#### **Unpredictable Betrayal : A Sweet of Revenge 41-50**

Alex had just returned home from work feeling extremely tired. In the final days at Lumire, he had been rushing to complete all tasks and responsibilities before officially resigning.

Upon entering the house, Alex found his mother and Nicole sitting in the dining room, having dinner. There wasn't anything wrong per se. However, there was a sight that bothered Alex at that moment.

Through his eyes, he saw the dining table in a very messy state. There were many piles of food boxes, paper bags, and scattered plastic utensils.

"Mom..."

Alex spoke up. Instantly, Savana and Nicole's attention shifted to the handsome man standing not far from the dining table.

"What are you doing, Mom?"

"Just having dinner. What else?"

Knowing it was dinner time didn't solve anything. But really, that wasn't the answer Alex was hoping for.

"Yes, Alex knows. I mean, why is it so messy like this? And there's spilled food on the tablecloth."

Savana sighed. While continuing to chew and enjoy her dinner, she tried to respond to her son's seemingly nitpicky question.

"If you want to be angry, go scold Aurora over there. Who told her not to cook? Knowing Mama's visiting, instead of preparing food, she just casually went out. No manners at all!"

Alex dramatically closed his eyes. He was puzzled by his mother's arbitrary behavior.

Moreover, didn't his mother think it was completely irrelevant to act arbitrarily with Aurora, who was clearly in the process of divorcing her son? Especially since Aurora was obviously the most hurt victim.

"If Aurora didn't cook and Mama happened to be hungry, why not ask Nicole to prepare something? Isn't she capable of cooking too?"

Savana squinted her eyes. With a frown, she expressed her disapproval. Whatever she said, couldn't be challenged as one pleased.

"I won't let Nicole cook alone. You should also take care of your future wife and child. Ask Aurora to pay more attention to Nicole, who really needs support for her nutritional needs and others."

"Why bring Aurora into this? What obligation does she have here?"

Alex didn't seem pleased. He felt his mother was being excessive and going too far.

"We should all be ashamed of her."

"Why ashamed?" Savana asked innocently. "It should be Aurora who's ashamed. Think about it, she claims to be a great doctor. A pediatric specialist, no less. But it's funny how she can't even have a child. Because of this deficiency, she should be self-aware. Make up for it by treating Nicole as best as possible. Not being disrespectful."

"She often oppresses me, Alex," Nicole added, provoking Savana to escalate the situation further. "Even the household assistants here are not allowed to serve me even a bit."

"See, listen..." Savana continued. "You should know that Nicole isn't happy living here. She's often treated arbitrarily by Aurora. As her future husband, it's your duty to defend her."

Alex sighed deeply. Feeling increasingly annoyed by his mother's overly biased support for Nicole.

"If Nicole wants all her needs catered to, she should find and pay for her own household assistant. Also, if she feels uncomfortable and unhappy, why not just go back to the apartment?"

Savana stood up. After finishing her meal in front of her, she looked at Alex more sharply.

"Why are you asking Nicole to leave?"

"Because if she's not happy here and claims to be suffering, it's better for her to return to the apartment."

"Then what if she lives alone and something happens to her or Mama's future grandchild, are you willing to take responsibility?"

Alex sighed. Feeling like none of the arguments he presented mattered, he ended the argument with his mother.

"Ah, whatever you say, Mom. Alex is getting a headache."

Alex then chose to leave. He didn't feel like wasting his energy arguing with his mother any longer.

"Alex... why are you just walking away? Mom hasn't finished talking!" shouted Savana as she saw Alex climbing the stairs to the second floor.

"I'm tired. I'm going to take a shower."

"But don't forget to replace the money Mama spent on buying Nicole's dinner. Don't you dare pretend to forget."

Alex didn't care. He quickly entered his room to clean up. Afterwards, he moved to the office because there was still one task he needed to check and finish tonight.

Initially, everything seemed to be going as usual. He enjoyed each moment concentrating on completing what he was working on.

Until not long after, the peace Alex had painstakingly built was disturbed. He heard a knocking on the door, followed by Nicole entering with a cup of drink to offer to Alex.

"Honey... what are you doing? Seems like you're really busy."

"Working."

Alex responded without shifting his gaze from the laptop screen. He was determined to finish everything tonight without exception.

Meanwhile, Nicole approached. She circled the table, then stood right beside Alex while offering the cup of drink she brought.

"I made you an Americano coffee. Have it first so you won't feel sleepy."

"Just leave it on the table."

Then Alex refocused. He didn't pay any attention to Nicole who had been standing beside him. He didn't even glance at her.

Feeling ignored, Nicole spoke up. She was tired of being ignored like this every day at Aurora's house, even though Alex used to be warm and enjoyable. Alex had never rejected Nicole's presence before.

"Honey, what's wrong?"

Asked in such a way, instead of responding immediately, Alex remained silent. He was already busy. Yet he was still being disturbed and asked irrelevant questions.

"Alex, can you hear what I'm saying?"

Feeling that she wasn't getting any response, Nicole became more annoyed. Without caring at all, she approached and intentionally pulled the chair Alex was sitting on a bit, then sat down right on his lap.

"Nicole, what are you doing?"

Alex's concentration instantly shattered. Instead of being happy, he immediately protested against what Nicole was doing. Truly, he was busy. There was no time to fool around, let alone entertain Nicole's seemingly unimportant actions.

"I'm tired of being ignored by you since I came to this house."

Then, Nicole brought her fingers. She gently caressed Alex's cheek with teasing movements.

"Don't you miss me? We haven't had fun like before for a long time."

The next moment, Nicole reached for Alex's lips. She kissed him passionately. As if showing how much she missed being touched by him.

In fact, Nicole was ready to use her hands to unbutton Alex's pajamas. But as soon as one button came loose, Alex pushed her away from his lap.

"Alex!"

Surprised by Alex's rejection, Nicole protested immediately. She even almost fell because she was pushed by him.

"Why are you being rough like that?"

"Get out of my workspace!" Alex's voice sounded like an unchallengeable command. He asked Nicole to leave his presence immediately.

"Are you kicking me out?" Nicole shook her head in disbelief. Alex had never acted this rough before. "Alex, why? You've never behaved strangely like this before."

Alex sighed. He looked at Nicole with a disapproving gaze.

"You ask me why? You should be ashamed because you've ruined my life."

"So, you blame me for everything?"

Nicole's face flushed with anger. She was angry once again to be made the scapegoat by Alex.

"You've gone too far!"

Nicole then left. Feeling angry, she changed her clothes and decided to leave the house.

After being made upset and humiliated by Aurora earlier, now she was made angry by Alex's rough behavior towards her. Nicole was fed up. She needed a place to calm down.

That's why Nicole decided to return to the apartment tonight. Just for tonight until her feelings returned to calmness as usual. Besides, she wasn't willing to leave Aurora's house. She didn't want her arrogant cousin to think she had given up. No... Nicole wouldn't let that happen.

Arriving at the apartment, Nicole immediately rested. She tried to improve her mood by choosing to eat ice cream. Slowly, the anger and annoyance that had arisen began to fade away. Until not long after, the man she had been waiting for appeared.

"You took so long. I got bored waiting for you."

After being invited in, the man smiled. He lifted Nicole's body to take her to the bedroom. Slowly, he laid Nicole's body on the bed.

"Don't be mad, Darling. It's just 10 minutes late."

"I'm still bored," Nicole complained unhappily. "And Alex is annoying."

"Why is Alex annoying?"

"Ugh, he's acting all high and mighty. I invited him to have fun, but he rejected me. So annoying!"

The man laughed. He looked at Nicole affectionately.

"Well, don't be mad anymore. If Alex doesn't want to, then there's still me. Besides, compared to Alex, I'm much more fun to have fun with." Nicole nodded with a smile.

"Yeah, you're right. With Alex, I'll just get tired. He always wants his way. Selfish."

Then, Nicole wrapped both of her hands around the man's neck. She leaned in, then looked at him mischievously.

"Anyway, tonight you have to make me happy."

The man nodded in agreement. Besides, it wasn't difficult to fulfill Nicole's request just now. He was used to satisfying the woman in front of him.Property © of NôvelDrama.Org.

"With pleasure, Princess. What can't I do for you? So, which part do you need satisfaction first? The top or the bottom?"

Nicole burst into laughter. If Alex couldn't make her happy, there was another man she could have fun with. After all, what's the big deal?

#### **Unpredictable Betrayal : A Sweet of Revenge**

"Is all your work done already?"

Early in the morning, Bastian intentionally visited Alex's workspace because he wanted to deliver an important document for signing. From his eyes, Bastian saw Alex sitting there enjoying coffee and cake on his desk.

Bastian guessed that his friend was once again skipping breakfast at home. Perhaps out of embarrassment from crossing paths with Aurora. Or deliberately avoiding Nicole, who was said to often disturb his peace.

