

## **Trapped 771**

### Chapter 771 A Crazy Demon

While Paige pondered, Caroline abruptly stood up. In the next moment, her feeble legs gave way, and she collapsed onto the chair.

Paige rushed over to assist Caroline, frustration evident in her voice as she exclaimed, "Call the police, Carol! We must call the cops! This crazy demon needs to face the consequences!"

Caroline pushed Paige aside and struggled to her feet, visibly distraught.

"The kids... I need to see them... I have to pick them up..." Caroline staggered out of the private room, with Paige grabbing her bag and following suit.

Once inside the car, Caroline trembled and instructed the bodyguard to drive to the school quickly.

Paige retrieved her phone. "I'll call the cops now!"

Caroline was too preoccupied with getting her children to the hospital for a check-up. She couldn't fathom that Daniella had exposed her young children to AIDS. Her kids were so innocent, having barely experienced life.

'How could Daniella...

'How could Daniella and Naomi commit such a heinous act?"

Caroline's nails dug into her palms, the pain nearly suffocating her.

Caroline reached the school promptly. Paige had already contacted the teacher using Caroline's phone during the journey.

The teacher emerged with the children, and Caroline hastily ushered them into the car, speeding toward the hospital.

Caroline clung tightly to Tyler and Liora on the way, their breaths constricted by her embrace.

“Mommy...” Liora timidly gazed at Caroline, who seemed lost. “What’s wrong, Mommy? You’re scaring me...”

It was the first time Tyler had seen his mother so worried as if she had been dealt a devastating blow.

Struggling. Tyler turned to Paige. “Godmother, what’s going on with Mommy?”

Paige asked gravely, “Have you both eaten the food that Naomi gave you?”

“The secretary?” Liora nodded. “Yes, we did.”

Caroline trembled upon hearing that.

She stared down at Liora, her lips drained of color. “Why did you eat it?”

Liora blinked, at a loss for words.

“Answer me!” Caroline shouted at Liora. “Why did you eat the food she gave you?”

This was the first time Liora had seen her mother so furious. Terrified, her body stiffened, and her eyes welled with tears.

“Mommy...” Liora stammered in fear. “Please don’t be like this, Mommy... I’m scared...”

“Why did you eat it?” Caroline continued to cry out, her anger evident. “You’re hurting yourselves! Didn’t I tell you not to accept food from strangers? Why did you eat it? Tell me why!”

Paige urgently attempted to calm Caroline down. “Caroline, let’s not jump to conclusions. We don’t have all the facts yet. Please don’t do this in front of the children. You’re scaring them.”

Liora couldn’t contain her tears any longer. “It’s my fault, Mommy... I shouldn’t have eaten it...”

She cried while hugging Caroline tightly, gradually helping her mother regain her composure.

In a daze, Caroline felt a deep sense of sorrow and guilt as Liora continued to weep. “I’m so sorry...” Caroline whispered, trembling, as she held Liora close.

Chapter 772 Not Allowed to Stay Long

“I’m sorry, Lia... I was wrong earlier...”

Caroline couldn’t help but cry, feeling regretful for not controlling her emotions earlier.

She thought, The children are so young, they don’t understand... All they know is that Naomi is my secretary. Their innocence makes them believe Naomi isn’t a bad person.

“It’s all my fault. If only I knew about Naomi’s connection with Daniella earlier, maybe this could have been avoided.’

Tears welled up in Paige’s eyes, and she assured, “I’ve already reported to the police, Carol. They’ll face the consequences. Please don’t cry anymore. Let’s take the children to the doctor...”

Paige eventually couldn’t hold back her sobs either.

Tyler had already pieced together the situation to some extent.

He thought, 'Mommy just found out that Naomi did something to our food. But what did Naomi do? Could it be something seriously harmful to our health?'

Tyler kept quiet, looking frustrated.

Upon reaching the hospital, Caroline took the children for a checkup. She anxiously waited outside the examination room when her phone rang.

Seeing Caroline's panicked state, Paige answered the call for her.

"Hello, who's this?" Paige asked.

The man on the other end said, "Is this Ms. Shenton?"

