doc, he already had one," said the

"Why does he not have IV yet?" Shantelle

The nurse looked down, replying, "Um, Doc.

I could not find a site. I was waiting for Doc –

"You are an ER nurse, and you can't find an

IV site!" Shantelle shot back, her eyes

"Shanty, calm down." Evan clenched his

jaws. "My arms are burned. She was trying

Still in her gown, Shantelle first washed her

hands. She helped find a vein in Evan's arms

that was not burned. Then she inserted a site

Shantelle sucked in a breath. Her lips

waited for the firemen." He shut his eyes

Shantelle stilled. She pondered on his words

and could not deny how they touched her. As

she was in deep thought, however, she heard

her father call out. She snapped in William's

William nodded and admitted, "I'm afraid so, Shanty."

for his intravenous fluids. After which, she helped clean his other arm, saying, "I'm

"What's important is that you are safe. I'm afraid it would have been too late if we had

trembled as she replied, "But – but this will leave a permanent scar. Not even surgery can completely

and said, "Shanty, I was so scared. I did not want to lose you. I don't care if I won't be part of your life the

"Shanty, there is a heart coming to the hospital. Calm your emotions. You are needed to perform the

"I knew it. It had something to do with the organ donor," Shantelle softly asked.

landed on Keith. He had been observing her the whole time. She said, "I won't let them

Shantelle operated on the rightful heart recipient, and no, they dared not let Briana

The Wests denied their involvement and claimed that Peter Haris acted alone.

If there was one thing good that came about the incident, it was the fact that both Keith

Peter Haris behind bars. Evan brought in top lawyers within the country, while Keith used

and Evan were now working together. They were using both their resources to keep

surgery," William was panting as he revealed. "I left Lucas in Andy and Mark's care. They are at home."

"Well." Shantelle grit her teeth. She glanced to where Miguel was, lying in bed and being treated, and then

With Evan in the hospital recuperating, it was Keith who reported the incident to the police in the following

Keith received reports from the chief of police that someone powerful was trying to set Peter free and that

Shantelle, Andy, Keith, and Mark discussed this in Evan's hospital room. Poor Miguel was in another room

"Evan, I threatened the chief of police with his insurance claim, but he tells me that his job is on the line,"

Shantelle and Keith looked at each other. Then Shantelle said, "The mayor did seem interested in heart

"If he is responsible for all this, then we need to be wary," Keith pointed out. "Rumor has it that the

"Illegal drugs," Keith replied. "Of course, no one would dare to investigate them because of the mayor."

"And the more we dig, the more we find ourselves in a bigger hole, altering the enemy," Keith agreed.

"You have got to return to Rose Hills," Evan concluded. "Please, think about it."

"Shanty, this is what I have been talking about. With what we know now, it's getting too dangerous," Evan

being cared for by his colleague, Duane. Keith described, "I think we are dealing with someone very

days. Following Shantelle's statement, Peter Haris was put behind bars before the week ended.

'Shanty, it's just a wound. It's going to get better," Evan assured her.

way I hoped, but I won't let anything happen to you - never."

brimmed with tears in anger.

the hazardous area.

with a fire blanket.

through the hallways where the fire had reached the ceiling.

was shocked to see the vapor slip through the door.

Shantelle woke up, choking at the feel of the smoke entering her lungs. When she opened her eyes, she

"Shanty! Shanty, where are you?" She heard Evan call. He was coughing and calling out her name,

welled in her eyes, realizing the danger she was in. She forced herself up and punched the door with her

heard Miguel say behind the door. Then Evan began to kick through the door again and again until the

fists, calling out to Evan repeatedly. "Evan! I'm here! Help me, Evan! Help me!"

"The fire is getting worse, Sir! The fire extinguisher is running out," Shantelle

"Shanty! Shanty, is that you?!" Evan called. " Move back! I'm going to kick the door open!"

"Stop using the extinguisher. Let's use it for when we take Shanty out!" Evan instructed.

After entering the room, Evan rushed to Shantelle. He wrapped her in his coat for

Before blazing through the fire, Evan had soaked his coat with water while Miguel

Miguel, in particular, had used up the last contents of the extinguisher to ensure

Evan loomed over Shantelle as they ran out, protecting her with his frame. She heard him scream

Finally, when they got out, they were met by police officers. They readily covered them

More and more help arrived. It wasn't just Shantelle who was trapped inside the

wing, failing to make it out before the fire worsened. A report also came in that one

arms. After the extinguisher ran out, they had apparently used their arms to clear their

Shantelle did not say anything to Keith. She blamed herself more. She shouldn't have

Evan had been groaning and screaming in pain for the past few

Looking at the nurse, she ordered, "Give him pain meds now."

Shantelle, Evan, and Miguel were rushed to Warlington hospital. Shantelle only had minor burns on her

legs, thanks to Evan shielding her, but Miguel and Evan suffered second and third-degree burns on their

blamed himself for not looking out for Shantelle. Keith wept as he said, "I didn't know. I swear. I'm sorry,

should not have come at all. When the nurse covered her leg wounds, she went to the other bed, where

Evan's wounds in his right lower arm were mainly third-degree burns. Some parts of his skin were literally

off him and were glued together with his shirt. He had second- degree burns on his upper arms, including

nurse. "It's going to take a few minutes for it to work. I already applied anesthetic gel to his wounds before

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