

Trapped 431

Chapter 431 Girlfriend

At 10:30 am., Alex exited the building while talking on his phone.

Meanwhile, Paige ignited the car's engine and headed toward the direction Alex had gone. She drove until she reached a cafe near his workplace.

After stepping out of the car, Alex entered the cafe and sat across from a woman

Paige's eyes widened in shock. Is Alex really meeting another woman without telling me? Does he still care about our relationship?

Paige quickly left the car, wearing a cap and a mask. She entered the cafe and sat at a nearby spot to eavesdrop.

The woman, Juniper Pearl, spoke shyly. "You look even better in person than in photos."

Alex sounded somewhat excited as he replied, "I appreciate your compliment."

Juniper chuckled. "Well, I'm sure your mother has mentioned our family's situation. I think we can explore this friendship further. What do you think?"

Alex replied. That's not a problem at all, Ms. Pearl. I'm available anytime, 24/7."

'Available 24/7?' Paige clenched her fists in anger. 'Why have I never seen him so available for

me? He's revealing his true colors in front of a pretty woman, trying so hard to please her!"

Juniper continued. "I don't need you to be available around the clock. We've just started getting to know each other. It'd be nice to keep in touch."

Alex insisted, "I can't risk losing you to someone else. I want to invest time in our connection."

"Mr. Price, there's no need to rush things. Don't you have work?" Juniper blushed.

Alex replied, "My family's business will support us after marriage. I'd rather spend my time connecting with you..."

Paige's entire body trembled while she listened to Alex's flirtatious attempts. She realized they weren't a suitable match, considering their different statuses

Resolute, Paige stood up and approached Alex.

Alex and Juniper looked up in surprise as Paige suddenly appeared.

+15 BONUS

Alex's expression changed dramatically. "P-Paige? What are you doing here?" His words stumbled out in his shock.

Paige gave Alex a distant smile. "So, you can be here, but I can't?"

Alex looked panicked. "Paige, it's not what you think. Please listen to me--"

Paige glanced at Alex and cut him off. "Shut up!"

She then sat down and addressed Juniper, "Ms. Pearl."

Juniper glanced between Alex and Paige. "Who are you?"

"Don't concern yourself with who I am." Paige said with a forced smile. "I'm just here to remind you to choose your man wisely. Don't mistake a few good qualities for an outstanding man. I won't tolerate a

man like him who flirts with other women while having a girlfriend."

Juniper looked at Alex in astonishment. "You have a girlfriend?"

Alex tried to explain, "She's my-

"I'm not," Paige interjected firmly.

Alex felt dejected upon hearing Paige's words. He realized it was truly over when he saw her cold expression.

Paige looked at Alex and said, "You know what you need to do."

She stood up, ready to leave, but Alex grabbed her wrist. "Let me explain, Paige."

Paige turned and withdrew her arm with a smile. "Alex, I'm giving you a chance. Don't make a fool of yourself out here."

Chapter 432 Physical Examination

Paige struggled to break free from Alex's grasp, but he quickly took hold of her hand again. He refused to let go because he feared she would leave him if he did.

Since Paige wouldn't listen to him, he turned to Juniper and said, "Ms. Pearl, she's my girlfriend!! didn't willingly arrange this date today. My mother made me do it. I said those things earlier just to humor you, not with any other intention. Goodbye!"

“You’re truly disgusting!” Paige glanced at Alex with contempt and walked away.

Alex hurriedly followed her, rushing out of the cafe. He was stunned when he saw Paige entering an unfamiliar car. Did she switch cars to follow me here?

Without further thought, Alex opened the door and took the passenger seat,

Paige said coldly, “Get out of the car.”

Alex frowned. “Can you calm down and let me explain?”

Paige turned to him. “Am I not calm enough now? Should I throw water at you or slap you to be considered calm?”

Alex said, “No, please listen to me first. My mother called me last night, so I came today.”

Paige smirked. “I see. Do you even know what you’re saying? You recently told me you wanted to design an outfit for me. I must be delusional to think you wanted me to meet your parents. I’m the only one who’s happy when we’re together while you’re betraying my trust”

“That’s not it, Paige. I do want you to meet my parents, but you need to give me time to talk to them.”