Paige asked, "Who is this?"

"I'm from the police. Didn't you call us earlier? We're at your company but need your permission to enter," the police officer explained.

"Please hold on, sir. I'll pass the phone to her."

Paige handed the phone to Caroline and informed her, "The police are trying to enter the company, Carol."

Caroline took the call and said, "This is Caroline Shenton."

The police officer, Norman Scully, said, "Hello, Ms. Shenton. Please inform the receptionist that we're looking for the suspect."

Caroline replied, "Of course. I'll make the call."

The receptionist soon received Caroline's call and granted access to the police officers, leading them to Caroline's office level.

The police officers located and entered Naomi's office. Naomi was busy organizing folders and remained unfazed by their sudden presence.

She quickly regained her composure.

Norman said, "You're Naomi Lynch, right? We've received a report of suspicion. Please come with us."

Naomi cooperatively extended her hands to be cuffed by the police and then asked, "Can I see Ms.

Shenton once more at the hospital?

"You can discuss it with her when she visits you," Norman replied.

Naomi assured, "Don't worry. I won't pose any danger in your presence. I just want to apologize and thank her before going to prison."

Norman hesitated for a moment and eventually agreed, "Alright, but your visit will be brief,"

Back at the hospital.

The doctor emerged from the examination room and shook his head as he approached Caroline. "For now, everything seems fine. You can come back for regular checkups if the transmission mode is through blood."

Anxiously, Caroline asked, "It's been a few days already. Can't you give a diagnosis yet?"

The doctor explained, "The incubation period for AIDS can vary from a few days to a few months."

Caroline asked with a shaky voice, "If.. If they are infected, w-what will happen?"

The doctor sighed and replied, "They'll need long-term antiviral treatment, but it won't cure the condition entirely, it can only manage the symptoms."

Hearing this, Caroline felt her knees weaken, and she almost fainted. Luckily, Paige and the doctor caught her in time.

After composing herself, Caroline said with great effort, "I understand. I'll take the children for a checkup

The doctor simply nodded.

Chapter 773 Please Stay Calm

Tyler and Liora stepped outside. Caroline was getting ready to take them home when she received a call from Norman.

"Ms. Shenton, the criminal wants to meet you. We're at the hospital's entrance. Can you let us know where you are?"

Caroline clenched her fists and replied. "I'm on my way. Please wait for me at the entrance."

"Of course."

After hanging up, Caroline took a deep breath and turned to Paige. "Please look after the children for me. I need to go to the hospital's entrance for a bit."

Paige asked anxiously, "What's happening there?"

Caroline explained, "The police have brought Naomi here."

Paige exclaimed, "She is here to see you? How can she have the nerve to do that?"

"I'm going." Caroline controlled her anger and headed to the hospital's entrance.

Caroline arrived there shortly.

Two police officers were with Naomi, and onlookers were curious about the situation.

Naomi stood there quietly and indifferently.

Caroline spotted Naomi as soon as she walked out of the outpatient building. She approached quickly and slapped Naomi.

The two police officers intervened swiftly. "You can't hit her, even if she's at fault. Please remain calm."

Caroline ignored them and confronted Naomi angrily. "I've shown you care, haven't I? Why did you do this to me and my children? They're only five years old, with their whole lives ahead of them. How could you do this to them?"

Naomi's silence further infuriated Caroline. "Tell me, Naomi! What have I done to deserve this?"

"I'm sorry, Ms. Shenton," Naomi replied. "I admit that I've wronged you and did some things on Daniella's orders. But I didn't follow those orders to harm your children."

Caroline was taken aback. "What do you mean?"

Naomi clarified, "I initially planned to harm your children to repay Daniella's favor, but I couldn't bring myself to do it in the end. I want to come clean with you. I did cause the factory fire, and I'm ready to face the legal consequences."

Caroline anxiously asked, "Are you sure my children are unharmed?"

"I didn't harm them. Rest assured, Ms. Shenton," Naomi said. "Your children are kind and adorable. I wanted to speak to you before being detained. Firstly, to thank you. I know you had doubts about me, but you continued to be exceptionally kind. Secondly, I want to apologize for my wrongdoings that caused losses to your company."