"Lucky that everything's done," Alex said, inviting Bastian to sit down. He also offered his friend and colleague some of the cake in front of him. "No, thanks," Bastian politely declined. "I already had breakfast at home. Besides, you're so diligent about having breakfast at the office. Isn't it provided at home?"

Alex shook his head. He took a sip of his warm coffee first before responding to Bastian's question. "I deliberately have breakfast at the office."

"Why? Are you embarrassed to meet Aurora?"

This time, Alex nodded. "That's one of the reasons."

"Yet, back when things were harmonious, if you couldn't have breakfast at home, Aurora would prepare something for you to eat at the office, right? Worse still, instead of eating, you end up having breakfast with Nicole at the office."

Bastian laughed afterward, deliberately teasing Alex by reminding him of past habits. "No need to remind me," Alex protested immediately, his face turning annoyed. "Besides, I intentionally have breakfast at the office mostly because I want to avoid Nicole."

Bastian shook his head at Alex's increasingly evident odd behavior of distancing himself from Nicole. Whereas before, he seemed utterly infatuated. Almost every day was spent having fun with Nicole.

"Back then, you were exactly like someone who couldn't live without meeting Nicole. She disappears for a day, and you'd be frantic searching for her. Now, why the avoidance? Besides, it's already known, you even live together, why distance yourself?"

Alex sighed softly. There were many reasons why he now preferred to avoid her. Besides, Nicole wasn't as delightful as before.

"I've told you before, I'm tired of dealing with Nicole's overly spoiled and dramatic behavior. I'm tired of dealing with her excessive antics."

"Just understand," Bastian defended. "She's pregnant, after all. Almost everyone acts the same. Trying to get their partner's attention. Besides, Nicole is pregnant with your child, Alex. Do you really want to be irresponsible after marriage?"

"Who's being irresponsible? I'll take responsibility. After the divorce process is over, I'll marry her. It's just that-"

"Alright," Bastian interrupted. "No need for many excuses. Learn to accept her presence and the presence of your unborn child. Like it or not, she'll be the one supporting and delivering your descendant. Do you want to be enemies and not speak after marriage? Aren't you tired of having a marriage like that?"

Alex fell silent. Slowly, he absorbed Bastian's lengthy advice.

"So, you think I should be kind and accept Nicole again?"

Bastian laughed. "Oh God, Alex. Use your own judgment. If I may ask, what's Nicole's fault to you? Is she at fault for suddenly getting pregnant? Aren't you the one who impregnated her? You both did it knowingly. Or perhaps, are you angry because you see Nicole as the cause of your affair with Aurora being exposed?"

Alex wanted to nod. But instead of responding, he remained silent as Bastian seemed to continue his statement.

"No matter how well-hidden it is, when the time comes, it will be revealed. From the beginning of your relationship with Nicole, it means you were ready for all the consequences that would occur."

Alex sighed deeply. If the common thread of the problems in his marriage were to be traced, he was the most at fault here. It was his fault for being easily tempted.

"You can't selfishly blame all the faults on Nicole. Even if you only consider your relationship with Nicole as just for fun, from the start, she genuinely loved you. Let's not lie, from the beginning, Nicole always followed your orders, right?"

Alex carefully considered Bastian's words. He couldn't deny that he felt comfortable and confident when he was with Nicole. Otherwise, why would he repeat the same mistake twice by engaging in a forbidden relationship with her?

"Okay..." Alex said after a moment of silence. "I'll follow your advice to be kind to Nicole for the sake of the baby she's carrying."

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"So, when are you going to tell Mom and Dad about your marital problems?"

In her office, Aurora was engaged in a serious conversation with Asher. During their break time, they chose to chat, discussing Aurora's marital issues that were likely to be resolved soon.

Since the beginning of her marital problems, Aurora had not once confided in her extended family. Asher was worried that their parents would find out from someone else, which would only make matters worse.

"Don't let Dad find out from someone else. They might be disappointed."

Aurora, seated at her desk, nodded briefly. She had been looking for the right time to tell them.Property © of NôvelDrama.Org.

"Maybe soon I'll tell Mom and Dad. I'm sure they'll be saddened to hear about this problem."

"It's more disappointing when they find out their child is hurt but does nothing about it."

Aurora laughed bitterly. Asher was bluntly pointing it out. Indeed, she was foolish for not heeding the repeated advice and suggestions Asher had given her.

"I know I've made the wrong choices."

"That's why now I have to be in control so I won't make the wrong choices again. That includes choosing a future partner." Aurora laughed. Asher was serious in his statement.

"You're already talking about a new partner even before the divorce is official."

"I just don't want you to make the wrong choices again. A lifetime is too long to spend with the wrong person, especially someone as reckless as Alex."

Asher's words sounded profound and piercing. Upon reflection, in the past, Aurora had indeed been too impulsive in deciding to get married. Whether it was because she was already fed up and impatient waiting for Alden, who had disappeared, or because she was too easily swayed and agreed to get married even though they hadn't known each other for long.

In Aurora's eyes, Alex was the perfect person back then. Many qualities made Aurora feel comfortable, ultimately leading her to choose him.

"If you're able to endure and love someone so beautifully even when they're wrong, then what if you're introduced to the right person?" Asher continued, his words touching Aurora's heart even more.

"That's why, if I have to look for a partner again in the future, I won't make the wrong choice."

Asher laughed.

"Sometimes, God deliberately introduces us to the wrong person first before finally introducing us to the right one. But for sure, I always pray that in the future you'll be given a partner whose love never diminishes from the beginning to the end. Like Alden, for example."

Wait, what?

Aurora squinted, pulling her face. She wondered why they were initially discussing her parents, but it ended up veering toward Alden. Did Asher intend to matchmake her with her former lover?

"Why are you talking about Alden? How much were you paid to be his campaign manager?"

Asher couldn't contain his laughter, especially seeing Aurora's annoyed yet fond expression.

"No need to be paid. It's clear as day that he's genuinely in love with you."

"Oh, come on, don't act like you know everything."

Aurora retorted. Was Asher a fortune-teller now, able to discern whether Alden was genuinely in love or just had fleeting feelings?

"Not acting like I know everything. But as a fellow man, I know he's sincere. Imagine, ever since you got married to that jerk Alex, Alden hasn't been in a relationship with any other woman. He's kept his heart locked just for you. How much more faithful can he be?"

Aurora simply nodded along. She was least interested in arguing with Asher. It was a given that she never won. Her brother always had a million rebuttals to counter her arguments.

"Yeah, sure, sure..."

"So, if you do get divorced and plan to marry again, I suggest you just get back with Alden."

"But there's no guarantee he'd want that."

"But you yourself would want to get back with Alden, wouldn't you?"

Aurora nearly choked. Damn. Why was she being cornered by her brother's irrelevant questions?

"Okay, enough. Why are we even going there?"

Asher laughed. After a long time, this was the first time he caught his sister off guard.

"Anyway, I hope you'll tell Mom and Dad soon. If you're too scared to do it, I'll help."

Aurora was about to retort to her brother's words. However, her sentence was halted as she heard Asher's phone ringing loudly. Immediately, he hurriedly answered the call.

"Yes, hello? What's up?"

"I have important news to deliver, Sir."

"What important news?"

Aurora, seated across from Asher, also became curious. Especially since her brother's expression invited questions.

"It's about the man you asked me to investigate yesterday, Sir. We've found out his complete identity."

Asher grinned. He glanced at Aurora and burst into laughter. Was victory already within his grasp?



## **Unpredictable Betrayal : A Sweet of Revenge**

Who knows what kind of whirlwind had brought Savana back to Aurora's house. This time, she felt happy, worried, and amazed because upon arrival, Nicole greeted her with so much food to share.

It was the first time after staying at Aurora's house for a while that Nicole used the kitchen to cook. She made a lot of dishes, from main courses to desserts, including several snacks. As Alex had mentioned before, Nicole was naturally skilled in exploring her abilities in the kitchen.

"Why go through the trouble of cooking so much?" Savana sat in the dining room, watching Nicole serve the freshly cooked food onto the table.

"Just felt like it, Ma."

"What if something happens to you later?"

Nicole smiled. She was glad to be so cared for by her future mother-inlaw. It meant her presence was indeed greatly valued.

"Nicole's fine, Ma. Besides, after thinking about it, it's no problem if Nicole cooks every afternoon. So we can have dinner together with Mas Alex when he comes home from work."

Savana chuckled, then she pursed her lips while smiling. She reached out her hand to gently and affectionately stroke Nicole's still-not-so-big belly.

"Goodness, Mama's future daughter-in-law really knows how to win over people's hearts. Mama didn't make a mistake in choosing you to get close to Alex."Content provided by NôvelDrama.Org.

This time, Nicole smiled broadly. After facing repeated rejections, she decided to slowly win Alex over again.

