

Unpredictable Betrayal : A Sweet of Revenge 16-20

“Why the long face? What’s the matter? I’ve noticed you’ve been quiet since yesterday.”

Velia looked puzzled. Currently, she was with Aurora in the hospital cafeteria, enjoying their lunch break.

Since earlier, when she tried to engage in conversation, Aurora had been more silent than usual. Usually, Aurora was always chatty and enthusiastic. That’s why Velia was convinced there must be something going on with her friend.

“Tell me if there’s a problem. It’s not good to keep it to yourself. Even if I can’t provide a solution. At least, I can help lighten the mood as usual.”

Aurora frowned even more. Annoyed, she pinched Velia’s arm a little too hard.

“Ouch!” Velia complained genuinely. She truly felt the pain. Judging from her expression, Aurora was genuinely irritated.

“Let it be! Besides, instead of comforting me, you’re making me more upset.”
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“How am I supposed to comfort you? I don’t even know why you’re sulking. So, spill it, Aurora, you’re the daughter of Mr. Joshua Harperwood. I’m not a mind reader. So, I can’t read your thoughts.”

Aurora grunted in frustration. She was getting even more annoyed.

“For the past two days, Alex has been giving me the silent treatment.”

Velia immediately pulled a face. Disgusted, she made a face as if repulsed. Although, Aurora hadn’t said anything vulgar or dirty.

“Excessive. Why is he giving you the silent treatment anyway? It’s not like a guy like him should be sulking with you.”

Aurora sighed as if tired. She already expected Velia’s response. No matter how Alex behaved, he always seemed wrong in the eyes of that beautiful woman.

“It’s all because of Asher.”

“Asher?”

Velia’s eyebrows furrowed instantly. Why was Asher being dragged into this? What else had that man done?

“What about Asher?”

“Do you remember Mr. William’s wife’s birthday party the day before yesterday?”

“Of course, I remember. We were all invited by him. But, I couldn’t make it because of my work schedule.”

“So, that night, I accidentally bumped into Alden.”

Velia nodded. She wasn’t surprised by the information Aurora was sharing. Since William and his wife were famous businessmen and VIP patients at Santa Monica Hospital, almost all the doctors were invited to their wife’s birthday party.

However, a question arose in Velia’s mind: what did the accidental encounter between Aurora and Alden have to do with Asher and Alex suddenly sulking?

“And then?”

“One of the guests accidentally bumped into me so hard I almost fell. Since I was close to Alden at that moment, he—”

“He helped you?”

Aurora nodded. What happened to her that night was exactly like a scene from the Korean dramas she often watched.

“Alden reflexively caught me. Unfortunately, Alex saw the whole thing.”

“And he got jealous?”

This time Aurora shook her head. Denying Velia’s guess.

“No. At first, he was okay with it. When Alex saw and came closer, he was also indifferent.”

“So, why did he suddenly sulk if you say Alex was okay with it? That’s strange!”

Aurora sighed. She hadn’t finished her story yet. Velia’s bad habit was just like that. She liked to interrupt people’s conversations even when they were clearly not finished.

“Just listen.”

“Okay... okay.”

“All of this started because of Asher, the troublemaker who suddenly appeared.”

Aurora then remembered the incident that night. She was about to leave, but because Asher approached, her steps stopped once again.

“Doctor Alden, thank you for your help in assisting Doctor Aurora,” Asher expressed at that moment. Whether it was genuine or just small talk, nobody could tell. “If it weren’t for Doctor Alden rushing to help, Aurora would have fallen and been embarrassed.”

Alden nodded and smiled thinly in response to Asher’s usual statement.

“No problem, Doc. Besides, it was just a reflex because she happened to be close by.”

Asher smiled, turning his gaze towards Alex, who had been silent all this while.

“Have you met Doctor Alden yet? You should thank him for helping Aurora.”

“Asher,” Aurora interjected, shaking her head. She didn’t want her brother to worsen the situation.

“Now that she’s been helped, ideally, she should say thank you, right?”

Asher was right in a way. No matter how small someone else’s help might be, it should be appreciated.

Being lazy and not wanting to argue with his brother-in-law, Alex complied. With reluctance, he extended his hand towards Alden, intending to introduce himself.

“Alex, Aurora’s husband. Thank you very much for your assistance.”

“You’re welcome,” Alden responded warmly. He shook hands and politely introduced himself. “I’m Alden. I –”

“First love, ex-boyfriend, and now working at the same hospital as Aurora.”

