

Unpredictable Betrayal : A Sweet of Revenge 61-70

Actually, Aurora is a bit traumatized by the events at the hospital a few days ago. It's not about arguing with Savana that bothers her. Instead, it's about the violent actions carried out by her former mother-in-law that nearly caused her physical harm.

If there hadn't been anyone to help, Aurora is certain she would have sustained injuries from being slapped and scratched by Savana. Just imagine, in her rage, that woman came and attacked without caring about her surroundings.

Meanwhile, Asher has repeatedly urged Aurora to report this incident to the authorities so that Savana would be deterred. But, because she doesn't want to prolong the issue, she chooses not to discuss the incident.

"Can you believe you have a former mother-in-law acting like a lunatic?"

Velia keeps on talking. She's so frustrated that she almost always condemns Savana's actions as going too far.

"Throughout the marriage, did that witch of a grandmother often mistreat you or what? I suspect she enjoys domestic violence."

Aurora, while checking reports, just smiles. Without looking up, she answers Velia's curious question. Ah, Velia is just naturally nosy.

"No. Just so you know, Savana's mom used to be really nice."

"Tsk." Velia reflexively pulls her face. Those lips with nude lipstick immediately pout disapprovingly. "She's nobody anymore, yet you still call her Mom. If it were me, no way! Her behavior is like a demon." Even though Aurora had just answered the question posed to her. Before finishing her story, Velia is already frustrated to the point of protesting because she sees Aurora still behaving politely towards a woman who has clearly wronged her.

“Are we continuing or not?” Aurora then sighs. It’s not pretending to be good. But because it’s a habit. So hard to get rid of. Besides, if Velia still protests, she might as well go back to doing her tasks.

“Okay... okay... go ahead. Please continue your story.”

Aurora looks up, she pouts back just like Velia did earlier.

“So, at the beginning of the marriage, Savana’s mom was really nice. Sometimes, she would give me whatever I wanted. She treated me like a queen. But suddenly started to change after I was considered unable to provide —”

“Grandchildren?” Velia interrupts, guessing. “There are plenty of people obsessed with having grandchildren. Besides, why didn’t they just tell you from the beginning if their kid was problematic. You too, pretending to be so good.”

Aurora just smiles. Used to hearing Velia grumble like this. Since she knew about Alex’s affair from the start, Velia seemed to have lost respect. Especially after hearing Savana’s request for Nicole to get close to and seduce Alex.

“Because I used to love Alex so much. I just couldn’t bear to see him embarrassed or feel inferior in front of his extended family.”

“Ah, naive. You know? Because of your love that’s too blind, you’re willing to be oppressed and often humiliated. If I were you, I’d be done with Alex and his Mom.”

“What would you do?”

“I’d poison them so they’d meet the angel of death soon.”

Aurora shakes her head. Normally, anyone would be annoyed with all of Savana’s antics over the years. Velia is right, she’s just too patient. And what’s the result? Savana acted far, almost endangering her life. As if she’s never satisfied until Aurora truly suffers.

“Excuse me, Dr. Aurora.”

One of the nurses appears to enter Aurora's workspace. Approaching the owner of the room's desk, she then hands a box of cake to the young woman.

"Yes, what is it?"

"This is a delivery from Dr. Alden."

Velia is enthusiastic. She even gets up from her seat to check what Alden has sent to the nurse to give to Aurora.

"What is it, Sus?"

"It seems like cake. Because, we who are on duty in the ER were also given the same by Dr. Alden."

Velia nods in understanding. Actually, she's not surprised. After all, Alden often gives snacks or heavy meals to be distributed to the nurses on duty or colleagues who are working. According to people, Alden is handsome, kind, and not stingy either. The only thing lacking is one. He's still single!

"Where's Dr. Alden anyway? It's unusual for him to send things through others. Usually, he gives them himself."

After handing over the cake box she was holding, the nurse stepped back. Intending to prepare to leave the room occupied by Aurora and Velia.

"He was going to give it himself. But, suddenly he was called by Dr. Asher to assist in surgery."

The nurse then excused herself and left. Afterwards, Velia immediately opened the cake box on the table to see what cake Alden had sent to Aurora.