“Time? You’re worried they won’t approve because we’re not a well-matched couple, right?”

“My mother can be difficult...”

“What else is there to discuss? A marriage without their blessing won’t work. Alex, I say this seriously. Let’s break up

“I don’t want to break up!”

Paige suppressed her emptiness and repeated, “Get out of the car.”

+15 BONUS

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Chapter 433 Dumped

Caroline glanced at her watch and replied, "Sure, I'll be there in 30 minutes."

"I'll wait," came the response.

After ending the call, Caroline hurried over to Table One.

+15 BONUS

Twenty minutes later, she entered a private room at Table One, only to find Paige eating rapidly

with tears in her eyes.

Caroline closed the door quietly and took a seat across from her.

"Paige, who hurt you?" she asked.

Paige put down her utensils, chewed slowly, and replied. "I ended the relationship."

Caroline was taken aback. Just two days ago, everything seemed fine.

Paige burst into tears. She explained to Caroline how Alex had gone on a date his mother arranged, leaving her deeply hurt.

"Caroline, I tried my best not to make a scene because I didn't want to ruin the relationship. But I'm hurting so much inside, and I can't hold myself together..."

Paige took a large bite of her food, eating alongside her tears and sobbing silently.

Caroline welled up with tears as well. She had never seen Paige like this before. Paige had never

had a boyfriend and usually had friendly relationships with younger men, but she was a conservative person at heart. Alex was the first man she had ever invested her feelings in.

Caroline couldn't help feeling angry. 'Why did Alex go on that date without telling Paige? Even if it was well-intentioned, he shouldn't have hidden it from her!'

Caroline knew that Paige despised betrayal and lies.

She embraced Paige. "Alex is in the wrong here, Paige. But we shouldn't rush to label him as unfaithful based solely on this incident."

Paige continued to sob. "Even if he said those things to his date on purpose, it was wrong of him to keep it from me!"

Caroline reassured her, "Let me talk to him about this, okay?"

+15 BONUS

Paige shook her head. "I can't trust his words anymore after falling for his act with that woman. Who knows if he'll use such tricks to deceive me in the future?" :

Caroline's expression turned serious. "This situation needs clarification, one way or another."

Meanwhile, at MK

Alex lay despondent in Evan's office, staring blankly at the ceiling.

Evan briefly studied Alex before saying. "This isn't a psychiatric clinic. You should seek help elsewhere."

1

Alex turned his head slowly. "Are you

also going to abandon me, Evan?"

Evan shot him a glance. "Can you speak coherently?"

Alex sighed. "I've been dumped."

"Hmm," Evan replied casually.

Alex was astonished. "Is 'hmm' all you've got?"

Evan grabbed a folder, lowered his gaze, and muttered, "What do you want me to say?"

"Congratulations on getting dumped?" novelbin

Alex sat up abruptly. "Aren't you supposed to console me, tell me not to be sad, and try to reconcile with Paige?"

"The next one will be better," Evan said. (1

Alex glared at him. "Then why don't you move on from Caroline?"

Evan paused his document search and met Alex's gaze. "What are your thoughts?"

Alex looked away. "I wouldn't dare to have an opinion. I was just making a point."

Evan remained silent, and Alex grew uneasy.

Standing up, he approached Evan's desk and leaned in. "Evan, please listen..."

Alex explained the events of that afternoon but was interrupted by Reuben, who walked in and

Chapter 434 The Truth

Alex glared at Reuben, who was bewildered by the resentful gaze.

Evan stood up and said, "Noted. I'll pick up Axel this afternoon."

Reuben nodded and handed an information sheet to Evan. "Mr. Jordan, please sign the physical

examination consent form for the school."

Evan took it and signed

Alex asked, "Why are you taking Axel to the hospital?"

Evan replied, "He has lost a lot of weight recently and has no appetite. He doesn't look well."

Alex speculated, "Maybe he's just upset about not seeing Caroline. My aunt's nephew acts the same way."

Evan looked at him coldly and asked, "Do you really think Axel is that type of child?"