Knowing that he liked to eat, Nicole deliberately scheduled cooking activities every evening to prepare Alex's favorite foods. Somehow, she believed that with this action, Alex's heart would gradually soften as before. "You just relax..." Savana continued. "Once Alex officially divorces Aurora, Mama will make sure you become the happiest wife of Alex."

Nicole smiled even wider. Especially when shortly after, Alex appeared just returning from the office. He intentionally came home early because Savana had informed him that she wanted to stop by the house.

"Alex..."

Savana called out, causing Alex's steps, which had already been preparing to climb the stairs, to suddenly halt.

"Yes, Ma?"

"Come here, let's have dinner together."

Alex nodded. But he didn't move from his standing position.

"Alex, go shower first. It's not nice to have dinner without changing clothes."

"Alright. Mama and Nicole, wait in the dining room."

Fifteen minutes later, Alex cleaned himself up. Then, he hurried back to the dining room to join Nicole and his mother who had been waiting.

"Nicole cooked a lot tonight," said Savana. Her face looked enthusiastic and proud. "Look, she made your favorite dishes."

Nicole grinned. She picked up a plate and placed it in front of Alex. Helping to scoop rice, then carefully asked, "Mas Alex, which one do you want to try first?"

Alex took a breath as he scratched his non-itchy eyebrow. Scanning, he looked at each menu item on the table one by one. Indeed, they were all dishes he liked.

"Just this one for now," Alex pointed to the dish on the turquoise plate.

Nicole then served what Alex had pointed to. After that, she let him enjoy the dishes she had cooked with calmness.

"How is it?" Savana asked. "Delicious, right? Mama just found out that Nicole can cook this deliciously. When you two get married, Mama will often invite her to cook together every weekend."

Alex nodded. He couldn't deny that the food Nicole served tasted delicious, delightful, and suited his palate.

"Yeah. The food is delicious, Ma," Alex replied. Looking up, then staring at Nicole. "Thank you for preparing it."

Alex said it sincerely. Remembering Bastian's words, from now on, he had to behave well. Whether he liked it or not, he had to maintain a good relationship because once he officially divorced Aurora, he was obligated to take responsibility and marry Nicole and live with her.

"You're welcome, Darling. Tomorrow, I'll prepare a different menu. If you want something specific, just tell me. I'll make it for you."

Savana laughed heartily. Her heart warmed seeing the interaction between her future daughter-in-law and her son. In her heart, she couldn't wait any longer to see Alex propose to Nicole, the woman who was now carrying her future grandchild.

"Oh My God, both of you look so sweet."

From the middle of the room emerged Aurora's figure. The woman who had just returned from work immediately spoke up when her eyes caught sight of the intriguing scene. How could it be that the three destroyers of her life were now sitting together, laughing, joking, and enjoying dinner?

"Are you all on a 'trial' to be a harmonious family?" Aurora spoke up, approaching. She even took the trouble to stand right at the edge of the dining table.

"Did you cook all of this?" Aurora pointed towards all the dishes laid out on the table. Then, she reached out to take one of the foods to taste. "It's delicious. Are you sure you cooked it yourself? Didn't you just buy and pretend you cooked it?"

"Careless!" Savana retorted. The woman didn't accept Aurora belittling her future daughter-in-law. "Nicole isn't like you, lazy. When she was a wife, she never cooked for her husband."

Aurora laughed, not at all offended by Savana's earlier remark. "Well, what can I say? Aurora isn't an unemployed like Nicole, Mom. Besides, what's the point of having lots of money if you can't hire a housekeeper to cook?"

"Excuses," Savana interjected, not wanting to concede. "Besides, as a good wife, it's your duty to serve your husband. If you can't even prepare meals, how will you fulfill other needs?"

Aurora laughed again. "Even if Aurora served her husband well, if Alex's nature is to cheat, he'll still cheat. Especially since Mama also has a big role in the breakdown of Aurora's marriage, right?"

"You-"

"No need to get offended," Aurora cut in casually. "Mama doesn't accept the facts Aurora mentioned? Didn't Mama proudly admit to deliberately sending Nicole to seduce Alex? Well, just be patient. Soon enough, Aurora and Alex will surely divorce. After that, go ahead and quickly marry Alex to Mama's beloved daughter-in-law."

"Oh, of course..."

"Mama..." Alex intervened, trying to end the argument between Aurora and his mother. "Enough."

"Shut up, Alex!" Then Savana turned her furious gaze back to Aurora. "You don't need to tell me, Mama will immediately marry them both. If necessary, Mama will throw a bigger party than your wedding."

"Please, have a party and invite everyone," Aurora replied, looking pleased. "Make sure to invite Aurora too. Later, Aurora will give gifts to all of you." Aurora then got up to leave. At the doorway of the dining room, before disappearing completely, she continued her delayed sentence. "Aurora will also give a large and expensive flower arrangement. Besides, a condolence flower arrangement seems suitable for you three."

"Aurora!!!"

Savana shouted angrily, annoyed that Aurora openly mocked her.

Tonight, Asher's black Jeep Rubicon was neatly parked in the basement of one of the luxurious apartments. Entering the lobby, he walked towards the receptionist for assistance.

"Can I help you?"

"I want to meet the owner of unit 301. There's something important I need to discuss with him."

"Has the owner made an appointment?"

"His phone seems to be unreachable. That's why I'm asking for assistance to have him called."

"Alright," the receptionist replied. "Under whose name, sir?"

"Dr. Asher."

"Please have a seat and wait. Let me help you call him."

Asher then sat down to wait. After five minutes, the person he was looking for came down to the lobby and approached.

"Excuse me. Are you Dr. Asher?"

Asher rose from his seat. Politely, he extended his hand to shake hands and introduce himself.

"Yes. I'm Dr. Asher."

"If I may ask, what's the matter with looking for me?"

"There's something important and very confidential that I need to discuss. Can we talk privately in your unit?"

The man initially seemed hesitant. But after a short while, he nodded in agreement. He asked Asher to follow him to his apartment.

"Please come in."

Without any hesitation, Asher entered. As soon as the owner of the apartment closed the door, Asher swiftly grabbed the man's arm. He pushed him forcefully until he stumbled onto the sofa.

The man was greatly surprised. He tried to resist. But unfortunately, he was no match for Asher.

"W-what do you want?"

Asher didn't respond immediately. He first took out a photo from the pocket of his black shirt.

"Do you know this woman?"

The man glanced at the photo. Instead of answering after seeing the figure in the photo, he chose to remain silent.

"You know her, right?" Asher pursued, his voice becoming louder. He pulled the man's arm until he winced in pain. "If you stay silent, I'll make sure both your hands are broken right now."

"Y-yes," the man replied fearfully. "I know this woman. She's Nicole."

"Good. Now, what kind of relationship do you two have?"

The man fell silent again. And of course, this stirred Asher's patience once more.

"Answer!"

"We don't have any relationship."

Asher laughed.

"Oh, really?"

Asher then took out another photo from his pocket. Immediately, he showed it to the man.

"Look! I can give this photo to the police. I'll make sure you'll be behind bars within 24 hours and if necessary, rot in jail."

Whatever photo Asher showed, it elicited an immediate reaction from the man.

"P-please, don't. Please."

"In that case, let me repeat," Asher said emphatically. "Do you two have a close relationship?"

"Yes," the man nodded. "I do have a relationship with Nicole."

"For how long?"

"For a while."

"I guess, you're the one who got Nicole pregnant, right?"

Again, the man fell silent, frustrating Asher even more.

"Answer!"

Asher pulled the man's arm again, causing a loud groan.

"Please, stop. I swear you'll end up in jail or the emergency unit today."

Unable to withstand the torture Asher was inflicting, the man finally nodded.

"Y-yes. I'm the one who got Nicole pregnant."

"Are you sure it's your child? Not someone else's?"

The man nodded repeatedly.

"I'm sure it's my child. Besides, it was Nicole who asked me from the beginning to impregnate her for a certain purpose. Plus, there's a lot of evidence of our relationship and closeness in my phone."

The man then asked Asher to check his phone. Opening the gallery, Asher found a lot of new evidence.

"Perfect."

Asher muttered to himself, laughing. Finally, the mystery of who impregnated Nicole was solved. Now, it was just a matter of waiting for the right time to drop the bomb he had.

## **Unpredictable Betrayal : A Sweet of Revenge**

Aurora looked anxious. In front of her sat both of her parents, along with Asher and Rayyen.

After much thought, weighing all possible risks, Aurora decided to inform her parents about the turmoil that had occurred in her marriage.

Aurora knew her parents would be shocked, especially her mother, who would undoubtedly be shocked when she heard the story. That's why she brought Asher and Rayyen along to help explain and reassure.

"So... what do you want to tell us, Aurora?"

Joshua asked in front of Aurora, patiently waiting for his daughter who allegedly wanted to talk seriously tonight.

"I-it's about my marriage, Pa."

"What's wrong with your marriage?"