"Oh my, cheesecake with cherries. Dr. Alden really knows your taste." Then Velia remained silent for a moment as if she was thinking. Not long after, she seemed hysterical. "Oh my God, this morning you were complaining that you wanted to eat cheesecake. Did Alden send this at your request?"

Aurora rolled her eyes.

“Nonsense. Why would I ask Alden for anything? I can buy it myself on the way home from work later.”

“Then, how did he know you wanted this cake?”

Aurora shrugged her shoulders hurriedly. She didn't understand how Alden could give her the cake she had wanted to eat since yesterday.

“How would I know?”

“Maybe he can read your thoughts and feelings? So sweet, huh? Alden is too sensitive. Rarely do guys pay attention like that. Sometimes, even if we speak frankly, we're not given anything.”

Aurora just sighed. She realized that Velia's recent words were clearly mocking and teasing. Somehow, whenever it came to Alden, her friend got overly excited. This content belongs to Nô/velDra/ma.Org .

“Seriously, Alden is really trying to get your attention,” the woman continued.

“You don't know that just the other day he asked for permission to approach me again.”

Velia's eyes widened immediately. Like someone who just got hot gossip, she pulled her chair closer to hear more about what Aurora had just said. How could her friend just mention Alden's alleged attempt at flirtation now?

“Seriously?”

Aurora just nodded without saying anything.

“So, what did you say?”

“What do you think?”

Aurora teased. Of course, this answer made Velia immediately irritated.

“Annoying. Why can’t you just get to the point? It’s a sin for your friend to be so curious.”

“Are you just curious or really curious?”

“Enough, I’m done.” Velia pouted immediately. Even though she was the one being nosy.

“Okay, okay. When asked the other day, I didn’t say anything.”

Velia paused for a moment. Then she asked.

“Why? Why didn’t you answer? This is a golden opportunity. Besides, aren’t you still in love with Alden?”

“Says who?”

Velia looked at Aurora’s face. She observed it closely. Then she confirmed her statement.

“Even without admitting it, it’s obvious from your face that you still have feelings for Dr. Alden. Those traces of regret are also visible.”

Aurora immediately pulled her face. She patted her cheeks, nose, and chin while shaking her head with an expression of disbelief.

“Oh really? Is it that obvious?”

Velia nodded and then laughed.

“Very clear. Besides, if I were you, I would regret it from the beginning, why didn’t you just be patient and accept another guy’s proposal for marriage. But, instead, it’s a flop.”

Aurora pinched Velia’s arm several times. Her friend was teasing her too much.

“Can’t you say it without being so blunt?”

“But it’s true, right?”

“Yeah.”

“So what’s next?”

“What do you mean?”

Velia grunted in frustration. “Well, what else are you waiting for, Aurora Harperwood? This is your first love asking to reconcile. Your status now is single. So, what else needs to be considered?”

Aurora took a deep breath. Indeed, there were many considerations she had to think about before opening her heart and allowing Alden to come back into her life. Truly, it’s not as easy as Velia thinks.

“I need time. I need time to heal from the disappointment I just felt.”

“For how long, Aurora? If it takes too long, Alden might be taken by another woman. Don’t forget, he’s handsome and stable. Many are after him!”

Aurora shrugged. She couldn’t guarantee this answer.

“I don’t know. As ready as my heart can be. Besides, if it’s meant to be, it will happen. For now, there’s still the fear and trauma I feel. For God’s sake, I’m afraid that the previous incident might happen again.”

Seeing the look in Aurora’s eyes, Velia nodded understandingly. She reached for Aurora’s hands and gently held them.

“I pray that your heart heals soon. But, don’t close your heart for too long. You’re still young. You deserve to find a much better partner who can make you happy.”

Velia then hugged Aurora. Strengthening and providing support so that her friend could be more confident.



Unpredictable Betrayal : A Sweet of Revenge

“Asher, haven’t you finished your work yet?”

In the evening, when it was time to leave work, Aurora deliberately approached her younger brother who was in the ER room. She wanted to make sure Asher had finished his work since it was time to go home.