Alex defended, "Axel is only five years old. You shouldn't judge him based on your perspective!"

Evan stayed silent, wondering, 'Am I being too strict with my child?'

Alex suggested, "Let's go out for lunch. The consultation is in the afternoon anyway."

Evan agreed with a nod and headed downstairs with Alex and Reuben.

As soon as Alex walked outside, his phone rang. He noticed Caroline was calling, so he answered, saying, "How can I help you, Carol?"

He glanced at Evan while speaking.

Caroline inquired, "Where are you now? I'd like to meet you."

Alex proposed, "I just left MK. Should we meet at Les Resto? I'll send you the private room number later."

"Sure," Caroline replied.

After ending the call, Caroline rushed to Les Resto, which was just a few hundred meters away.

She bumped into Alex and Evan at the door. Her expression froze, and she almost left instinctively. However, she gathered herself and said, "Let's go inside and talk

+15 BONUS

Alex nodded while Evan briefly scrutinized Caroline before walking inside.

Once they were seated in the private room, Alex handed the menu to Caroline and said, "Order something."

Caroline declined the menu and got straight to the point. "I'm not eating. I'm here to ask you why you went on a date without Paige's knowledge."

Alex frowned and explained, "It was my mother's request, and I've declined it multiple times. I couldn't refuse this time."

Caroline questioned, "So, you're not planning on telling your mother about Paige?"

"I need time to do that. My mother has quite traditional views," Alex replied.

Caroline pressed further, "So, you're willing to let Paige endure this unfair treatment if your mother doesn't approve of your relationship?"

Alex admitted, "I was wrong today. I shouldn't have kept it a secret from Paige."

Caroline sneered. "You're absolutely right. It's one thing not to decline the date. You should have at least told Paige about it instead of keeping it a secret and getting caught."

Evan suddenly snorted "What's wrong with Alex meeting someone once when they're not married?"

Caroline frowned. "So, you think hiding this from Paige is okay?"

Evan picked up his glass slowly and said, "As long as there's no cheating and the person is informed properly."

Caroline retorted, "It seems Mr. Price hasn't told you the whole truth about what happened."

Alex felt embarrassed, as he hadn't had a chance to explain the situation to Evan due to Reuben's interruption

Evan took a sip of water nonchalantly and continued. "You think you have the right to condemn him instead of Paige addressing it herself?"

Caroline scoffed. "Didn't you send Alex to meet me frequently too?"

Evan shot an annoyed look at Alex.

+15 BONUS

Alex realized he could be in trouble if Evan discovered he had frequently met Caroline on his behalf.

After seeing their reactions, Caroline understood that Alex had met her in Evan's name without

Evan's knowledge.

Chapter 435 Waste Time

+15 BONUS

Caroline scoffed, thinking, So, all those talks about Evan worrying about the kids and me are just lies? What is this, playing games with me like a fool?'

She turned her gaze toward Alex. "If you don't plan to be serious with Paige, Mr. Price, please let her go!"

Alex firmly rejected her plea. "I won't. My feelings for Paige are deeper than you think!"

Caroline mocked, "Aren't you concerned about your parents' feelings anymore?"

Alex explained, "I just want to spare Paige from any trouble my parents might cause." "

Caroline probed, "Are you afraid they won't accept her, or do you lack confidence in Paige?"

"You might not know her well enough. She doesn't back down in tough situations and despises

bullies and lies. You can't shield her for her own good."

Evan interjected, "You did something similar, didn't you? You kept me searching for you for five years."

Caroline grew furious. "Evan, those are entirely different matters Please distinguish between them!"

Evan stared icily at her. "If you can't manage your personal life, why make things difficult for Alex?"

Caroline remained resolute. "My personal life has nothing to do with Paige, and I don't need your judgment! Besides, I wouldn't be here arguing with you if he hadn't upset Paige so much today!"

Evan sneered. "Is she too scared to confront us on her own?"

Caroline retorted, "Do you think she wants to meet a man who deceived her?"

Alex intervened, "Alright, both of you, stop arguing about me!*

He tried to put an end to their dispute. 'Why are they fighting over me? They seem to quarrel every time they meet. Are they enemies or what?