Caroline's anxiety began to subside as Naomi spoke. All that mattered was that her children were safe.

Caroline said firmly, "Go. I don't want to see you again."

Naomi nodded. As she got into the police car, she called out, "Ms. Shenton."

Caroline halted. "What is it?"

"Daniella is not to be underestimated. Please be cautious," Naomi warned before getting into the police car

Caroline walked into the hospital, and she heard hurried footsteps approaching from behind her.

Chapter 774 How Are the Children

"Caroline!"

Evan's hoarse voice reached Caroline's ears. She turned to see Evan and Alex approaching in a hurry.

Astonished, she asked, "What are you doing here?"

Evan looked solemn, anxiety in his eyes. "How are the children?"

Caroline shared the truth. "I think they should be fine, but I never expected Daniella to be so malicious."

Alex scanned the surroundings. "Caroline, where's Paige?"

Caroline replied, "She's waiting outside the examination room with the children."

Alex offered, "I'll keep them company while you talk. We can have lunch together later!"

After Alex left, Evan noticed Caroline's swollen eyes and felt a pang in his heart. "Why didn't you tell me about this? Why did you have to go through it alone?"

Caroline lowered her gaze. "I only had the children in mind at the time. I couldn't think of anything else."

Evan reached out and held Caroline's cold hand. "Let me get you a cup of coffee to wake you up."

They ordered two cups of coffee from a nearby cafe. As Caroline took a sip, she felt the coldness soothing her throat.

"Evan..." She looked at him.

"Hmm, go ahead," Evan replied.

Caroline hesitated. "Now that you know Daniella orchestrated this, will you still choose to save her?"

Evan's eyes turned cold. "The current plan can't be changed, not yet. It's for the greater good. But rest assured, I deal with her personally once this matter is resolved."

Caroline gripped her cup. "It's ironic that we have to rely on Daniella's help after all the harm she's caused."

"It's not ironic. If you replace 'help' with 'use', it might change your perspective," Evan said as they walked back to the hospital.

Caroline was taken aback but then smiled. "That does make sense."

Evan's gaze lingered on her smile for a moment. "So, you can crack a genuine smile in my presence."

Evan smiled and joined her to meet the children in a cheerful mood.

The incident involving Naomi trended on social media quickly. However, Daniella remained unaffected as Draco had intervened to secure her release.

Daniella faced a harsh rebuke from Draco due to the incident at Jordan Residence.

"You're insane! Dealing with Caroline is your business! How dare you take it out on the children?!" he exclaimed.

Although he didn't have a soft spot for Caroline, he held a special fondness for the two children, especially the bright and sensible Tyler.

Daniella's face turned ghastly pale, and she couldn't muster the courage to respond.

Draco narrowed his eyes and continued. "If you ever behave this atrociously again, I won't hesitate to take you to the police station. I can do what I want even without you!"

Daniella's heart raced, and she met Draco's gaze. "Why do you care so much when they aren't your grandchildren?"

"Shut up! My decisions aren't up to you! Get back upstairs!" Draco yelled.

Daniella gnashed her teeth, obeyed, and headed upstairs. She bit her finger in frustration as she closed the door. She never expected Naomi to be such a failure!

Chapter 775 I'm Not, Seriously

Daniella did not expect that Naomi would actually not do anything!

“I must be blind for keeping a piece of shit like her with me! Since the matter didn’t work out, I shall expedite things on Azure’s side then,‘ she thought.

Daniella reached for the phone hidden beneath the bed and called Azure.

After a short time, Azure answered the call.

Before Azure could say a word, Daniella cut in. “You’ve got everything you need, yet you still haven’t figured out how to proceed?”

Azure responded with a casual tone. “Ms. Love, you’re more impatient than I imagined. Having everything

I need doesn’t mean I shouldn’t plan step by step, right?”

Daniella lowered her voice, her anger apparent. “I don’t want those two to have a good time!”

Her disheveled appearance made her look quite deranged.

Azure chuckled. “Be patient, Ms. Love. A good show requires some preparation.”