Aurora asked for a reason. Considering after the incident with Savana, Asher insisted on escorting his sister, meaning she had to go home with him.

“I’m still checking the patient diagnoses. Some of them are in unstable condition.” This is property © of NôvelDrama.Org.

“So, should I wait for you?”

Before Asher could answer, several nurses ran over, asking Asher to move to provide medical treatment urgently.

“Doc, there’s an emergency in the VIP room. Dr. Alfredo tried to handle it. He’s asking for Dr. Asher to perform the surgery.”

Asher nodded. He quickly got ready.

“Let me check the patients first. You guys prepare the operating room.” Then Asher approached his sister again. “Aurora, you go home with the driver. I’ll call for pick-up later.”

Although Aurora had already agreed by nodding, Asher changed his mind.

“Wait a moment,” he said. He then grabbed Alden, who had just come out of the elevator. “Alden, your shift is over, right?”

Alden, who was surprised, nodded immediately.

“Yes. I’m about to leave. Why? Is there an emergency?”

Asher shook his head.

“No. Can you please take Aurora home?”

“Asher!” Aurora was about to protest. Weren’t they supposed to agree that she would be picked up by the driver? “But you said—”

“It seems fine with Alden,” Asher interrupted hurriedly. He prepared to leave. “He’s leaving anyway. Besides, your houses are in the same direction.”

“But—”

“Just come with me.” This time, Alden cut in. “I don’t mind at all.”

“In that case, please take care of Aurora,” Asher said again. “Make sure she gets home safely.”

Then Asher left. He didn’t care whether Aurora agreed or not. For him, the most important thing was that his sister got home with a man he trusted to ensure her safety.

“Let’s go, we’re heading home.”

Aurora reluctantly agreed. She followed Alden when he led her to the car.

For Aurora, even though she had known Alden for a long time and even had a relationship with him, moments like this, going home together alone, still felt awkward. Just like when they first met and went through the courtship process.

“By the way, did you eat the cake I gave you?”

To lighten the moment of silence, Alden took the initiative to ask, opening up a topic for Aurora to talk about.

“I did. I shared it with Velia. Thank you so much. It was just what I wanted.”

While driving, Alden smiled. He was glad his effort wasn't in vain.

“You're welcome. It just so happened that I wanted to give the cake as a reward to the ER team who have been busy taking care of the overwhelming number of patients these past three days. When I went to the bakery, I remembered that you liked that cake.”

“You remember everything.”

This time Alden laughed.

“I told you, anything related to you, how could I forget?”

Aurora sighed. She shook her head.

“Believe it or not. By the way, since we're going in the same direction, can you please stop by the bakery in front? Amma and Asher's wife want to visit our house. I want to buy them some cakes to take home later.”

Alden agreed. He slowed down the car as they approached the bakery where Aurora went in.

Alden got out too, accompanying Aurora who seemed busy choosing and buying cakes to give to her mother and sister-in-law.

“There are quite a few,” Alden commented as he saw the variety of cakes Aurora chose and bought.

“Yeah, Ciara, Asher’s daughter, really loves these cakes. So, I purposely bought a lot. I’m sure she’ll bring them to school for snacks tomorrow.”

Seeing Aurora struggling to carry so many cakes, Alden took the initiative to help move them into the shopping bag provided. At the same time, they heard someone suddenly speaking up.

“Oh, so this is the reason why you wanted a quick divorce?”

Aurora and Alden both turned around. They found Nicole, who was also in the bakery.

“Just a few weeks of being a widow and already have a new crush. Clearly shows who can’t stand being alone, right?”

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“Let me help you carry it down.”

As the car he was driving arrived right in front of Aurora’s house, Alden gladly offered his assistance. Despite the short distance, he couldn’t bear to see the woman carrying her shopping items alone.

“Don’t worry, it’s free. I won’t charge for the help.”

Alden continued to offer his help, persuading Aurora until she finally nodded in agreement.

“Thanks for your help. Sorry for bothering you.”

“Not at all, Aurora.”

After all, what’s so difficult about helping to carry shopping bags? It didn’t require much effort at all.

“No need to thank me for such things.”

“But...” Aurora interjected after a moment. “Regarding what happened at the bakery earlier, I also want to thank you. Thank you for making my troublesome cousin shut up.”