Elma chimed in. Her two brown eyes suddenly stared intensely at the visibly nervous figure of her daughter. Joshua did the same. His brow furrowed as he sensed something amiss.

"What about your marriage and Alex?" the middle-aged woman repeated. "Is there a problem?"

Aurora nodded fearfully. For God's sake, she didn't want to hurt her parents' hearts. But, as Asher had said earlier, it was better for her to tell them directly rather than for her parents to hear unpleasant rumors from others.

"Aurora and Alex...."

"Why?" Elena impatiently interrupted.

"We're in the process of getting a divorce, Ma."

Both Joshua and Elena were shocked. They exchanged glances before Joshua adjusted his sitting position to make sure he heard correctly.

"You and Alex are getting a divorce? But why? What's the problem?"

"Why all of a sudden, Aurora?" Elena interjected, looking the most shocked here. "Haven't you two been fine all this time?"

Aurora took a deep breath. Her brain worked hard to find the best words to start the story. Even though she had anticipated all possibilities, the reality still made her nervous and worried. Especially since she believed her explanation would surely disappoint her parents.

"Alex was caught cheating."

Elena was even more shocked after hearing Aurora's answer. Joshua even fell silent for a long time to control his emotions. After his condition improved, he slowly asked.

"Cheating? Are you sure?"

Aurora nodded.

"Alex was caught cheating twice. He had an affair with Nicole, Aunt Senia's daughter."

"What?!"

Not only shocked by the news of their daughter's divorce, Joshua and Elena were faced with another reality that was equally shocking. Especially Elena, who never imagined that her son-in-law was cheating with her cousin's daughter.

"Alex is cheating with Nicole? How could this happen?"

"The story is long, Ma. Maybe this is also Aurora's fault. Perhaps, from the beginning, Aurora should have anticipated by not hiring Nicole at Alex's office as his personal secretary."

"No," Elena disagreed. "Your decision wasn't entirely wrong, Aurora. You were generous enough to help Nicole who needed a job at that time. But, I feel she doesn't know how to appreciate it."

"Is this also the reason why you suddenly fired Nicole from Lumire?"

Joshua then remembered the incident from a few months ago. At that time, Aurora did ask for his permission to fire Nicole. However, initially, Aurora had also asked for help in placing her at Alex's office.

Yazied had asked why Aurora wanted to fire her cousin. However, Aurora only mentioned that there were internal issues that forced her to make that decision.

Now, knowing the reason why her daughter fired Nicole, Joshua regretted ever agreeing to his daughter's request to hire Nicole at his company.

"Yes, Pa. At that time, Aurora deliberately asked for Papa's permission to fire Nicole because they were caught cheating for the first time. Aurora thought, by forgiving and giving them a chance, they would change. As it turned out, they still continued their relationship secretly."

"Oh, my God."

"Just so you know, Alex's mother also has a part in this cheating problem."

Asher, who had been trying to restrain himself from joining the conversation, finally gave in. Irritated, he spoke up, revealing the true facts of his sister's marriage.

"Frankly and consciously," Asher continued, "Aunt Savana admitted to Aurora that she was the one who initially asked Nicole to approach and seduce Alex to make him fall for her."

"What? Papa didn't mishear, did he?"

"Yes, Pa," Aurora nodded. "What Asher just said is true."

Then Aurora went on to tell the whole story in detail. She laid out everything about the chronology of events that happened from the beginning to the end regarding the problems in her marriage.

Joshua and Elena were increasingly shocked. Afterward, they both felt sad because their beloved daughter, whom they cherished so much, was intentionally hurt by ungrateful people.

"Unbelievable! Why didn't you tell Papa earlier, Aurora?"

Joshua grumbled. His face flushed with anger, not accepting that his daughter was treated so unfairly.

"Aurora didn't want to burden Papa and Mama. Besides, Aurora was embarrassed."

"But, they can't just do these wicked deeds to you."

Elena joined in frustration. Of course, she was angry and sad to know that her beloved daughter had been betrayed twice. Especially since Nicole, the daughter of her cousin whom she had clearly often helped, had a hand in it.

"Papa should hold them all accountable." Property © of NôvelDrama.Org.

"No need."

Asher tried to calm his father, who seemed to be ignited with anger. After all, everyone knew that Joshua was known for his patience. It was the first time Asher had seen his father so angry and unwilling to accept.

"Papa doesn't need to do anything. Aurora knows what she has to do. Besides, Asher and Rayyen are here to help resolve this issue."

Joshua then took a deep breath. He looked at Asher and Aurora alternately. It was clear that his son and daughter were trying to reassure him that the problem would be resolved soon. Moreover, Joshua knew that Asher was always reliable.

"Alright. Papa won't do anything and will entrust everything to you. But, remember, Aurora. After your divorce is settled, please make sure to take back all the facilities you provided to the Wildblood family."

Aurora nodded in agreement. That's what she would do when she officially divorced.

"Papa doesn't need to worry. Aurora will make sure that none of the Harperwood family assets can be enjoyed by them anymore."

Then, Elena, who was sad, approached Aurora. She hugged her daughter tightly while shedding tears. Her heart ached to see her beloved daughter suffer at the hands of ungrateful people.

"Forgive Aurora, Ma," Aurora whispered while kissing her mother. "Forgive Aurora for making Mama and Papa sad like this."

Elena quickly shook her head.

"It's not your fault, Aurora. On the contrary, Mama and Papa are happy because you will soon be free from them. Anyway, after this, Aurora must be happy."

After pouring out all their grievances, sadness, and apologies to their parents, Aurora's heart now felt more at ease. She even asked for prayers

from Joshua and Elena so that the problem she was facing could be resolved properly and as hoped for.

Before deciding to go home, Asher invited Aurora and Rayyen to discuss first. After all, there were many things he wanted to talk about.

"Ray, can't Aurora's divorce process be accelerated?"

Rayyen laughed. Judging from his demeanor, he was sure Asher must be very fed up. In contrast to Aurora, who seemed so relaxed and unaffected.

"Patience, Ash. Aurora is still gathering a lot of evidence to be presented during the trial."

"Is it that complicated?"

Rayyen nodded.

"There are indeed many processes to go through. From mediation, repeated trials, to the division of marital assets."

"Besides, why rush?" Aurora asked. She seemed so relaxed as if she didn't have any burdens. "I'm actually enjoying every day watching the clowns perform circus shows."

Asher clicked his tongue immediately. He even pinched his sister's nose out of frustration.

"Just be single quickly. It's nice to pair you up with Alden." Before Aurora could protest, Asher quickly took out his phone. He asked his sister and cousin to come closer because he wanted to show them something. "Speaking of Nicole's pregnancy, I've got new evidence."

"What new evidence?"

Then, Asher opened his email feature. He opened one of the documents to show it to Aurora and Rayyen.

"Take a look. But, don't take too long. It's sinful."

Aurora, curious, immediately snatched Asher's phone. She looked at it carefully, then cursed loudly.

"Crazy!"

"What's wrong, actually?"

Rayyen was, of course, even more curious. But after Aurora handed Asher's phone to him, it was his turn to shake his head.

"Oh my God, is this a photo of Nicole with the guy you investigated the other day? They're really serious, taking naked photos together like that. Besides, I always wonder about people who like to immortalize their intimate relationships through photos and videos. What's the point? Later, when it spreads, they claim to be victims. But actually, they're the ones asking for trouble."

Asher laughed again. Shrugging, he also didn't know the reasons and intentions behind people's foolish actions like this.

"Well, I don't know what their intentions are. I don't really care either. What's certain is that these photos can be used as additional evidence that Nicole's unborn child is indeed from another man."

"And there are so many photos," Rayyen added, still shaking his head. Then, he smirked and winked flirtatiously. "But, can I see the photos again?"

"No, don't!" Aurora forbid. She took Asher's phone and then returned it to its owner. "It's sinful. Should I tell Alina about this?"

"Yes, sis. Just kidding. You love complaining to the Lion."

"But..." Aurora continued, her face now changing to joy. "Can I copy the documents, Ash? After thinking about it, I think it's a good idea to use those photos as a wedding gift and show them to Mama Savana. I'm sure they'll all love it."

# **Unpredictable Betrayal : A Sweet of Revenge**

This morning, Aurora was willing to sit at the same table with Alex. Feeling that there was something that needed to be addressed, she deliberately took the time to speak directly with the man who had been her husband for two years.

"Tomorrow, it's our first divorce hearing. I want, you don't need to attend so that the process can proceed quickly without the need for further mediation."

In his seat, Alex seemed to sigh quietly. Judging from the expression he displayed, there seemed to be a reluctance that soon he would be divorcing Aurora.

"Is it really true that there's no chance for me to fix all of this?"

Aurora chuckled instead. She looked at Alex's face while shaking her head. She couldn't believe the audacity of the man in front of her.

"Oh my God, Alex. Am I hearing correctly? You're asking about chances? Wasn't it me who already did that before?"