'Wait a minute... What if it's just the two of them quarreling in the room? Maybe their argument

could ignite something between them?’

+15 BONUS

With this thought, Alex took a sip of water, stood up, and declared, “I’m going to meet Paige and explain things to her.”

He left the room, pulling along Reuben.

Once the door was shut, Reuben asked with confusion, “Mr. Price, why did you drag me out?”

Alex asked, “Do you think they had a rough night yesterday?”

Reuben blushed, “Uh..”

Alex patted Reuben’s shoulder. “They’re obviously holding back anger. It’s better to give them some privacy to vent, right?”

Reuben grasped the situation. “You mean they might keep arguing until ”

Alex raised an eyebrow. “I didn’t say that Why is your mind going there?”

Reuben was perplexed. I don’t think I said anything strange, did [?’

In the private room.

Caroline and Evan sat facing each other, creating an awkward and chilly atmosphere.

Evan casually shifted the conversation. "Have you thought about what happened last night?"

Caroline felt a mix of anger and shame when he brought it up, admitting reluctantly, "I haven't given it much thought "

Evan's expression darkened. "You still want to stay connected with him?"

Caroline's body tensed, and she reluctantly relented to prevent a repeat of last night. "I need to deal with something, and that's all I can say."

Evan furrowed his brows, suspecting, "What could she possibly want with Casey? Is she trying to extract information from him?"

His tone grew softer. "Even if you do, there's a safer way to approach him."

Caroline insisted, "I know the kind of person Casey is, but I have to rely on him to clear my doubts. Please don't try to persuade me any further, as I've made up my mind. Don't waste your time on me.*

Evan observed Caroline, contemplating her words while recalling her defending Casey the previous night.

Chapter 436 Christmas Eve

Evan couldn't help but ask, "Are you trying to use him or get close to him?"

Caroline was taken aback. "If you don't trust me, why bother asking pointless questions?"

Evan insisted, "I just want to know the truth!"

Caroline snapped, "Must you label everything I say as a lie?" She couldn't control her frustration.

I must be crazy for trying to explain to him earlier. He'll never believe me anyway, she thought to herself.

herself.

Evan scoffed "Are you getting upset because I called you out?"

Caroline clenched her fists and took a deep breath. "Will you please get checked at the hospital for paranoia? Stop torturing me! I can't take your constant suspicion anymore!"

Caroline stormed out of the room, leaving Evan alone on the sofa.

'Which one is the real her? he wondered.

In the afternoon, Caroline told Paige about Alex's explanation.

Paige replied, "Let him be. I'm going to take a nap.'

Caroline didn't say more and focused on her work.

At 2:30 p.m., Caroline received a message that her children had completed their physical examinations.

She also received a text from Scott.

Scott sent a photo of the school with the caption: I was worried Lia might be scared of needles, so

I took time off from work and joined the hospital's health check-up team here. Don't worry. Lia and the others are very brave.]

Before she could reply, Casey messaged her.

Casey: [Were you okay last night? Did Evan bother you?]

Caroline sneered

10

+15 BONUS

1

Caroline: [We had a heart-to-heart talk about you.]

Casey: [As expected, but you don't seem shaken by him.]

Caroline: [Don't let him tag along next time. Even if you don't feel awkward, I find it uncomfortable.]

Casey: [Of course. I don't want to get into a fight with him either.] 1

Caroline looked disgusted.

Caroline: [Isn't this suffering of your own making?

Casey: [You have a point. So, what's your plan?]

Casey left the initiative to Caroline this time, waiting to see if she would take action against Evan.

Caroline: I'll let you know when I have something.]

Casey: [Sure, take your time. I'll wait for your message]

After replying to the texts, Caroline pondered deeply. She knew Casey was testing her

determination for revenge. She couldn't rush to extract information now, or her motives would be exposed. She needed to plan her revenge against Evan carefully.

Caroline collected herself and replied to Scott's text

Caroline. I can relax knowing you're with the children. Would you like to come over for dinner tonight?)

Scott: [I'm on the night shift. I changed my schedule for Christmas Eve so we can spend it together.]