Daniella gnashed her teeth. “I’ll wait and see if you say so. If you disappoint me, I will expose you, too! No one’s having an easy time.”

Azure’s smile disappeared as she placed the phone on the table in disdain.

‘Daniella is insane! Azure muttered inwardly.

She then told Daniella, "This isn't the place for your emotional outburst, Ms. Love. I'll hang up now."

With that, Azure ended the phone call, picked up her coffee cup, and leisurely sipped her coffee while gazing outside. In truth, she was eager to take action even without Daniella's prompting. She knew that her chance with Alex was slipping away.

'Alex is mine,' thought Azure with cold determination as she grabbed her phone and messaged Paige.

Azure: [Hello, Paige. This is Azure. Are you free tomorrow? I would like to invite you to meet up.]

Paige received the message as she was on her way back to the apartment with Alex. She frowned when she read it. "Alex! Have you been in touch with Azure recently?"

Alex looked puzzled. "Azure? No, I've been spending time with you lately, haven't I?"

Paige gave him a suspicious look. "Are you sure?"

"I'm absolutely sure! I swear," Alex replied earnestly.

Paige turned away. "That's strange. Why is Azure texting me to invite me for a meetup?"

Alex was surprised. "She invited you out? She's not close to you, though!"

Paige sneered. "How do you know about that? Are you hiding something from me?"

"No, seriously! When are you meeting her? I'll come with you," Alex suggested.

Paige considered and said, "Okay!"

Paige: [Sure, what time? My husband will come with me.]

Azure's grip tightened when she read the word 'husband', but she concealed her emotions due to her upbringing.

Azure: [Alright. I'll see you at 10:00 a.m. at Brew Haven.]

Later that night, Paige and Caroline spoke on the phone.

Caroline asked, 'How did Azure get your number?'

Paige replied, "I'm not too sure about that, but I figure it'd be easy for an heiress like her to get my number.

Chapter 776 Marriage

Caroline was still confused. "I feel uneasy."

Paige shared her concern, "I feel the same way. It seems like there might have been something between Azure and Alex in the past."

Caroline said, "I don't think so. Since he wants to go with you, it means he's guilt-free."

Paige disagreed, "No, I feel he's coming with me because he's afraid I might discover something. This way, he can signal Azure to stop her from saying anything she shouldn't."

Caroline asked, "Why doesn't he just call her and tell her that? Is Alex with you now?"

Paige replied, "Yes, he's in the kitchen cooking dinner for me, wearing an apron."

Caroline chuckled. "Alex used to be quite the charismatic figure, but now he's so smitten by you that he willingly gets into the kitchen."

Paige felt touched, saying, "I suppose so. Alex does have many strengths."

Caroline checked the time and said, "Alright, I won't interrupt your sweet time with him. I'm going to get the children ready for bed."

Paige said, "Sure. Wait for my update tomorrow."

"Alright."

Caroline went downstairs to help the children get ready for bed.

Meanwhile, Eira entered the house looking puzzled.

Caroline asked, "What's going on, Eira?"

Eira looked at Caroline and said, "Has the house next door been sold, Carol?"

"I'm not sure. I've been busy, so I let my secretary handle it. Did someone come to view the house next door?"

Eira nodded. "Yes. It's the first time I've seen someone viewing a house at night."

Caroline looked out the window and called Josie on her phone.

Josie picked up. "Ms. Shenton."

Caroline asked, "Have you had any recent inquiries about viewing the house, Josie?"

"Yes. I had the real estate agent show the house. Did they come?" Josie replied.

Caroline confirmed, "Yes. Do you know who the buyers are?"

Josie replied, "It's a married couple who run a business."

Caroline said, "Alright. Get some rest."

After ending the call, Caroline turned to Eira. "Please keep an eye on the situation over there if you can, Eira."

Caroline found it unusual for someone to view a house at night. Perhaps she was being overly cautious.

Her children were living there, so she wanted to make sure her neighbors were not a threat.

Eira agreed, "Of course, Carol."

The next day, Paige and Alex went to Brew Haven.

Azure had already reserved a table in the courtyard and was waiting for them beside a heater. There were

delicious desserts on the table.