Asher continued. He uttered the lengthy sentence with meaning and emphasis, as if to tell Alex that his brother-in-law had a serious competitor who could snatch Aurora away from his side at any moment.

Asher’s openly meaningful words acted as a warning, leaving Alex silent all the way home from the party. Even until this morning, during breakfast and before going to work, he remained silent, expressing his disappointment to Aurora.

“How long are you going to stay silent like this, Alex?”

This wasn’t the first time Aurora had asked. The day before, she had even sincerely apologized to her husband if she had done something wrong. But Alex seemed to still be angry, feeling unappreciated.

“Until you’re willing to be open and honest with me. Besides, how could I not be disappointed? How could you not tell me at all that you now work at the same place as the man who was clearly your first love?”

“Why should I tell you? I don’t consider Alden anything special. He’s just my ex. There’s nothing significant enough to mention.”

“But the problem is he’s more than just an ex, Aurora. He’s not an ordinary man. You two were almost married, right? If I hadn’t proposed first, maybe you’d be living with him now. And again, remember his gaze that night. He looked like someone still hoping for you.”

Aurora sighed. Why was she the one cornered like this?

“Don’t exaggerate. However, I never had any intention of betraying you. Besides, if I did have intentions with him, why didn’t I just divorce you immediately when there was a problem yesterday?”

Listening to Aurora’s explanation, Velia immediately grumbled. She, who had been curious about what had happened, now felt annoyed and angry with Alex’s behavior. Velia couldn’t accept Alex acting foolishly, let alone getting angry at Aurora for everything. She thought her friend’s husband was not entitled to do such things.

“Typical clueless husband. He’s mad at you, doesn’t he reflect on himself first? Even though his previous behavior was much worse.”

Aurora remained silent. If she responded, Velia would surely continue her long complaints. Especially when it came to Alex, Velia couldn’t be patient.

“So, are you going to persuade him so he won’t be angry anymore?”

Aurora shook her head. Since she didn’t feel wrong, and had already given the explanation as she should have, she didn’t intend to do anything else.

“No. I’ll just leave it.”

“Good. Just be careful not to apologize or persuade Alex in any way! I won’t accept it. I’m not teaching you to be a disobedient wife, Nicole. But your husband is going overboard.”

Aurora smiled thinly. Ending the conversation, she chose to return to enjoying her lunch.

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“Alex, where are you actually taking me?”

Inside the car, with both eyes covered by a cloth, Nicole kept asking questions. She was both puzzled and curious about where Alex was going to take her this afternoon.

Earlier, the man had contacted her, inviting her to meet instead of wanting to surprise her. Usually, when he wanted to give something, Alex would just give it directly. But this time, he acted differently. That’s why Nicole became extremely curious.

“You’ll find out soon. Just trust me, I guarantee you’ll love it.”

Alex pulled the corner of his lips into a smile. He continued driving, and before long they arrived at their destination.

“Now, you can uncover your eyes.” NôvelDrama.Org owns all content.

After getting out of the car, Alex gave Nicole the command. As soon as she opened her eyes, the woman was astonished, then asked innocently.

“Alex, what does this mean?”

“He said you wanted to move into an apartment? I’ve chosen a good one close to the office. Now, we can see and check out the unit together.”

Nicole jumped with joy. She was ecstatic that her request had been granted by Alex. Instantly, visions of sleeping in a comfortable and

luxurious place danced in her mind. After this, she would no longer need to live with her relatives and her mother in a cramped, dingy, and ugly rented house like before.

Alex then invited Nicole to immediately check the unit he had chosen for her. Moreover, inside it was already complete with all kinds of expensive furniture ready for Nicole to use.

“Alex, are you serious about this for me?”

“Yes, Darling,” nodded Alex. “I’ve paid the down payment. I’ve even handed over the keys. So, you just need to move in. I’ll take care of the monthly payments.”

“But, this apartment is really expensive.”

Alex didn’t deny that. But, he had his own reasons why he chose that apartment to give to Nicole.

“It’s okay. Besides being close, I can also easily meet you there. And besides, the security is tight. Not just anyone can come and go.”

Don’t ask how happy Nicole was. Countless hugs and kisses were given to Alex.

“Thank you so much for granting my request.”

“You’re welcome, Darling. Besides, what wouldn’t I do for you?”

“You’re the best.”

Nicole kissed Alex more intimately again. In her heart, she was extremely grateful. All her efforts and steps to become Alex’s kept woman hadn’t been in vain. All the facilities, luxurious items, countless things she got from her cousin’s husband. Nicole thought, if there’s an easy way, why bother working hard? Now, it’s just about providing the best service so Alex never turns away or leaves her. Nicole vowed not to let that happen.