Caroline was shocked. Is it Christmas already?!'

She had put Daniella's matter on hold after Jamie's death, realizing she couldn't proceed with her plan due to unforeseen circumstances. She needed to find an opportunity to expose Daniella's identity soon.

Scott: [Are you busy?]

Caroline (I was lost in thought, sorry]

Scott: (Hmm. Can I help ease your mind?

Caroline: [You're quite the charmer these days, Scott.]

Scott: [I'm just kidding. Tell me, what's bothering you?]

Caroline pondered

Caroline: [I'd like to visit the Xanders on Christmas Eve]

Chapter 437 Make It up to You

Scott called Caroline shortly after she sent the last text message. He sounded concerned and asked, "Why do you want to visit the Xanders? Do you need me to keep you company? I'm worried

Grayson might pose a threat."

Caroline couldn't help but chuckle at Scott's anxious tone. "Why are you more anxious than me?"

Scott replied, "How can I calm down after hearing Draco's cautionary tale?"

Caroline said, "I don't want you to get involved in this."

There was a brief silence, and Scott finally asked, "Is it because you think I can't protect you?"

Caroline sensed the disappointment in Scott's voice and felt bad. "That's not what I mean, Scott.

I'm worried you might face humiliation too."

Scott reassured her gently but determinedly. "I'll stand by your side, no matter what."

Caroline felt a warm and comforting sensation. It's nice to be protected.

She exhaled and said, "Alright, let's go together on Christmas Eve"

Scott agreed, "Sure, I'll pick you up."

At Xander Residence.

Daniella called Casey as soon as she woke up, determined to get an explanation for what

happened the previous night.

Casey answered after a while, his voice hoarse, "Ella."

Daniella was taken aback and asked with concern, "What happened to you, Casey?"

Casey replied weakly, "I think I have a fever, probably from getting punched while my body hasn't fully recovered."

Daniella got out of bed and exclaimed, "Where are you? I'm coming to see you!"

Casey provided the location "Villa Foresta in the northern suburbs."

+15 BONUS

An hour later, Daniella arrived at Casey's villa.

The bodyguards allowed her in as Casey had notified them.

Daniella rushed inside and was directed by a servant, "Ms. Love, Mr. Jordan is upstairs."

The servant pressed the elevator button for Daniella, who nodded her thanks and entered. She headed to the third floor and found Casey lying on a lounge chair as soon as the elevator doors opened.

Approaching him, she said. "Casey?"

Casey coughed softly into his hand and asked. "You're here. Have you eaten?"

Daniella shook her head and knelt beside Casey. "I haven't I rushed over as soon as I heard you weren't feeling well."

Casey smiled gracefully and offered, Thank you for making the effort. I'll have the service staff prepare something for you. What would you like to eat?"

"Now's not the time to eat. Shouldn't we take you to the hospital? Let's go see a doctor, Daniella said sympathetically.

Casey gently caressed Daniella's cheek and changed the subject. "Do you blame me for what

happened last night?"

Blushing, Daniella held Casey's hand and reassured him, "No, I don't blame you. You're still recovering."

"I'd like to make it up to you," Casey said softly, his eyes locked onto Daniella's.

Her heart raced, and she wished she could embrace him but reminded herself why she was there.

"Let's get you checked first, okay? Your health is my priority."

Casey withdrew his hand. "Sure.

Daniella nodded and urged, "Let's head to the hospital."

In the afternoon, Caroline picked up the children from school. The children were handed over to their parents one by one at a designated location. As Caroline entered the waiting area, she spotted Evan getting out of his car, and he immediately noticed her in the crowd.

Chapter 438 Sick-

Caroline and Evan's eyes locked, and she saw the confusion in his gaze.

He must be wondering why I'm here, right?' she thought.

Caroline looked away, and Evan approached her.

She felt his chilly presence and heard his voice. "I told you not to see Axel anymore."

Caroline glanced at him. "Did you establish this school? Are you the sole authority here?"

Evan frowned and glanced at the class number on the wall, eventually realizing the situation. He grabbed Caroline's wrist and led her to his car, infuriating her

She wanted to free herself but also to berate him further. Yet, she understood that quarreling with

Evan in the presence of many parents would be inappropriate. It would tarnish not only their reputation but also affect the children.