"I know, Aurora. But it's just—"

"But, didn't you fail to make use of that chance properly?" Aurora interrupted immediately. "I've struggled hard and even foolishly turned a blind eye. Choosing to forgive and even giving you a chance. Yet, you clearly brought another woman into our bed. Do you think I'm not good enough? Not patient enough? Or just plain stupid?"

Alex hurriedly shook his head. He felt thoroughly guilty hearing Aurora's heart-wrenching words.

He realized he had made a big mistake. But truly, if there was still a chance to be together, he wanted that.

"No. That's not what I meant. I just don't want to end up being separated from you in the end. I love you, Aurora. I'm in love with you."

Aurora's laughter grew louder. Whether Alex was truly shameless or actually engulfed in deep regret about parting from her soon. Or perhaps the man was fearful because he realized he would soon lose all the luxurious facilities that had surrounded him for the past two years.

"Oh come on, Alex Wildblood. If you truly love and cherish. Or, truly be grateful once because you had me in your life, I'm sure this affair would never have happened."

Alex swallowed hard. It was indeed his own fault for playing with fire from the beginning. Shamelessly, he dared to engage in an illicit relationship with his wife's cousin.

"Enough. There's no need to feel regretful. This decision is final. I want to separate from you soon. Besides, you're supposed to marry Nicole soon, right?"

"Yeah, of course."

From another direction, the figure they were discussing appeared. Without permission, let alone being invited, the woman pulled a chair and seated herself right next to Alex.

"Just so you know. I can't wait for you two to divorce so I can marry Alex and become his legitimate wife."

Aurora grinned. Somehow, meeting Nicole at this moment felt like a mood booster. Like having a new toy ready to play with anytime.

"Oh don't worry, my dear cousin. This divorce only needs one court hearing. Last night, Rayyen confirmed that the divorce proceedings between me and Alex could be completed soon. So, no need to wait for months."

Last night, before going to bed, Rayyen indeed called. He ensured that all the evidence and documents needed for Aurora's divorce hearing were very thorough. "I'll make sure this divorce process can be completed a few days after tomorrow's hearing."

"Are you serious?" Aurora was naturally delighted. This was what she had hoped for. To be able to separate soon and then teach a lesson to the people who had made her suffer.

"Yes. Especially since the evidence of the affair is very clear and complete. Just ask Alex not to attend the hearing. Because if he does, mediation will surely be offered."

"Alright. I'll make sure he won't attend tomorrow. Please handle it well, Ray. Tomorrow afternoon, if your business is done, I'll stop by your office directly to discuss further developments."

Aurora was grateful to have Rayyen who could help her maximally to complete the divorce process. Now, she just had to wait for the right time to slowly make her calculations.

"That's great then. It means today I can already go hunting for a dress to wear at the wedding."

Aurora nodded hearing her cousin's chatter.

"Feel free. Let alone a dress, hunting for a house to live in after the wedding is also not a problem."

"A house?" Nicole repeated then smiled. "Why hunt for a house? Alex and I can live in this luxurious house. Besides, you're filthy rich, Aurora. Why don't you just leave this house and buy a new one?"

"Me?" Aurora pointed to herself. "Leave my own house?"

Nicole nodded repeatedly. She thought, because there were many assets acquired and accumulated during Alex and Aurora's marriage, there would surely be a lot to divide upon their divorce. Including the house they currently lived in. "Yeah. Besides, why don't you just move out? Or do you want to reminisce about the good times with Alex in this house? Come on, move on. Don't be like an unwanted woman."

Nicole grinned. She leaned forward slightly, then looked at Aurora in a certain way.

"By the way, your own bedroom has been used by me and Alex for intimate moments. Aren't you disgusted sleeping there?"

"NICOLE!"

Alex immediately reprimanded. With a sharp glance, he shook his head in disapproval.

"That's enough!"

"I'm just reminding. Just in case Aurora forgot."

Not in the least bit provoked, Aurora remained calm. Rising from her seat, she prepared to leave. But before leaving the house, Aurora didn't forget to respond to Nicole's earlier remarks.

"As if I could forget your disgusting actions. And besides, try taking this house if you can."

Aurora then gave a scrutinizing look. She looked at Nicole from head to toe, while curling her lips and then smiling broadly.

"Moreover, someone like your modeling career wouldn't be suitable to be the mistress of a luxurious house like this. All you can do is make it dirty."

Nicole immediately cursed angrily. She couldn't accept being insulted in such a manner by Aurora.NôvelDrama.Org holds © this.

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# **Unpredictable Betrayal : A Sweet of Revenge**

Aurora had just finished all her work. Glancing at the digital clock on the wall of the room, it was now break time. She quickly got up and prepared. Aurora clearly remembered that she had an appointment to meet Rayyen this afternoon to discuss her divorce.

"Aurora..."

Aurora, who had just taken off her doctor's coat, reflexively turned. At the doorway, she found Alden standing there with an ice cream in his hand.

"Hey?"

Aurora approached. She walked towards Alden who was standing at the door.

"What's up?"

"This." Alden then handed her a cup of ice cream in his hand.

"This is for me?"

Alden nodded.

"Yes. Earlier, I happened to buy quite a lot of ice cream for the nurses on duty. I remembered that you liked blueberry ice cream, right?"

"Absolutely," Aurora replied happily. She felt a twinge of emotion because Alden still remembered her favorite ice cream that she used to eat often. "By the way, thanks a lot for the ice cream. I'll eat it on the way."This text is property of Nô/velD/rama.Org.

"Are you going somewhere?"

"I'm going to the mall up north. I happen to have an appointment with Rayyen."

"Can I give you a ride?"

"No need."

"It's okay. Besides, I also want to find lunch."

Aurora didn't immediately agree. There were many considerations she had to think about before allowing Alden to drive her.

"But, what about your schedule? Aren't you supposed to be in surgery? Asher will be angry if you're suddenly not on standby."

Alden smiled. He shook his head.

"Don't worry. My schedule is empty this afternoon. It's okay for me to accompany you until evening."

Now it was Aurora's turn to laugh. Believing that there wouldn't be any problems, she agreed to Alden's offer to take her.

Along the way, Alden seemed enthusiastic about discussing his work at the hospital. After a while, he changed the topic of conversation and asked a personal question.

"Are you meeting Rayyen to discuss the issues from before?"

Aurora immediately turned to him. Not denying it, she confirmed Alden's question.

"Yes. I want to ask about the outcome of my divorce hearing today."

"You're not attending in person?"

Aurora shook her head.

"I've handed over everything to Rayyen. He can ensure that all the proceedings will be completed soon."

Alden nodded thoughtfully. It was unclear what he was thinking. However, afterwards Alden was heard offering his support. "I can only pray that everything will be resolved smoothly. And after this, you can truly live happily."

"I hope so too," Aurora replied softly. She smiled bitterly. "I know, you probably want to laugh at and mock my past foolishness, right?"

Alden immediately laughed.

"Never! Although I was annoyed to suddenly find out you were about to get married, I'm not that mean to mock you." Occasionally, Alden shifted his gaze from the road to look at Aurora, who was comfortably looking straight ahead. "I didn't mean to provoke either, but I admit your decision to end all of this was the right one."

Aurora just smiled.

"Yes. I shouldn't have had high expectations from the beginning. I thought, by forgiving and giving a second chance, he would change."

"It's not your expectations that were too high," Alden tried to correct. "But rather, your partner who was unable to appreciate. That's why, stop wasting your precious time trying to be a rainbow for a colorblind person."

Alden's words were meaningful. Although there were many opportunities for him to boast or compare himself with Alex, Alden chose to remain silent and focus on driving again. He didn't confront Aurora at all. Letting his former lover dissolve into silence, until they arrived at their destination.

"Did you promise to meet at the mall?"

Aurora nodded. Both of them entered one of the malls located in the city center.

"The courthouse isn't far from here. So, instead of going all the way to Rayyen's office, he suggested meeting and having lunch here."

Alden complied. He followed wherever Aurora's steps led.

"It reminds me of the old days, when we used to have lunch breaks at the mall," Alden remarked and immediately got a response from Aurora.

"You remember that so well, huh?"

"Why would I forget? Everything is worth remembering. And almost all the memories of the past I keep safe in my brain's memory."

"Such a charmer."

"Who's charming?" Alden joked then laughed. "I'm serious. I even remember, you used to get angry because every time we had KFC, I always tried to snatch the crispy skin."

"Yeah, you were so annoying back then."

They continued to chat along the way. Aurora's steps halted when someone called out to her. Now, right in front of her, Aurora came face to face with the one person she avoided the most on this earth.

"Aurora, what are you doing with another man here?"

## **Unpredictable Betrayal : A Sweet of Revenge**

"You shouldn't be so excessive in talking to Aurora. However, she's the owner of this house."

Alex then sipped his jasmine tea slowly from his cup. He grumbled, warning Nicole.