“Anyway, after this, whatever you ask for, I’ll definitely fulfill it.”

“Sure?” Alex asked after their kiss.

“Absolutely. Whatever it is, I’ll give it to you.”

“In that case, I’ll stay here tomorrow night.”

“Tomorrow night? Seriously? It’s the weekend tomorrow. Usually, you always spend time with that annoying Aurora.”

Nicole pouted as if jealous. After all, Alex usually never meets her on holidays or weekends. Because from the beginning of their relationship, they had agreed to meet during working hours to minimize Aurora’s suspicions.

“I’m mad at Aurora right now. So, tomorrow I’ll just use the excuse of a business trip out of town. Bastian will take care of everything.”

Nicole was certainly happy. If possible, Alex could stay with her forever.

“Until Sunday then. It’s not every weekend anyway.”

“Don’t worry. I even plan to stay until Monday with you. Anyway, you have to be ready to make me happy while I’m here.”

Nicole immediately agreed. It wasn’t difficult for her to fulfill Alex’s request to have fun.

“Well then, before going back to the office, let’s have lunch first, okay?”

“Agreed.”

They both went out together, holding hands affectionately along the corridor to the lobby. Unaware, there were some who accidentally saw them, even capturing their moments together.

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Aurora gazed silently at Alex as he packed his clothes into the suitcase. Last night, after sulking for a few days, her husband finally approached her, though his tone still sounded cold. He spoke to Aurora, asking for permission to go on a business trip out of town until Monday.

Being reconciled, Aurora felt relieved. Regarding the out-of-town business trip, she chose not to comment much, letting Alex go to avoid prolonging the argument.

“I’m leaving now,” Alex said, rising. He walked slowly towards Aurora, who was sitting on the edge of the bed. “I might be home by Monday afternoon. I’ll pick you up from work.”

Alex then lowered his face, kissing Aurora’s forehead and both cheeks in turn, then hugged his wife before leaving.

“Take care on the road. Let me know when you reach your destination.”

“Sure. I’ll definitely let you know. Also, sorry for getting angry with you yesterday.”

“I’ve already forgiven you,” Aurora replied promptly. After all, she was naturally the type to forgive easily. But when it came to forgetting, especially unpleasant things that disturbed her life, she would remember them until her dying day.

“You take care at home. See you again on Monday.”

After seeing her husband off and ensuring his shadow had truly disappeared from view, Aurora hurried off to work. She had to rush to the hospital because there were scheduled visits to patients in the PICU and NICU this morning.

There was a baby who was barely a year old but diagnosed with a heart condition and needed intensive care and treatment from the medical team. That’s why, for the next few days, Aurora had to be on standby and willing to go back and forth to the hospital to ensure the patient’s condition herself.

“Velia... How’s the baby’s condition progressing?”

Arriving at the hospital's PICU and NICU, Aurora found Velia already there. Her colleague looked serious as she examined and took samples to be discussed with other specialist doctors.

"The condition is fluctuating. You can check the vital signs yourself. Now, we just have to wait for the heart doctor's examination to determine what action needs to be taken."

Right after that, Alden appeared from the door of the room. The man briefly acknowledged them, then focused on his tasks.

Truly, as if hypnotized, Aurora couldn't divert her attention at all. She continued to watch Alden as he focused on conducting various examinations and medical procedures. A fleeting thought crossed Aurora's mind. Why didn't she have a little more patience back then? Instead of rashly ending the relationship without first listening to Alden's explanation.

"He's handsome, isn't he," Velia whispered deliberately, teasing her friend after catching Aurora glancing at Alden discreetly. "Imagine if he had married you yesterday."

"Tsk!" Aurora clicked her tongue while placing her index finger in front of her lips. She gestured for Velia to stop chattering, then pulled her out of the PICU and NICU room.

"You're crazy!" scolded Aurora as they walked down the corridor towards their workspace.

"Why crazy? What did I do?" Velia put on an innocent look. Yet she knew exactly the meaning behind Aurora's recent words.

"You just casually talk nonsense in the NICU. What if Alden overhears?"

"Why, what's wrong if he hears? I was just asking and expressing my opinion. It's not wrong, is it?"

Aurora sighed and frowned. Upon reaching the room, she immediately pulled a chair and sat down. Taking a deep breath, as if exhausted from arguing with Velia, who often joked on the brink of disaster.