When Paige and Alex arrived, Azure greeted them with a smile. "Hello, Alex, Paige."

They joined Azure, and Alex asked in puzzlement, "Fatty Azzie, why did you invite my wife out?"

Azure replied, "Please, take a seat, and then we'll talk."

Paige and Alex sat down, and Azure gracefully picked up the tray with cups in front of them.

She said, "Alex, I heard your parents have agreed to your marriage. As your childhood friend, I want to congratulate both of you."

Azure then poured a cup to Paige, her eyes sparkling as she did.

She only turned to Paige when the tea was nearly filling the cup. "Congratulations for getting a considerate man like Alex, Ms. Watson."

Chapter 777 Gifts

Paige perked up at Azure's comment, locking eyes with her. She casually asked, "How do you know Alex is so considerate?"

Azure calmly poured herself a cup of tea and explained, "Alex and I have been friends since we were kids, so I've experienced his thoughtfulness over the years. Ms. Watson, you need not concern yourself with these minor details."

"What a piece of work! She's praising Alex's consideration, but she's telling me not to worry about it!

Maybe she should keep her mouth shut,' Paige thought.

Paige smirked and turned to Alex with a cheerful expression. "Look at how understanding Ms. Miller is, Alex!"

Alex sensed Paige's annoyance and quivered upon hearing her words. He was aware that Paige was upset, so he quickly addressed Azure, "Why bring this up, Fa- Azure? It's been a long time."

Alex refrained from using the nickname 'Fatty Azzie' out of fear.

Azure conceded with lowered eyes and a smile, "You're right, Alex. I misspoke."

Azure reached for two gift bags she had prepared and placed them on the table. She grinned, saying,

These are my gifts for your upcoming baby and your wedding.”

Perplexed, Alex said, “You really shouldn’t have. We can handle these things ourselves.”

Paige chimed in. “Alex, why turn down Ms. Miller’s generosity? She invited us out to celebrate with us.

Rejecting her like this would be awkward.”

Paige gave Alex a meaningful look as if to say, “You must accept these gifts if you’re not hiding something!”

Not daring to oppose Paige, Alex accepted the presents from Azure and handed them to Paige. “Take a look, Paige.”

Paige glanced at Azure and asked, “May I open them now, Ms. Miller?” Azure replied after a pause, “Of course.”

Paige proceeded to unwrap the gifts one by one. For the baby, there was a pendant and a bracelet, both bearing the inscription “Keeper of my heart. For Paige and Alex, there was a set of personalized wine glasses.

Paige was pleasantly surprised by Azure’s heartfelt blessings. She let her guard down and set the gifts aside. “Thank you so much for these thoughtful presents.”

Azure smiled and suggested, “Give the tea a try. I ordered one suitable for expectant mothers.”

Paige glanced at the steaming tea in the clear teapot, then picked up the teacup and took a sip. Afterward, she sent photos of Azure’s gifts to Caroline

Paige: [I can't quite figure Azure out. She once told me she'd compete with me for Alex, yet now she's showering us with gifts.]

Meanwhile, Caroline was instructing Josie to recall all the secretaries who were currently undergoing training elsewhere. She received Paige's message just as she finished speaking with Josie

Caroline: [While I don't want to jump to conclusions, I have a feeling something might be off. Be cautious around her until the child is born.]

Caroline was concerned about the potential strain on Paige and Alex's relationship, so she offered these friendly reminders to protect their happiness from any unforeseen troubles.

Chapter 778 I'll Come With You

Reuben ushered a middle-aged man into Evan's office, saying, "Sir, meet Mr. Bryce Wayne. He visited the villa next to Bayview Villa on our behalf last night and took some photos. He's here to discuss renovation ideas with you."

Bruce took out several photos from his bag and showed them to Evan. "Mr. Jordan, what design changes do you have in mind?"

Evan glanced at the photos and replied, "Let's modify the second level by adding three children's rooms. Two of them should be in gray tones and not too large.

"Use the space from the other two children's rooms to expand the middle one and create a princess room with a starry sky ceiling, I want an elegant walk-in closet in that room.