"Who's being excessive?"

Nicole suddenly became angry. She felt somewhat offended when Alex reprimanded her behavior, which was considered rude because she suddenly joined the conversation and ended up saying all sorts of things. After Aurora left, Alex didn't immediately leave. He chose to finish his breakfast first, then intentionally engaged in a serious conversation with Nicole.

"Even if there's a division of assets after divorce, I don't have the right to ask for this house to be a part of it."

"Well, ask for it, Honey. After all, you're her husband. It would be nice if we could leave this house to our children together."

Alex shook his head in disbelief. He couldn't understand why Nicole and her mother were so insistent on taking control of Aurora's house, which actually belonged to her.

"Are you stupid or something? This house has belonged to Aurora long before I married her. Besides, premarital assets can't be divided."

"In that case, ask for other assets. As far as I remember, when we got together, Aurora had bought many assets. From cars, land, to gold. Not to mention other assets bought before I came. Seriously, are you just going to accept nothing after the divorce? What a waste!"

Alex remained silent. He was too lazy to argue with Nicole's long-winded talk about marital assets.

Yet, if he thought carefully, he was already grateful to be able to stay for free and enjoy all the facilities. If Aurora were mean, if her infidelity had been discovered from the beginning, she could have kicked him out.

"Nicole... Alex."

Before Alex could shake off his headache, his mother suddenly arrived for a visit. For whatever reason. It was unusual for her to visit him at this hour.

"Mom."

Nicole responded first. Without getting up, she kissed Savana on the cheek, who was standing right next to her.

"Has Mom had breakfast? Nicole cooked something delicious this morning."

"No need," Savana shook her head. She gently rubbed Nicole's stomach. "I ate before coming here."

"What brings Mom here so early?"

Savana frowned immediately. Instead of being welcomed, Alex asked as if he didn't like her presence.

"You, always asking questions instead of being happy Mom came to visit. Do I need a reason to visit you?"

Alex shook his head casually.

"No, not really. It's just unusual for you to drop by so early in the morning."

"That's why, being a future husband, you should pay a little attention. Nicole has a prenatal checkup scheduled for today. I'm sure you wouldn't have time to accompany her so early in the morning. So, instead of going alone, I decided to accompany her."

Nicole smiled widely. More than that, she hugged Savana because she was touched by her future mother-in-law's care and affection.

"Mom is so kind, isn't she? The best, really."

"Of course, whose mom do you think I am?"

"After the checkup, let's go look at wedding dresses, Mom. Aurora said she and Alex will officially divorce soon."

"Oh, really? Did Aurora say that?"

Nicole nodded.

"She said that before going to work. She even asked Mr. Alex not to attend the divorce hearing today so that the divorce process could be completed this week."

Savana burst into laughter. This was the news she had been waiting for. She couldn't wait to see Alex and Nicole getting married soon.

"Well, finally."

"That's why, because the decision will be made soon, I want to get ready to buy a dress for the wedding party."

"Okay." Savana agreed. "In that case, after the prenatal checkup, we'll go hunt for wedding dresses for you."

Then, Savana kept her promise to accompany Nicole for her prenatal checkup at the hospital owned by Aurora's extended family. In fact, Savana deliberately chose Dr. Ezra, the doctor Aurora had chosen, to ensure Nicole's pregnancy.All rights © NôvelDrama.Org.

Savana did everything intentionally. She wanted to provide evidence and silence Aurora's taunts and insults toward Nicole.

"So, how's the progress of my daughter-in-law's pregnancy, doctor?"

Savana asked enthusiastically. She looked at the plasma screen displaying Nicole's pregnancy condition as Ezra conducted the examination.

"So far, the pregnancy is normal. The baby is also developing healthily. The weight seems to be increasing."

"Thank goodness," Savana replied happily. Then she helped Nicole, who had finished the examination, to sit beside her. "This is thanks to Nicole, who diligently takes care of herself and her unborn child. Luckily, she's able to conceive. Not like Alex's first wife. She couldn't even bear children. Even though she claimed to be a great pediatrician."

Ezra smiled thinly. In his mind, he pondered and couldn't fathom hearing Savana constantly speak ill of Aurora.

"It's not necessarily the woman's fault for not being able to have children, Ma," Ezra replied while writing a prescription for Nicole.

"But most of the time, it's the woman who's infertile," Savana argued. She seemed unwilling to concede.

"Not always. In fact, in this world, men often face fertility issues or difficulties in having children," Ezra knew Savana would argue again. That's why, as soon as the middle-aged woman opened her mouth, he quickly spoke up. "I personally feel sad about the patriarchal culture that greatly disadvantages women, especially wives. Sometimes they're considered useless if they can't bear children. There are even mothers-inlaw who deliberately find new wives for their sons when their daughtersin-law are deemed incapable of giving grandchildren."

"It's only right that way, Doc," Savana replied hastily. "What's the use of keeping useless women?"

Ezra smiled thinly. Looking up, he glanced at Savana and Nicole alternately.

"So, what if the infertility or difficulty in having children is on the man's side? Will the mother-in-law disown her son because he's useless? Or will the daughter-in-law be asked to accept her husband's fate?"

Savana fell silent immediately. Faced with a difficult question, she tried to respond.

"Well, luckily, that doesn't need to happen in my family, Doc. The proof is my current prospective daughter-in-law can conceive. That means, my son is useful."

Ezra laughed. He looked at Nicole, who seemed embarrassed.

"Well then, congratulations, Madam. I wish you and your future child good health always. Here's the prescription for medication and vitamins that should be taken. Please come back next month."

## **Unpredictable Betrayal : A Sweet of Revenge**

Alex sighed deeply. Slightly annoyed, he drove his car to one of the malls. He should be finishing his work by now. But his mother called and asked to be picked up immediately at the hospital.Content provided by NôvelDrama.Org.

"As a good future husband, you should be able to take Nicole wherever she needs to go. Especially if it's to find your wedding dress."

"But, it doesn't have to be now, Ma. Alex is still working."

Alex breathed frustratedly. This wasn't the first time his work schedule had been disrupted because he had to obey his mother's orders.

"Well, it has to be now. When else? Besides, time is running out. Aurora said you'll officially divorce soon. If it's true that you'll separate this week, Mama wants you and Nicole to have the wedding party by the end of the month."

Nicole, who was sitting in the back seat, smiled broadly. This was what she had been waiting for since the beginning.

"The end of the month? That's just seven or eight days away. Isn't that tight?"

"No," Savana replied casually. "And it has to be rushed, Alex. Can't you marry Nicole only when her belly is big?"

"Yes, Honey," Nicole added. "The end of the month seems like the right time for us to get married. Just hire a wedding organizer if you can't handle it yourself. Anyway, I'm not asking for any particular type of wedding. The important thing is to become your wife as soon as possible."

Alex was reluctant to respond again. Besides, it was pointless. His words wouldn't be heard by his mother anyway.

Arriving at the mall, Alex followed along with heavy steps. He just let Nicole and her mother stroll around, entering one boutique after another to find the perfect dress for their wedding party.

They looked very happy. Until not long after, Alex's steps were forced to stop when he found his mother reprimanding a woman he knew very well.

"Aurora..."

From her eyes, Alex could confirm how Aurora, who was walking with another man at that moment, was. Alex didn't forget that the man was Aurora's ex-boyfriend from the past.

He felt a pang of jealousy. He wanted to be angry, but Alex realized he no longer had a claim over Aurora.

"What are you doing here with another man?"

Aurora, who was not far away, turned immediately. She stopped walking, then replied.

"Mama asked Aurora what she's doing at the mall? Obviously, spending money, Ma. What else could it be?"

Savana sighed in annoyance. She hated it when Aurora showed no respect to her.

"Is this how you behave outside the house?"

"How's that?" Aurora asked casually.

"Well, it doesn't look right. You're not even officially a widow yet and you dare to go out alone with another man. Is he perhaps your new boyfriend?"

"Who said Aurora was just walking alone?"

From a different direction, Asher and Rayyen suddenly appeared. The man approached and stood right beside Aurora.

"Aurora was walking with me and her lawyer."

"Ah, really?" Savana expressed disbelief. "That's not convincing."

"Well, it's up to you. Do I have to convince you?" Asher laughed at Savana. Nevertheless, he continued speaking. "Besides, even if Aurora walks with anyone, it's none of your business, right? Alex, who is still Aurora's husband, can sleep with other women as he pleases. Can't Aurora, who's just walking and having lunch with a man who's richer and better looking than Alex, do so?"

Savana's face turned red. She wanted to be angry but was quickly pulled by Alex.

"Enough, Ma. It's embarrassing. This is in public."

"Don't worry, Madam," Rayyen spoke this time. "This Friday, the divorce decision between Alex and Aurora will be announced. After that, they will officially divorce. After that, Mrs. Savana can immediately marry Alex to Nicole."