After they got into the car, Evan sternly asked, "Did you enroll your children in Axel's class?"

Caroline kept her distance and replied, "I didn't enroll them. They were accepted based on their abilities."

Evan frowned 'How did they get in without you visiting the principal?"

Caroline couldn't tolerate his accusatory tone and shouted, "I did visit the principal, but they already had plans to enroll Axel and my children!

"Evan, why are you being so selfish? Can't you consider other people's feelings? How many times do I need to explain this?"

Evan retorted, “Merlin school was founded by the Gulls, a century–old scholarly family of

Angelbay. Why would they admit your children? Do you think I’ll believe your story? You don’t

need to go to such lengths just to see your childTMTM

Caroline seethed. “Why would I grovel like this? I thought you had influence in Angelbay.

Investigate TYC’s connection with Merlin now.”

Evan’s gaze turned icy. “You’re involved with the school?”

“Yes, any problem with that?” Caroline replied stiffly.

1/7

+15 BONUS

Evan conceded, “I’ll look into it. If that’s the case, I won’t object.”

–

“As you wish. Caroline sneered and exited the car.

After closing the door, Caroline took a deep breath and felt the urge to cry. She couldn’t comprehend Evan’s unwavering stance.

Will he regret keeping me from my child once I find out who dirtied Jamie’s reputation?’ she wondered

A few minutes later, the teacher emerged with the students.

Caroline spotted Axel, whose pale complexion alarmed her. She attempted to check on him, but Evan blocked her view. 1

She led Tyler and Liora to the car and drove home. Her children remained silent during the ride.

Sensing something was amiss, Caroline asked, "What's wrong, both of you? Are you having trouble adjusting to the new school?"

Liora sighed. "It's really strange, Mommy."

Caroline was puzzled. "What do you mean. Liora?"

"It's Axel. I think he is sick," Liora said solemnly.

Tyler added, "I think so too, but I don't know the details."

Caroline had noticed Axel's emaciated appearance. She decided to text him after dinner to check on his well-being

To ease her children's concerns, Caroline reassured them, "Don't worry. Your father owns a large hospital, and he'll arrange a thorough check-up for Axel."

Chapter 439 Don't Reject

+15 BONUS

Caroline was getting ready to make dinner for the kids when a young woman stepped out of the kitchen. She had a high ponytail and appeared to be around 20 years old. Her eyes lit up upon seeing Caroline. She flashed a smile, revealing her charming teeth, and said, "Hello, Ms. Shenton! I'm Eira Snow, the nanny Mr. Xander hired"

Neil came over from the living room as soon as Eira finished speaking. "You're back, Carol."

Caroline was puzzled. "Neil..."

Neil chuckled and explained. "I hired a nanny to help you out, Carol. Eira is highly skilled, not just in cooking but also certified in various areas."

"Certified? In what?" Caroline was amazed.

Neil nodded toward Eira, who went to the foyer and retrieved a card pouch from her backpack. She respectfully handed it to Caroline. "Please take a look, Ms. Shenton."

Caroline took the pouch in astonishment and found multiple certification cards inside. Eira was multilingual, a certified teacher, proficient in cooking and nutrition, skilled in martial arts, and

more. To Caroline's surprise, she was even certified in plumbing.

Caroline looked at Neil and asked, "Where did you find this woman, Neil?"

Neil replied, "She's actually an employee of my company, and she applied for the nanny position when she heard about it."

“Uncle Neil, your company must have many talented employees. Are you good with computers?”

Tyler asked.

Eira’s eyes sparkled. “Absolutely!”

Tyler’s interest was piqued. “Can we play a game on the computer after dinner?”

“Tyler, you haven’t finished your homework, and Mommy is still here!” Liora said, hands on her hips.

Eira giggled and offered, “I can help you with your homework!”

Caroline redirected the conversation, asking. “How much is my brother paying you, Eira?”

+15 BONUS

Eira held up a finger, “1,000 dollars.”

Caroline was shocked. “Neil, you’re paying her so little when she’s so capable?”