Actually, Aurora didn't mind Velia joking around or expressing her opinions. It's just that she worried Alden might not like it and become uncomfortable. She feared that this reckless behavior might disrupt their work. Especially since Velia's words often lacked a filter. They were straightforward and uncensored.

"It's not wrong for you to admire him or describe him however you want. But, consider the place too. What if Dr. Alden starts thinking differently?"

"What's wrong with me?"

The one they were discussing suddenly stood in front of Aurora's room. He entered with a smile, then handed over a document that he had in his hand.

"These are the results of my examination this morning. After thorough checking, the patient indeed needs to undergo surgery as soon as possible."

"In that case, let me discuss it with the parents, doc."

Velia chimed in. She also took the document that was originally in Aurora's hand.

"Just chat with Dr. Aurora first, Dr. Alden. Besides, it's almost break time. Maybe you'd like to invite her for lunch."

Aurora immediately glared sharply. But Velia didn't care. She intentionally left Aurora and Alden alone in the room, intending to give them time to greet each other or perhaps have small talk.

Although they had only known each other for a few days, for some reason, Velia felt that Alden had a very positive aura. Honestly, Velia even preferred it if Aurora had more meetings and conversations with Alden. Who knows, the seeds of love might sprout again between them.

Regarding Alex. Although she knew divorce was something God detested, Velia thought that a jerk like Alex was very unworthy of someone like

Aurora. Even if the man had supposedly changed, she still didn't believe it one bit.

"Your friend is funny too."

After a brief silence, Alden initiated a conversation, trying to ease the tension between them.

Especially Aurora. The woman had been diligently maintaining her composure all this time. She was extremely afraid that Alden would notice her nervousness.

"Just bear with her. Velia is always weird and unpredictable."

"Must be nice to have a funny friend like her."

Aurora nodded in agreement. She admitted that Velia's presence had indeed made her life more colorful. Although often annoying, only Velia was there whenever she felt difficult or needed someone to talk to.

"Absolutely. Sometimes it's comforting when you're feeling bored or sad."

Alden, who had been standing near the table, then pulled out a chair. Sitting down, he stared intently at Aurora. Observing her closely, as if trying to read something from the former lover's facial expressions.

"Sad? Have you ever felt sad?"

Aurora blinked. She realized she had misspoken.

"Y-yes. Everyone must have felt sad at some point, right?"

Alden nodded in agreement. It couldn't be denied that everyone in this world had experienced both joy and sadness. However, the causes and solutions for each person were undoubtedly different.

"Agreed. But may I ask, what has made you sad?"

Aurora didn't immediately answer. Pausing for a moment, as if carefully choosing her words to avoid misspeaking again. She didn't want this light conversation to veer off into unwanted territories.

"Many things."

"Do you have a lot of problems?"

Aurora hurriedly shook her head. Did Alden understand what she meant?

"Not like that. Sometimes, there are everyday things that suddenly make me feel sad. Like work matters, problems with patients, coworkers, family, and also—"

"Marriage?"

Although Aurora didn't want to touch on this issue at all. But, as if reading her mind, Alden openly asked about it.

"What?"

"Yes," nodded Alden. "Do you have any marital problems that have made you sad?"

Aurora gave a bitter smile. She wanted to affirm Alden's question, but she realized that she didn't need to clarify it, especially to someone who clearly had no business knowing. Aurora was afraid that her marital problems would become public consumption.

"Why do you ask like that?"

Alden realized that Aurora seemed uncomfortable. Instead of ending it there, he asked another question while looking directly into Aurora's eyes.

"Aurora... after leaving me, are you living happily?"

The question Alden asked this time was laden with deep meaning. As if asking for confirmation whether Aurora was okay after their separation.

“I am happy.”

Aurora affirmed. Once again, she didn't want Alden to know what had happened to her and her marriage.

“Are you happy?”

Aurora nodded firmly. Convincing herself that the answer she gave Alex was indeed true.

“Thank goodness for that. I'm glad to hear it.”From NôvelDrama.Org.

Alden then rose from his seat. He bid farewell, then quickly left the room. Meanwhile, Aurora remained silent. Her feelings were in turmoil after the brief conversation between her and Alden just now.

Alex was on his way back to the apartment. Earlier, from noon until evening, he deliberately took Nicole to shop for some furniture and other necessities.

“Honey, buy me some cooking equipment tomorrow, okay?” Nicole sounded whiny. Even though today Alex had already bought her so many expensive items.

“For what?”

“Well, to cook, of course. Why else?”

“You don't need to cook. I don't like women who smell like onions or cooking spices. That's why I told you to order ready-to-eat food when we get to the apartment later.”