Then Asher took Aurora and Alden to leave immediately. Leaving Savana annoyed and immediately invited Nicole to return to see wedding dresses.

"Don't worry, Ma. Don't be upset. Nicole will retaliate against their actions." Nicole tried to comfort her. She invited Savana to enter one of the famous boutiques. "Let's look around again. Maybe we'll find the dress you want this time."

Savana nodded and then smiled. Luckily, Nicole was smart enough to lift her mood. Therefore, she continued to look for a dress. Along with Nicole, she was busy trying on one outfit after another until finally getting what she wanted.

"It seems like this one is the most suitable for you to wear at the wedding party."

Savana sounded satisfied. She looked with admiration at Nicole's appearance as she tried on one of the dresses that fit perfectly and, of course, was expensive.

"So, should we take this one?"

Savana nodded. Then she called Alex to come closer.

"What do you think?

"I'll leave it up to Mom," Alex replied uninterestedly. He was still annoyed at seeing Aurora once again leaving with a man who was clearly her ex-boyfriend from the past.

"In that case, let's just go with this one. You pay now, and then we'll leave."

Alex nodded lazily. Together with Nicole, he went to the cashier. After the items were totaled and double-checked, it was time for Alex to pay.

"The total for the dress, bag, shoes, and some other clothing items is \$2000. Will you be paying with debit or credit card?"

"Credit card, please."

Alex then took out and handed over one of the black cards from his wallet. After waiting for a moment, until finally, the cashier called him again.

"Sorry, Sir. Do you have another card? This one can't be used."

"What? Are you serious?"

"Yes. It's been declined multiple times."

"In that case, let's try the other one."

Alex then took out another card. Unfortunately, the same thing happened again.

"It's still not working, Sir."

"Wait, could it be that Aurora blocked your credit cards?"

Immediately, Alex and Nicole exchanged looks. They were both panicked and confused about how to pay for the dress that had already been placed in the paper bag.

## **Unpredictable Betrayal : A Sweet of Revenge**

Rayyen couldn't help but laugh at Aurora's story. They were sitting in one of the renowned coffee shops, relaxing with their two cousins after enjoying lunch.

Meanwhile, Alden, having finished his lunch, opted to head home early. Aware that Aurora would be having a serious conversation with her siblings, he decided to give them space, not wanting to interfere in the slightest. He realized he was just another person in the mix.

"So, have you blocked all of Alex's credit cards?"

Aurora was sitting leisurely, without a care in the world. She blinked her sparkling eyes and let out a small laugh. Earlier, she had indeed instructed bank officials to freeze all of Alex's credit cards without exception. Moreover, there was a reason why Aurora had suddenly taken such action.

"Yeah. I did it on purpose."

"Hahaha, that's so wicked."

"Let it be." Aurora responded nonchalantly. Her face seemed satisfied with what she had done to her ex-husband. "It's lucky they were just credit cards. If I wanted, I could have canceled all the facilities from the beginning." Rayyen had also wondered about this. Why didn't Aurora immediately block all financial access and facilities that Alex usually enjoyed, especially after his infidelity and misappropriation of company funds were exposed?

"So, why the sudden block? Didn't you say the other day you were going to withdraw all the facilities after the divorce was finalized?"

Aurora nodded in agreement. She sipped her Green Tea Frappuccino first before explaining what made her change her mind.

"Initially, that was the plan. But after seeing how shameless that woman has become lately. Not to mention, I accidentally overheard her whining about wanting to buy dresses, shoes, bags, and all the wedding paraphernalia, I decided to block Alex's credit cards immediately."

Rayyen's laughter echoed once more. Holding her stomach, she tried to respond to Aurora's story tinged with a sense of revenge.

"Oh God, we just saw her with Ibu Suri again, strolling in the mall. It was obvious, she must have been hunting for things she wanted."

"Yeah, she was," Aurora agreed, joining in the laughter. Then she reached for her phone from her bag and opened the messaging feature, showing it to Rayyen. "Try reading this."

## Nicole: AURORA YOU BITCH. I'M GOING TO GET BACK AT YOU FOR EVERYTHING!

Rayyen's laughter resounded again. Feeling amused by the short message Nicole had sent to Aurora. From there, it was certain that Nicole would definitely be shopping and using the credit card that Aurora had blocked.

"I swear to anything, I can't imagine how embarrassed they'll be when they try to pay for all those expensive items but can't."

"If they can't afford to pay, they could try mopping the first floor of the mall until it shines. Who knows, maybe after that, all their purchases will be free." Asher's words sounded piercing. He was originally more of a silent type. But when he spoke, his words felt like a stab to the heart.

"It's not like being happy to get free stuff, Ash. You'd die if you were told to mop a whole mall floor."

Asher retorted casually.

"Besides, if you're not used to being rich, there's no need to act like one."

All three of them laughed together. They felt so satisfied mocking the foolishness and misfortune that Alex and Nicole might be experiencing.

"By the way, how's Ray handling Aurora's divorce progress?"

Asher was the most enthusiastic. He even reminded Rayyen, who had invited him and Aurora to meet up after attending the hearing.

"Don't worry, everything's going smoothly and it's all settled. Tomorrow is the reading of the verdict. After that, Aurora and Alex will be officially divorced."

"So, it's happening this week, right? My divorce too?"

Rayyen nodded, confirming Aurora's impatient question.

"Yes. Don't worry. I'll make sure everything goes according to plan. This week, your status will change, no longer Alex Wildblood's wife."

Aurora looked visibly relieved. She was lucky to have Rayyen helping to process everything quickly and without any hiccups.

"Finally. Just so you know, I can't wait to come and see Alex and Nicole's wedding."

"I also," Asher replied. The man grinned meaningfully. "I also can't wait to give the two of them... ah, I mean the three of them, a gift they'll never forget for the rest of their lives." Aurora joined in the laughter. She became even more impatient herself. Waiting eagerly for the moments when she could silence the people who had ruined her life.

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"Aurora, damn it!!!"

On the way home, Nicole didn't stop cursing. This was the umpteenth time her cousin had embarrassed her in public.

Nicole had been happy before. She felt delighted because her future husband was going to buy her an expensive wedding dress, a pair of branded Cinderella-style shoes, and other necessities.

But, the happiness didn't last long. Nicole never imagined that when it came time to pay, Alex's credit card, which was supposed to be used, was blocked, and it was confirmed that this was Aurora's doing.

Naturally, Alex and Nicole panicked and were confused. Especially since the money in Alex's debit card wasn't enough to pay in cash.

Even the boutique staff interrogated and called the supervisor, suspecting that Alex and Nicole were just a couple trying to cheat or have fun. Not to mention the onlookers who were also watching the scene.

"Nicole is embarrassed, Mom! Nicole is embarrassed. This is all because of Aurora."

Back home, as she entered her room, Nicole immediately complained to Savana. She vented her frustration that she still felt until now.

"Well, you have to be patient. The important thing is you can still take home and wear the dress and other items."

Nicole sighed. She couldn't just be patient like that. Even though one of Alex's friends had offered to help by lending money to pay the bill, Nicole still felt embarrassed because this had become a spectacle for many people. "Anyway, Nicole will remember and retaliate against Aurora's actions forever."

Seeing Nicole's explosive emotions made Savana worried. She approached her future daughter-in-law, then invited her to sit on the sofa. After that, Savana gently rubbed Nicole's shoulders to help her be more patient and slowly calm down the anger that seemed to be building up.

"Don't worry. Mama will deal with Aurora. The important thing now is you shouldn't keep getting angry. Think about the baby in your belly."

Being gently admonished and reminded made Nicole feel remorseful. Moments later, she took deep breaths repeatedly, trying to calm her anger.

"Instead of wasting energy getting angry over trivial matters, it's better to focus on your wedding plans with Alex. Moreover, you heard it yourself from Aurora's lawyer that it's highly likely Alex and Aurora will be officially divorced this week."

Nicole nodded in agreement. Savana's words were indeed true. Instead of wasting time thinking about Aurora until her head hurt, it was better to focus on her wedding plans and preparations for the ceremony next week.

"Yeah, you're right, Mom."

"Anyway, after this, you rest. No more getting angry or upset. Tomorrow afternoon, Mama will pick you up to meet the wedding organizer and check the venue for your and Alex's wedding next week."

Nicole didn't object. Whatever Savana instructed, she would gladly follow.

"Thank you, Mom, for always being patient and accompanying Nicole almost every moment."

"You're welcome. It should be that way. Now, you rest. Mama's going home."

That night, Nicole deliberately waited for Alex to come home. After making sure her fiance had cleaned up, she hurried to the bedroom to talk about something.

"Alex, we need to talk seriously."

"If you want to talk about Aurora, it's better to do it later. I'm tired."

Alex appeared to be sitting on the bed, leaning back. He seemed to be reading something on his phone, ignoring Nicole, who was clearly standing in front of him.

"You can't do that. Today Aurora made both of us embarrassed."