Alden chuckled. He had already forgotten about it, but now he was reminded. It was funny to think about how he responded to the ridiculous accusations from Aurora’s cousin.

“No wonder she wanted to split from Alex quickly. Turns out there’s already a new crush waiting.”

Aurora immediately frowned. If only they weren’t in a public place, she would have slapped Nicole’s mouth for speaking so carelessly.

“It’s none of your business,” Aurora replied calmly.

“Well, yeah, who you get close to isn’t my concern. But it’s just funny. Imagine, you’re actually hypocritical. Calling others flirty when you’re the one who’s flirty and thirsty for affection from other men.”

Aurora struggled to contain herself. Imagine, being called a prostitute by her beautiful, classy, and elegant self. How infuriating! She wanted to retaliate immediately, but Alden quickly stopped her. He shook his head, urging Aurora not to be provoked.

“Sorry,” Alden took over the conversation. “Can you look over there for a moment?” he asked, pointing his finger at one of the objects in the bakery.

Nicole complied. She followed where Alden’s hand was pointing.

“Why, though?”

“Are you reflecting on and accusing Aurora of things without reflecting on yourself first? If not, maybe you should reflect on yourself first.”

Damn!

Nicole’s face immediately flushed with anger. She didn’t appreciate Alden openly mocking her, especially since they didn’t even know each other.

“Hey, this isn’t your business! Stay out of it.”

Alden laughed.

“Aren’t you implying questions about Aurora who’s out with me? That means you’re deliberately involving me here. Besides, whether Aurora gets close to me, a celebrity, or a government official, isn’t your concern,” Alden replied firmly. “Sorry, not meaning to interfere, but before you say anything, you should think first. If Aurora wants to get close to anyone after divorcing, it’s her prerogative. After all, she’s single now. And personally, I’m not committed to anyone. What’s dangerous is if Aurora gets close to a man who is clearly married. Like what you did before, for example. That’s embarrassing.”

Nicole was immediately stung. Her mouth was ready to retort to Alden’s words. But before she could speak, he started talking again, making Nicole swallow her words again.

“Seriously, I’m not trying to offend you. This is just what happened here. And again, if I may offer some advice, be a classy woman. I admit you’re beautiful. But unfortunately, that beauty goes to waste when used to seduce married men. It seems like you’re not good enough to attract the attention of established bachelor men.”

Because of this statement, Aurora struggled to contain her laughter. Nicole even decided to leave immediately without continuing her intended purpose of buying cakes.

Aurora didn’t actually expect Alden to defend her to this extent. Usually, the one who always acted like this and always stood at the forefront was Asher.

“Actually, no need to thank me. I also couldn’t stand hearing her talk nonsense without reflecting on herself.”

“But, I just didn’t expect it.”

Alden’s eyebrows immediately furrowed.

“Didn’t expect what?”

“Turns out you’re good at talking too.”

Alden laughed. He only realized he had talked too much back at the bakery.

“Well, alright. Let’s go, I’ll help you carry your shopping.”

Aurora then got out of the car. She let Alden help carry the bags of cakes she had bought. When they entered the house, they found her mother and sister-in-law had already arrived and were waiting.

“Mama, Chava.”

Aurora greeted them immediately. Then she instructed Alden to place her shopping items on the living room table.

“Have you been here long?” Aurora hugged Elena and Chava alternately. Then she pinched Ciara, who was standing not far from her mother.

“Not really. Maybe just fifteen minutes ago.”

“Is Papa not coming here?”

“Asher will pick him up from the office later.” Then Elena shifted her gaze. She looked at Alden, then promptly addressed him.

“This is Alden, right?”

“Yes, Ma.”

Elena stepped closer. Without hesitation, she suddenly gave him a brief hug. Aurora hadn’t even hugged Alden yet.

“Oh my goodness. It’s been so long since we met. You’re getting more handsome now.”

Alden smiled. It had been a long time since they last met, yet Elena still remembered him.

“Thank you. Is Mama Elena doing well?”

Elena nodded while continuing to gaze intently.

“Healthy. How about you? Asher said you’re working in Santa Monica now?”