Nicole smiled coyly. Approaching Alex who was driving the car, she cuddled up affectionately.

“But, I want my kitchen to look aesthetic like Aurora's kitchen. When I visited your house the other day, I was jealous seeing Aurora's beautiful kitchen. I've never had expensive and nice things before. Only when I

started dating you, I slowly began to experience what other people feel. That's why I'm really grateful to have you, handsome, understanding, and caring."

"So, you want kitchen furniture like Aurora's?"

Nicole nodded repeatedly. Basically, she had to get what she wanted no matter what.

"Please, can I?"

Alex didn't immediately agree. He was still considering what Nicole was asking for.

Feeling ignored, when they arrived and passed through the lobby, Nicole started whining again. Trying to persuade Alex again until he finally relented to what she asked for.

"How about it? Buy it for me, please. When we get to the room, I promise I'll do anything you ask. I won't leave the room until Monday, I swear."

Alex smiled. In the end, he gave in to all of Nicole's persuasion. Especially since the woman was so good at praising and winning his heart.

"Okay. Tomorrow afternoon we'll buy what you want. But, after buying the items, we'll head straight home. I have a teleconference with a client from Germany at four in the afternoon."

Nicole cheered happily. Even without any embarrassment in front of the people around, she gave Alex a kiss on the cheek.

And both of them didn't even realize that for the second time, someone had caught and even heard their intimate conversation.

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“You’re really surprising me by inviting me to eat out on a Sunday like this.”

At a Korean restaurant, Aurora and Velia were seen enjoying lunch. It’s rare for both of them to hang out like this. Besides being busy with patients, on weekends, Aurora usually spends her time with Alex. That’s why when Velia picked her up and invited her to have lunch together at the mall, Aurora immediately agreed.

“Let’s just call it some fresh air. Besides, aren’t you tired of our packed schedules this week? Your brother Asher really doesn’t give us any time to breathe.”

Aurora laughed. She couldn’t deny that Asher always puts his all into his work. If it doesn’t meet the standards he sets, don’t expect any time off from him.

“Just be patient. Who knows, maybe after this our salaries will increase by 100%.”

“For me, a raise in salary might make me happy and more motivated to work. But you? You’re a shareholder too. Whether your salary goes up or not, doesn’t it make any difference?”

“Not at all!” retorted Aurora, not accepting it. Somehow, because she was considered wealthy and the daughter of the hospital owner, her friend tended to draw unilateral conclusions and assume she could easily get anything, including money.

Yet, Aurora was treated the same as other employees. If she skips work, her salary will be deducted by Asher. There’s no tolerance whatsoever. In fact, because she’s family, Asher sometimes acts even tougher and crueler towards Aurora.

“Can I join you guys?”

In the midst of conversation, somehow, Alden suddenly appeared. It seemed like he had just finished shopping at the mall, judging from the paper bags in both of his hands.

“Sure, please do, Doc.”

It was Velia who responded, even helping to pull out a chair for him. Inviting the handsome doctor in front of her to sit down immediately.

“Just consider it hanging out with your own siblings, Doc. Please order as well. Let me treat you. Since I just got paid.”

Alden chuckled softly. Especially when Velia went as far as calling the waiter so he could order food. Alden admitted he liked Velia’s friendly attitude.

“Why did you order so little? Just order something else. I’m treating, you know. Usually, free meals or treats taste better.”

Once again, Alden smiled. The man politely declined.

“No, thanks. This is more than enough. Besides, I can’t eat much.”

Velia nodded in understanding. She only just found out that there are men who have small appetites. Quite different from the men she usually sees and knows. Some even eat like laborers.

“Where are you from, Doctor?” Velia asked, starting a conversation. She meant it so Alden wouldn’t feel awkward joining her and Aurora. Especially since Alden was clearly the only man among the three of them.

“Just finished buying books for tonight’s shift at the hospital. When I passed by here, I accidentally saw you two. So I dared to stop by.”

“Perfect timing.”

Then Velia glanced at Aurora beside her. Of course, she wanted to tease her friend. “Right, Rin?” Then Velia deliberately nudged Aurora’s arm.

“What is it?”

“That, Doctor Alden. It’s such a coincidence that he happened to pass by and join us.”

Aurora just nodded, not really responding to Velia's words. Actually, she was worried that her friend would ramble or discuss various things.

So, instead of indulging, Aurora chose to remain silent. Listening without needing to give many responses.

“So, is Doctor Alden a graduate from America?”

Alden nodded.

“Yes. Just like Doctor Asher.”