"Come on, don't exaggerate. Whether it's today, tomorrow, or the day after tomorrow, in the end, Aurora will do what she's supposed to do."

"So, you're just going to resign yourself like that?"

Nicole couldn't understand why Alex was so spineless. Despite Aurora's outrageous behavior, Alex should protest because it was unfair and arbitrary.

"What else should I do? If you forget, all the facilities I've enjoyed so far, all of them are from Aurora. So, if she wants to take them back at any time, I can't stop her."

Nicole became even more frustrated hearing Alex's answer, which she considered weak. But, before she could argue, he quickly issued a warning.

"If you only want to talk and argue about Aurora, you better leave. I'm tired. I want to rest."

Seeing that Alex was really reluctant to engage, Nicole couldn't do anything. But instead of leaving the room immediately, Nicole moved closer, then sat on the edge of the bed, next to Alex.

"What else do you want to say?"

Alex looked up. He looked at Nicole, who was smiling in front of him.

"Is there something else you want to say?"

Nicole shook her head.

"Actually, no." This text is property of Nô/velD/rama.Org.

"Then?"

"Why are you so grumpy, honey? Don't you miss me at all?"

Then Nicole appeared to tease. Bringing her hand, she gently stroked Alex's cheeks and neck alternately.

"Seriously, we haven't had fun in a long time like we used to."

"I'm tired, Nicole."

Alex tried to resist by pushing Nicole's hand away. But, not easily discouraged, Nicole became more aggressive by cupping Alex's face and then giving him a brief kiss on the lips.

"I promise after this, your tiredness will disappear."

Then Nicole climbed onto Alex's lap, she kissed the man's lips softly while wrapping both of her hands around his neck.

Initially, Alex didn't respond at all. But Nicole kept teasing. Using all her moves until Alex finally yielded and reciprocated all the affection Nicole gave.

If before Nicole had to bite her finger because her desire to make love with Alex was unfulfilled, tonight she could be satisfied. Alex, whom she missed, was back. The man gladly provided satisfaction, leading Nicole into a sea of pleasure. Even after so long, he allowed Nicole to sleep in the same room as him.

Happy that her wish was fulfilled, when Alex was already asleep, Nicole chose to get up to get a drink. Just a few steps towards the sofa, her

phone rang. One notification of a text message forced her to check it immediately. After seeing it, there was one unknown number giving her a mysterious message.

"NICOLE, BE CAREFUL. YOUR LIFE IS IN DANGER."

## **Unpredictable Betrayal : A Sweet of Revenge**

"Congratulations, Aurora. Today you've officially acquired a new status."

In Rayyen's workspace, Aurora appeared visibly happy as she received the documents just handed to her by her cousin. Starting today, from this moment forward, she was officially divorced and held the status of a widow.

Aurora knew this wasn't an achievement to boast about. In fact, some people out there regarded being a widow as a disgrace that would subject someone to judgmental looks.

However, Aurora wouldn't let that happen. No matter who it was, nobody had the right to demean her. And most importantly, after this divorce, she could finally break free from the Toxic family that had weighed her down.

"Thank you so much, Ray. Thanks to your help, my divorce process could finally be completed quickly. And now, I can truly be free from Alex and his family."

Rayyen could see the sparkle in those brown eyes filled with happiness. Aurora was relishing the euphoria of freedom that she had patiently awaited for so long.

For Rayyen, Aurora deserved all of this. After enduring so many lies, betrayals, and humiliations, it was time for Aurora to rise and start a much better life.

"No need to thank me. I'm happy to help you get through all of this. After all, it's my duty as your lawyer, Aurora."

"Yes," Aurora nodded. "Now, we just have to wait for Alex, Nicole, and Savana to receive their special gifts."

Rayyen could see the meaningful smile etched on Aurora's face. He knew well that Aurora and Asher had been planning something big meticulously for a long time.

"Why not give them their gifts now?"

"Why are you suddenly so impatient?"

Rayyen laughed heartily. For whatever reason, he was also eagerly anticipating the moments when Aurora would retaliate against her exhusband, mother-in-law, and despicable cousin.

"Do you know what? Among all the targets, I'm most curious about Alex's mom's reaction."

Aurora's brow reflexively furrowed. Of all the people, why was Rayyen curious about Savana's reaction? Did they share the same feelings and thoughts?

"Alex's mom? Why are you curious about her?"

Rayyen folded his arms across his chest. Sitting back more relaxed, he explained his reason to Aurora. This text is property of Nô/velD/rama.Org.

"Because out of everyone, she's the most wicked and heartless. I distinctly remember Aurora telling me about Savana's confession, how she deliberately asked Nicole to seduce Alex to turn him away from Aurora. I feel like this action is unforgivable."

Just imagine, a mother intentionally leading her son into sin. Supporting, even contributing to making her son a denizen of hell.

"For whatever reason, I'm just curious about how Mrs. Savana will react when she finds out that Nicole isn't the woman she thought she was."

"We'll see, Ray. I'm afraid Mrs. Savana won't accept reality and suddenly have a heart attack."

Aurora spoke up again. Compared to Rayyen, she was also impatient and extremely curious to see Savana's reaction.

Considered the ideal prospective daughter-in-law who could provide offspring, deemed prettier, and even better at serving Alex, Aurora was only worried that Savana might suffer a heart attack or a stroke upon learning the true nature of Nicole.

"In that case, you should be prepared and have an ambulance ready."

Aurora smiled thinly. "That's a good suggestion. Let's both see if Mrs. Savana can still be arrogant when faced with many facts about the behavior of her beloved daughter-in-law."

Meanwhile, in the evening, with a pout, Nicole seemed busy packing her belongings into a suitcase. After hearing from Alex that he had officially divorced Aurora, Alex decided to leave the house and take Nicole to live with his mother.

However, Nicole had hoped Alex would stay and, if necessary, demand Aurora's luxurious house as part of the property to be divided. But, whether out of guilt or pride, the fact remained that Alex seemed reluctant to stay there any longer.

"But this house is also your house, Honey. Why do we have to leave? I'm already comfortable living here."

Alex sighed softly. Tired of giving the same answer to Nicole. "I've told you many times, this house belongs to Aurora long before she married me. So, we have no right to stay here."

Nicole's face grew even more sullen hearing Alex's seemingly uncompromising response. She had tried to provoke him. But, the result was still nothing. Alex was steadfast in his stance. "So, we're staying at Mama Savana's house?"

"Yes," Alex replied casually after making sure all his clothes were neatly stored in the suitcase. "If you don't want to, you can stay temporarily in your apartment."

"No." Nicole immediately refused. It wasn't fair that she was asked to stay alone. Quickly, Nicole approached Alex, then hugged his arm affectionately. "I want to go wherever you go, Alex. But, at Mama Savana's house, can we sleep together, right? Besides, we'll be officially married in a few days."

Previously, Alex would never have refused, let alone missed any opportunity to spend time alone with Nicole. But, once again, since their relationship was exposed, Alex himself didn't understand why he seemed to lose interest in Nicole, who had become fuller and even sexier since becoming pregnant.

"There are many empty rooms at Mama's house, you can choose where to sleep."

"But I want to sleep with you." Nicole insisted. She thought, what's the point of living together but not sleeping in the same room? "It's better if we sleep in the same room. In case it's cold or we want to have fun, you won't have to leave the room to find me."

Hearing Nicole's rambling, Alex could only sigh deeply. Instead of responding, he chose to remain silent and then rose to get ready to leave.

When everything was neatly arranged, Alex then asked Nicole to come down to the first floor. Just before they left, Aurora appeared, who had just returned from the hospital.

"Both of you ready to leave?"

Aurora's question was clearly just small talk. From the beginning, she had been waiting for this moment of parting.

Then Aurora smiled as she saw Alex and Nicole carrying a large suitcase, clearly preparing to leave for the car.

"Yeah. Nicole and I are leaving. Thanks for the hospitality over the past few days," Alex replied. From his tone and expression, it was evident that he seemed reluctant to leave the luxurious house he had shared with Aurora for the past two years.

If only Alex hadn't made the mistake of being seduced by Nicole's persuasion, perhaps their marriage would still be peaceful and harmonious.

"Well then, be careful on the road. No need to rush. After all, you're carrying a pregnant woman. We don't want anything bad to happen," Aurora said, her words clearly aimed at Nicole.

Nicole immediately pursed her lips. She knew Aurora was being sarcastic.

"No need to act concerned," she retorted.

"Nicole..." Alex interjected. He shook his head, indicating to Nicole not to argue. Then he turned back to Aurora, bid farewell, and prepared to leave for real. "Thanks for the reminder. In that case, I'll take my leave. I've left my resignation letter from Lumire in the office. I've also left some car keys in their usual place. Once again, thank you very much."

Aurora watched Alex and Nicole's departure. Now, she just had to think of the best way to deliver the special gifts to her ex-husband and cousin.

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