"Combine all the rooms on the third level into a playroom."

Evan then turned to Reuben and instructed, "Get two sets of high-end computers for the smaller bedrooms."

'He's clearly favoring Ms. Liora! She gets a big room and a whole floor for the playroom. What about the two boys? Don't they deserve their own space? Reuben thought.

Reuben hesitated and said, "Well, if we make these changes, the boys' rooms will be quite small, around 100 square meters each..."

Evan fixed him with a stern look. "That's sufficient for them. If they want more space, they can get their own place."

The designer nodded. "Certainly, Mr. Jordan. I'll proceed with the ownership transfer formalities today."

Evan added, "Write him a check, Reuben."

After the designer left, Reuben asked, "Sir, are you planning to make the children live independently?"

Evan looked at Reuben casually and remarked, "Children can be a handful at times."

Evan couldn't help but smirk as he saw Reuben's perplexed expression. "You wouldn't understand since you're single."

"Why did he have to throw in a personal dig?" Reuben complained inwardly.

Later in the day, Josie informed Caroline, "Ms. Shenton, someone is interested in buying your villa and wants to complete the ownership transfer procedures this afternoon. Are you available?"

Caroline was surprised. "They want to buy it today after seeing the house last night?"

Josie nodded. "Yes. They seem to be in a hurry."

Caroline asked with a frown, "Have you checked their background?"

Josie replied, "They work in the interior design industry, and I did some research. The married couple has a good reputation in Angelbay."

Caroline felt relieved hearing that. "Alright. I'll come with you."

After handling the ownership transfer in the afternoon, Caroline picked up her children and returned home. As they approached the villa, they noticed lights and workers in the yard, seemingly planning something.

Liora asked, "Are we getting new neighbors, Mommy?"

Caroline smiled and ruffled Liora's hair, saying, "You like the idea neighbors, Lia?"

Liora hugged her mother and replied, "Yes! It's exciting to have new neighbors, Mommy."

Tyler gazed out the car window and said, "I just hope they won't disrupt our sleep with nighttime renovations."

Caroline reassured him, "If they cause disturbances, someone will report it, even if we don't"

Caroline found the new owners' eagerness a bit peculiar.

Caroline led the children to wash their hands before dinner at home when someone opened the door.

Chapter 779 Haven't Been Shy

Caroline thought Kenny was coming, but to her surprise, it was Scott who walked in. He had a grocery bag in hand and turned his head toward the dining room.

He showed the bag to Caroline and asked, "Mind if I join you for dinner with some fruit?"

Caroline hadn't expected Scott's sudden arrival. She quickly got up and asked, "What brings you here? \*

Scott replied, "I thought you might be home with the children, so I decided to drop by and visit them."

Caroline nodded and led Scott into the dining room. The children all looked at Scott.

Scott said, "You're looking better, Axel. Seems like you've been good about taking your meds."

Axel nodded and greeted, "Hello, Uncle Scott."

Liora's eyes lit up as she spotted the cherries in Scott's bag. She beamed and exclaimed, "How did you know I love cherries, Papa Wilson?"

Scott gently patted Liora's head. "I'll share some with you in the living room after dinner, alright?"

Liora nodded and pointed to the empty seat next to Caroline. "Sit here, Papa Wilson!"

Tyler mumbled after Scott sat down, "Seems like all you care about is Lia, huh, Papa Wilson?"

Scott was taken aback and explained, "I'd love for everyone to enjoy the fruits, Ty."

Eira set up a place for Scott at the table while Caroline reassured, "Ty's been a bit mischievous lately. Don't mind him, Scott."

Scott glanced toward the living room and asked, "Is Kenny not home yet?"

Caroline explained, "He's been busy with work at the factory, and he's struggling to make it home in time for dinner. He mostly eats at the cafeteria."

Scott nodded but remained silent.

After dinner, the children carried the cherries Scott had brought to the living room.

Caroline and Scott watched them from the side. Turning to Scott, Caroline asked, "Your visit today is more than just sharing a meal, isn't it? Is something on your mind?"