“That's amazing, isn't it? It's not easy, they say, to graduate quickly especially with such complicated specializations doctors choose. I almost got depressed finishing my education. Tiring. So many assignments and pressures.”

“It's not like many can graduate on time either.”

“But, doctors can, as evidenced,” Velia said admiringly. “There must be motivation, right? So, what motivated you to finish your education quickly?”

Alden smiled broadly. The sparkle in his eyes was hard to decipher.

“I wanted to graduate quickly so I could propose and marry my girlfriend. But when I returned to Indonesia, I ended up being left at the altar for another guy.”

Aurora choked at that moment. She knew Alden was openly referring to her.

“Are you coughing?” Velia deliberately intervened. She didn't forget to hand a glass of water to her friend. “That's why you should say a prayer so you don't choke.”

Aurora wanted to protest. But seeing Velia suddenly receive a phone call, she swallowed back the words that were on the tip of her tongue.

“Aurora, sorry, I have to pick up Mom at Grandma’s house. My brother said his car broke down on the way and it’s going to take a while for him to arrive.”

“Alright, I’ll come with you.” Aurora, who was just having her lunch, immediately stopped. She grabbed her bag and got ready to leave.

“Uh, no need. Just finish your meal first. Later, you can go home with Doctor Alden.”

“But, Velia—”

“Doctor Alden,” Velia quickly corrected. She didn’t pay attention to Aurora’s intended response. “Doctor, do you have a car?”

“Yes.”

“After we finish eating and before you go to the hospital for your night shift, could you please help take Aurora home?”

Alden agreed with a nod. He didn’t mind being asked by Velia to take Aurora home.

“Sure. I’ll take Aurora home later.”

Velia stood up from her seat. She looked at Aurora and then bid her farewell.

“Alright, I’m off. Sorry I can’t take you home.”

Velia left. Leaving Aurora and Alden silent for a while. They chose to eat their food quietly, until shortly after, Alden, once again, started a conversation.

“After eating, is there anything you want to buy or do?”

Aurora shook her head. Of course, she wanted to go home right away.

“I just want to go straight home. I don’t want to make you late for your hospital shift.”

“It’s okay if I’m late.”

“No! Asher will be angry. He doesn’t like doctors who aren’t disciplined. It’s better if we go home now.”

Alden immediately stood up. He led Aurora to his car, intending to take his former lover home right away.

As usual, like people who are awkward, they both remained silent for a while. Especially Aurora. She didn’t have any desire to engage in small talk with Alden, even though there were plenty of topics they could discuss. It’s not always about the past.

“Is your husband not here?”

Aurora reflexively turned her head. She was surprised that Alden suddenly brought up and asked about Alex’s whereabouts in the middle of their silence. Was he planning something if he knew Alex wasn’t at home?

“Why do you ask?”

“No. I thought if Velia couldn’t take you home, you would ask your husband to pick you up. But, because you’re just leaving it to me to take you home, I conclude that your husband might not be here.”

“Oh. But you’re right,” Aurora confirmed. “My husband is indeed on duty out of town so he couldn’t pick me up.”

“Oh, I see.”

Alden nodded repeatedly. Afterwards, the atmosphere fell silent again. Until shortly after, Alden spoke up.

“Beforehand, I want to apologize. Please don’t be offended by my question after this.”

Again, Aurora turned her head. She observed Alden who was driving.

“What did you ask?”

“After marrying the man of your choice, are you truly happy?”

Aurora took a slow breath. No... she definitely couldn't admit that something had happened in her marriage. Alden didn't need to know what had happened in her life after getting married.

“I'm happy.”

Alden glanced briefly as if to confirm what he heard. Then, he seemed to nod.

“Okay.”

“If I may ask, why do you keep asking that?” Alden smiled. He was sure Aurora would ask this question.

“I just want to make sure that you married the right person. I want you to feel happy even if it's not with me.”

“You don't need to worry. Alex is a good person. So far, he has been faithful and responsible.”

Alden glanced again. But he didn't respond. He continued driving, until eventually, the car he was driving took a route that wasn't supposed to be taken.

“Alden, where are we going?”

“Sorry if you're confused. I'm just going to pick up my belongings that I left at the apartment to bring to the hospital. After that, I'll take you home directly.”

Aurora didn't ask further. She just complied when Alden made a stop. But strangely, once they arrived in the parking area not far from the lobby, he didn't immediately get out. He stayed quiet for a moment while repeatedly checking his watch, until finally Aurora couldn't stand not asking.

“You said you were going to pick something up? Why are you just sitting in the car? What are you actually waiting for?”