“No, Ms. Shenton! I requested that amount myself. I don’t need money because I earn income from these certifications,” explained Eira

Liora was curious. “Do you make a lot of money, miss?”

Eira shyly scratched her head. “It’s not that much, just a few thousand dollars.”

Liora was astonished. "Can you make that much money without doing much?"

Caroline gently caressed Liora's head. "The journey to achieve this wasn't easy."

"I want to be like you! I really like her, Mommy. Can we keep her, please?" Liora held Caroline's hand.

"Of course. Eira, I'll add another thousand dollars to your salary as a small token of appreciation."

Eira nodded. "In that case, you can leave tutoring the kids to me. I'll start cooking now!"

Caroline nodded and joined Neil in the dining room after Eira returned to the kitchen. They sat down, and Caroline looked at Neil, asking, "Tell me, does Eira have feelings for you?"

Neil was taken aback. "What are you talking about?"

Caroline teased, "Why would such an exceptional girl willingly work as my nanny if there isn't something more?"

"She's probably just here for the experience. I'm not looking for a girlfriend," Neil replied, picking up an orange from the table.

Caroline smiled, thinking, "Well, what can I say if he has already made up his mind?"

“Oh, by the way, you’ll be at the Xanders on Christmas Eve, right?’ Caroline asked.

He handed her a peeled orange. “Yes, I will be. Why do you ask?”

Caroline took a bite of the orange and said, “What do you think about me revealing Daniella’s

identity on Christmas Eve?”

Chapter 440 Could Not Bear to Leave

Neil assured Caroline, “It’s all good. Do what you want. I’ll support you no matter what.”

Caroline felt a warm sensation in her chest. “Alright, I’ll go ahead on Christmas Eve then.”

Neil added, “I’ll gather all the information on Daniella. You just need to be there.”

“Okay.”

+15 BONUS

After dinner, Eira washed the dishes and helped the kids with their studies.

Caroline watched for a while, feeling relieved by their harmony Then, she went upstairs to her

study and dialed Dr. Deric Dempsey from Grand Cast Hospital.

Deric answered, “Ms. Shenton, we’ve been waiting for your call.”

Caroline apologized, “I’m sorry for the delay. I was unwell and hospitalized.”

Deric reassured her, "You can always reach out if you feel unwell. Please provide your email, and

I'll send Ms. Smith's surgery plan."

Caroline shared her email, and Deric promptly sent the plan. As she read it on her laptop, the medical jargon baffled her. She forwarded it to Scott and waited for his call.

When Scott rang, Caroline asked, "Have you reviewed the surgery plan?"

"Yes, the craniotomy technology is advanced, and the risk is low. You should go for it."

Caroline made her decision. "Alright. I'll schedule it with the doctor."

"Great, make sure to eat. I have surgery too."

"Sure, take care. Goodbye."

Caroline then called Deric and scheduled the surgery for 2:00 p.m. the next day. Deric then

informed Evan.

our best

Evan was in Axel's room and responded casually. "Be careful during the surgery and do your best

to wake Lily up."

+15 BONUS

Deric acknowledged. "Of course, Mr. Jordan."

Evan glanced at Axel, lying on the bed with his back turned "How long will you keep this up?"

Axel's voice sounded weak. "I don't have an appetite."

Evan's tone grew serious. "If you're on a hunger strike because of your mother, don't even think about seeing her again. If I can transfer you to a new school once, I can do it again."

Axel's hand tightened on his chest, not because of hunger strike but due to his food aversion. However, he couldn't bear the thought of leaving the school where he shared classes with his siblings and saw his mother after class.

Gritting his teeth, Axel forced himself upright. "Til eat," he muttered.

"Joy made your favorite beef stew. Finish your meal," Evan said.

Axel got out of bed and nodded. He then walked downstairs, where the nanny, Joy, served the hot stew.

Axel felt queasy at the sight of the beef chunks.

Noticing his discomfort, Joy inquired. "Are you feeling unwell, Axel?"

Axel turned away, replying, "I'm fine."

He picked up a spoon and forced the beef stew into his mouth, battling the nausea that threatened to overwhelm him.