Scott replied, "No, it's just been a while since I last visited. Plus, I have more free time now as I've been

Caroline suggested. "The hospital isn't far from Bayview Villa. If you ever get tired of cafeteria food, feel free to come and enjoy Eira's cooking."

Scott smiled and said, "I won't be shy about it, especially since you've offered."

Caroline chuckled. "I didn't hold back when you were taking care of me and the children in the past."

Scott's gaze fell, and he asked, "It seems like you're determined to be with Evan..."

He paused, and Caroline noticed his expression. She sighed and admitted, "Scott, I apologize for keeping you waiting."

Scott slowly sank into the sofa. "Let's skip the small talk, Carol. Is Evan treating you well now?"

Caroline said, "We haven't defined our future yet."

Scott asked, "If he loves you so much, why hasn't he made his intentions clear?"

Caroline explained, "He has, but I haven't given him an answer. I have some concerns and need time to think things through if I want to be with him."

Scott's gaze shifted to the children. "You're still worried about Evan's father, right?"

Caroline nodded.

“If Evan’s father is no longer in the picture, will you reconcile with Evan quickly? Scott asked.

Caroline looked puzzled. “That doesn’t sound like something you’d usually say, Scott.”

Chapter 780 Follow Our Method

Scott handed Caroline some cherries and asked, “Isn’t the plan practical?”

Caroline fixed her gaze on Scott. She wondered, ‘Why would Scott know about our next move? What’s prompting him to mention this out of the blue?’

Caroline replied, “You’re right.”

Scott asked, “So, if Evan’s father is out of the picture, will you consider reconciling with Evan immediately?”

Caroline hesitated. “I can’t be certain because I can’t predict what might happen between Evan and me in the near future. I can’t provide a definitive answer.”

Scott suggested, “Alright, let’s change the subject then.”

He stood up and added, “It’s getting late, and I have an early shift tomorrow,”

Caroline checked her watch reflexively. “It’s only 7:30 p.m.”

Scott paused as he put on his jacket and asked, “Caroline, do you not want me to head home?”

Caroline blushed and replied nervously, “No, that’s not what I meant...”

"It's okay. I understand," Scott leaned in and whispered in her ear, making her blush from the flirtatious moment.

Caroline quickly stood up and circled around Scott, saying, "I'll walk you out."

As they reached the door, Scott gazed at the neighboring villa and asked, "I noticed it when I arrived, but I forgot to ask. Has the villa been sold?"

Caroline looked over and confirmed, "Yes, it's been sold. The ownership transfer was completed this afternoon, and the new owners seemed to be in a hurry."

Scott stared at the house momentarily, his eyes catching the dim streetlight. Just as Caroline was about to ask about his interest, he looked away and retrieved his car keys. "Alright. You should head inside. It's cold out here. Goodbye."

Caroline waved to Scott and watched him leave.

Later that night, at 9:30 p.m., Evan was reluctantly dragged out by Alex and Lucas for a night of drinking.

Evan glanced at Alex and remarked, "Has Paige given up on you? Is that why you're allowed to go out and have fun now?"

Alex replied firmly, "I'm not here for fun. I told Paige I'm out making plans for your and Caroline's happiness!"

Evan glanced at the array of liquor on the table and scoffed. "Are you planning with alcohol?"

Lucas poured himself a drink and chimed in. "No, Evan. We have a real plan, but first, we need to get you a bit tipsy!"

Evan raised an eyebrow. "You guys must be really bored, huh?"

Alex grinned mischievously and exchanged a glance with Lucas, "We're not bored. We're dedicated. Just follow our lead."

At 11:00 p.m., Evan was sprawled on the sofa, thoroughly intoxicated from Alex and Lucas' relentless drinking games.

Alex quickly grabbed Evan's phone, unlocked it, and found his messages with Caroline.

Lucas leaned in to look at the screen. "Do they always chat like this?"

After a brief moment, Alex commented, "Looks like they have zero romantic intentions. Just occasional texts."

Lucas was equally surprised. "How does Evan have so much patience?"

Alex speculated, "Maybe he's worried about annoying Caroline. Let's give her a call."

He dialed Caroline's number, catching her off guard while she was browsing fashion websites.