Alex lifted his face. He looked at Aurora and smiled. Just about to give an explanation, the corner of his eye caught the object he had been waiting for. Pointing his finger, Alden asked Aurora to see what he was indicating.

“I want to show you that.”

Aurora followed where Alden’s finger pointed. Then, her eyes widened. With her heart pounding heavily, she clearly saw Alex, her husband whom she had given a second chance, now entering the apartment lobby while affectionately holding hands with Nicole beside him.

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For Alden Maximus, six years isn’t a short time for him to be in a serious relationship with Aurora Harperwood.

Indeed, before successfully entering the relationship, he had to work hard. He struggled to win over and gain the hearts of Aurora’s famously strict parents. Alden had to prove that he was the best man worthy of accompanying their daughter.

However, life doesn’t always go smoothly or according to our desires. There are always trials, stumbling blocks, and minor disagreements that occur. Especially when Alden pursued his education in America.

Being separated by distance and limited time to meet, they often got involved in misunderstandings. Moreover, Aurora often felt neglected. Yet, there were strong reasons why Alden couldn’t give his full attention to his sweetheart at that time.

The once intimate relationship slowly started to drift apart. The climax was when they both stopped communicating in Alden’s final year of education.

Alden thought everything was still okay. Even when he graduated and became a specialist doctor, he hurried back to Indonesia without

informing Aurora beforehand. His intention was to surprise her. But, unexpectedly, he was the one who got surprised.

Considered disappeared and unwilling to try to mend the relationship, Aurora decided to end the relationship unilaterally. Moreover, she suddenly got engaged to another man and was ready to marry in the near future.

Was Alden heartbroken?

Of course!

Don't ask how painful it was. Even though he tried for two years to forget, Aurora's image still lingered in his heart.

This was the reason Alden accepted Asher's offer to work together at the Harperwood family hospital. Especially since he knew Aurora also worked there.

Truly, Alden felt happy to be able to see Aurora's figure up close again. Even though he couldn't have her, at least he knew his ex-lover was living happily with her chosen one.

Initially, Alden thought like that. Until accidentally, God showed a truth. Accidentally, Alden caught a man whom he believed was Alex, Aurora's husband. The man seemed intimate with another woman in the apartment, which was where he lived all this time.

Alden hoped he was mistaken. But, the next day, he saw Alex again with the same woman. Moreover, Alden, who was not far from them at that time, faintly heard their very intimate conversation.

Angry because he knew Aurora was being played, Alden wanted to hit Alex right then and there. But, after much thought, he planned to report this incident to Aurora. Especially since he managed to capture some of those forbidden moments as evidence.

All night, Alden thought about how to tell Aurora so that she would believe what he would convey later. Alden was afraid that Aurora would think he only wanted to instigate for some specific purpose. Especially

since Aurora claimed to be very happy with the married life she was living.

However, God is good. Suddenly, Velia contacted him. Inviting him to have lunch together, with Aurora also there.

“Dokter Alden, do you have any plans tomorrow afternoon? If not, I’d like to invite you to lunch together.”

Since there were no activities scheduled at that time other than night duty, Alden told Velia what his plans were for the next day.

“I don’t have any plans. But, I do plan to go out because I want to buy some books to read when I’m on duty at the hospital tomorrow night.”

“Okay then. Join us later. Aurora will be there too.”

“Aurora is coming?”

Alden immediately felt excited. He felt that this invitation was the right time to show Aurora a truth.

“Yes, doctor.”

“But, Doctor Velia. If Aurora comes tomorrow, can I ask for your help?”

“What do you want help with? If I can, I’ll definitely help.”

“Here’s the thing, can Aurora come home with me instead?”

“Absolutely, Doc! Just relax, I’ll help in any way I can to bring you and Aurora back together.”

Alden pondered over Velia’s last words. He wondered whether Velia also knew about the issues in Aurora’s marriage. If not, why was Velia trying to bring him closer to Aurora? Especially since Aurora clearly already had a husband.

The next day, Alex indeed followed Velia to the mall. He joined them for lunch and eventually succeeded in convincing Aurora to go home with him.

Alden prayed to God, asking for help to show Aurora today how her husband behaved when he was out.

For God's sake, Alden couldn't bear to see Aurora hurt, let alone betrayed. That's why, on the way back, Alden immediately took Aurora to his apartment first. Continuing to pray, until finally God truly answered what he had prayed for.

"Aurora... That's Alex, your husband, right?"

Right after pointing towards the couple he had been waiting for, Alden could see how Aurora froze. Her eyes didn't even shift to Alex, who entered the apartment lobby, intimately holding hands with a sexy woman.

