

## Chapter 14 Unfriendly

"You're correct," remarked Flora. "She's undeniably beautiful. However, weren't you claiming she was naturally beautiful without makeup? Why is she wearing makeup?"

Patrick arched an eyebrow, expressing his disapproval, and stated, "Miss Lambert is inherently beautiful. Makeup merely enhances her natural charm."

Patrick smiled and addressed Flora, "Flora, I've had a longstanding friendship with both Doctor Wall and Doctor Lambert. Allow me to introduce them to you. We'll be collaborating on the research and development of the new drugs moving forward."

While speaking, he cast a glance at Joelle with eyes full of gentleness, brimming with praise and encouragement.

Joelle responded with a serene smile and a nod towards Patrick, maintaining a composed demeanor with softness in her eyes.

Observing her pale yet still beautiful visage, Patrick couldn't suppress a sigh.

Despite her daily encounters with patients in the tumor department and her relentless exposure to incurable diseases, she remained pure and flawless. It elicited a sense of pity from those who beheld her.

"Very well, Mr. Fernandez." Flora nodded, directing unfriendly eyes towards Joelle. "Doctor Wall, I'm certain Doctor Lambert must possess some unique qualities for you to hold her in such high regard."

In response, Joelle cast a quick glance at Flora.

Tony, without any hesitation, affirmed, "Absolutely. Joelle is exceptionally skilled. Despite only 28 years old, she has already successfully performed several challenging surgeries. Her distinct insights on the clinical trials of the new drugs set her apart. She is the

Just a few years after Joelle's arrival at the hospital, she demonstrated her exceptional medical skills and proved her worth. Tony, in the presence of others, was always generous with his praise for her.

Patrick promptly nodded in agreement. He gazed at Joelle with admiration in his eyes and expressed, "Doctor Lambert, I have complete faith in your professional abilities, because you once saved me."

Over a year ago, during a camping trip with friends, Patrick faced a life-threatening situation after being bitten by a snake.

His friends dialed 911, but by then, he had lost consciousness, teetering on the brink of death.

At that moment, Joelle arrived and provided him with first aid, buying him valuable time for subsequent treatment.

Once the ambulance arrived, Joelle briefed the doctor and then took her leave. Following some inquiries, Patrick learned who she was.

He promptly arranged gifts to express his gratitude, but she steadfastly refused, stating that saving lives was simply part of her duty as a doctor.

From that point onward, he understood that despite Joelle's outward appearance of vulnerability, she possessed strong principles, leaving no doubt in his mind that she was an excellent doctor.

As she declined his gifts, Patrick, upon learning about the medicine research and development needs at Grace Hospital, made a resolute decision to collaborate with them as a way of expressing his gratitude.

"I'm honored, Mr. Fernandez," Joelle humbly replied. "There's still much I can glean from working alongside Doctor Wall. Miss Carter, I look forward to a fruitful collaboration in the future."

Joelle's intervention in Patrick's situation back then was solely rooted in professional ethics, devoid of any desire for reciprocation.

Nonetheless, the prospect of collaboration between Jensen Bio and Grace Hospital brought her genuine satisfaction.

Patrick arched his eyebrows, understanding Joelle's reluctance to discuss the incident of saving him, and refrained from bringing it up further.

As Flora prepared to speak, she detected Patrick's admiring gaze directed at Joelle. Clenching her teeth, she responded in a professional tone, "Certainly."

Tony cheerfully raised his glass, suggesting, "Let's have a toast!"

The discussion shifted to pertinent matters regarding the new drugs' experiments. Joelle couldn't help but sense Flora's unfriendly demeanor, marked by scrutinizing glances and subtle provocations.

Puzzled, Joelle wondered about the source of this hostility, considering it was their first encounter.

After enduring an uncomfortable atmosphere created by Flora's demeanor, Joelle decided to excuse herself and headed to the ladies' room.

Just as she finished fixing her makeup and prepared to leave, Flora abruptly entered, shutting the door behind her. Leaning against it, Flora seemed poised to initiate a conversation.