"Aurora..." Alden called out again. He started to worry when Aurora didn't respond at all. "Are you okay?"

"Just take me home now, Alden," Aurora requested later. She wore an expression that was difficult for Alden to decipher.

"But-"

"If you can't take me, I'll just get out and go home in an online taxi."

Not wanting Aurora to go home alone in a bad state, Alden accelerated his car again. Choosing to remain silent throughout the journey, giving Aurora time to calm down, until the car he was driving stopped right in front of Aurora's house courtyard.

"Thank you so much for the ride. I'll get off here."

"Aurora."

Before getting out of the car, Alden hurriedly stopped Aurora from leaving. Asking her to listen to him first.

“You-”

“If you want to talk about Alex, now is not the right time.”

Aurora seemed to anticipate. As if she could read what Alden was going to say to her. “I appreciate what you’ve done. Thank you so much for showing me the truth. But, let me handle this. You don’t need to get too involved.”

“I’m not trying to interfere,” Alden clarified. He didn’t want Aurora to think otherwise. “I just want to let you know, if you need a friend to talk to, I’m ready anytime to listen.”

Aurora just nodded. Trying to smile, then chose to leave Alex immediately.

Arriving in her room, Aurora couldn’t sleep. Her head was throbbing as she thought about what Alex had done to her.

This time, Aurora was truly heartbroken. Cursing her own foolishness for not listening to the repeated warnings from Velia and Asher.

For God’s sake, Aurora felt she had wasted too much time. Hoping Alex could genuinely change as promised. But the man repeated the same mistake.

What’s even more embarrassing, it was Alden who revealed her husband’s affair scandal. No wonder her ex had been asking strange questions these past two days. As if making sure she was happy and her marriage was okay.

“Alex, damn it!”

Aurora continued to curse. This time there were no more tears of sadness. She swore that if Alex repeated the same mistake, she herself would send the man to hell.

However, before taking further action, Aurora, curious about what Alex was doing that night, chose to try to contact him. She wanted to chat casually while checking what lies he might tell her.

“Hello, Darling. Why aren’t you asleep yet?”

That question was the first thing Aurora heard when her call was answered. Acting as if nothing had happened, Aurora chatted as usual.

“I just finished working on the patient report. What about you? Have you had dinner?”

“I have. Getting ready to sleep.”

“Are you very tired?”

“Yes.”

“What have you been up to all day?”

Alex explained. He described what he had been doing all day.

“The schedule today was packed. I had to meet clients in the morning and visit some tenants. Luckily, I managed to finish everything.”

“You met clients until evening?”

“Yes, Darling. I just finished the meeting at six in the evening.”

“So, you’ll be home tomorrow?”

“Yes, of course, Darling. As scheduled, I should be home tomorrow afternoon. I’ll pick you up from work.”

“Don’t bother,” Aurora quickly refused. “I think I’ll have to work overtime tomorrow. There’s a monthly meeting at the hospital. Let’s just meet at home.”

“Alright then. You rest now. I’m also about to get ready for bed. I’ll call you again before coming home tomorrow.”

As soon as the call ended, Aurora didn’t immediately prepare to rest. She searched for someone’s contact on her phone, then called them right

away. Aurora thought she couldn't postpone it until tomorrow. It had to be conveyed tonight.

"Hello, Rayyen. Are you asleep?"

Aurora felt that Rayyen was the right person to ask for help. This time, Aurora didn't want to act hastily; she wanted to ask for advice and assistance from her cousin to deal with the scandal that Alex had caused. NôvelDrama.Org owns all content.

"Hello, Aurora. I'm out at the moment. What's up?"

"Can we meet tomorrow? There's something important I need to talk to you about."

"Tomorrow?" Rayyen asked from the other end. "Sure. We can meet anytime. But, by the way, what important matter do you need to discuss? It sounds urgent."

Aurora took a deep breath. She was actually embarrassed to say this to Rayyen. Previously, Rayyen had warned her that Alex might repeat his mistakes. And indeed, Rayyen's prediction came true.

Aurora was so embarrassed. But if she remained silent, letting it pass without any response, her husband would get away with it because he had betrayed her twice. At the very least, there was an action that Aurora needed to take to make Alex regret playing with her.

"Alex is cheating again. This time, I need your help."

"Oh my God. Alex is cheating again? So what kind of help do you need?"

"I want you to help me send Alex and his affair partner straight to hell!"

Aurora said it loudly. This time, she swore to make Alex regret it.