“Yeah. I’ve moved to Santa Monica now.”

“Good.” Elena couldn’t deny that she felt happy. “So you won’t be far from Aurora.”

Aurora immediately glared. Her mother’s behavior was just like Asher’s, always meddling and speaking without thinking.

“Mom!”

“What’s wrong? Is there something wrong with what Mama said?” Then Elena turned back to Alden. “But, sorry if Mama was being intrusive earlier, Alden, are you married? If you are, please forgive Mama’s earlier words.”

Asked like that, Alden quickly shook his head.

“Not yet. Alden is still single.”

“Wow.” Elena’s eyes widened instantly. A clear expression of joy appeared on her face. “It seems like this time you’ll be matched with Aurora.”

Unable to tolerate her mother’s chatter, which was going off-topic, Aurora immediately pulled Alden away. She worried that he might feel uncomfortable with her mother’s meddling and thoughtless behavior.

“Forgive Mama, okay? She’s always like that.”

Alden laughed. He didn’t feel disturbed or annoyed at all by Elena’s words.

“Just relax, Aurora. But, for your Mama’s latest comment, I wholeheartedly say amen in my heart.”

Aurora's eyebrows immediately furrowed. She recalled what her mother had said earlier.

"About?"

"About Mama Elena saying that we might be a match this time."

Don't ask about Aurora's current facial expression. She was sure her cheeks were blushing with embarrassment. There was a mixture of flattery, embarrassment, and a little bit of happiness, actually.

"Oh my. Anyway, thank you so much for your help today. Now, hurry home. You might get stuck in traffic."

"Yeah... sure. Oh, but before I go, I have a question."

"What question?"

"There's a gathering event scheduled for the weekend, right? Will you be attending?"

Aurora was silent for a moment. She remembered that the hospital had an annual gathering event planned for the weekend.

"I don't know yet. Still assessing the situation. Why?"

Alden shook his head slightly while smiling.

"No reason, I just wanted to ask. Well then, I'll take my leave now."

"Why the long face? Your beauty will fade away."

At a coffee shop, Nicole looked grumpy. After meeting Aurora, she decided to join her friend who was hanging out at one of their usual spots.

"I'm really annoyed! I feel like eating someone."

The woman sitting in front of Nicole burst into laughter. It seemed like it had been a long time since she saw her friend so upset. Usually, whenever something happened, Nicole would immediately tell her.

“Who do you want to eat?”

“My cousin!”

The woman in front of Nicole wondered what could have made her so upset.

“Why again?”

Nicole didn't answer immediately. She took a sip of the cold lemon tea that was already in front of her.

“It's a long story if I have to tell you from the beginning. The point is, she's always been so bullying, condescending, and even humiliating me. A total psycho!”

“Oh, really? That's terrible.”

Nicole nodded.

“And earlier, when we were at the bakery, she and her new boyfriend embarrassed me. It's so annoying! I wanted to retaliate right then and there.”

“So why didn't you retaliate? You usually don't like being bullied?”

This time Nicole seemed to sigh heavily. Like someone who was tired of facing a big problem.

“I wanted to retaliate right away. But, I thought I'd wait. I have to retaliate in a way that she'll never forget. It's her own fault for always belittling people.”

“Well, don't be upset anymore. Let's just eat your croissant. If you want more, just order again. Or do you want something heavier? I'll treat you.”

Nicole declined the offer given. Her appetite was gone because she was too upset about what had just happened.

“No, thanks. I’ve lost my appetite.”

“Don’t be like that. Your baby will feel sorry.”

Nicole felt conflicted. She forgot that there was a baby in her belly that she needed to take care of.

“Oh, by the way, tomorrow I’m starting at a new workplace.” Nicole’s friend sounded enthusiastic to inform her. “Next time, if you want to check your pregnancy, just go to the hospital where I work. Don’t worry, I’ll make it free for you.” Exclusive © content by N(ô)ve/l/Drama.Org.

Nicole sighed. But she thanked her friend for the kindness offered.

“Are you sure you want to give me a free check-up? How about when I give birth later, you’ll be the doctor. So it’ll be free too.”

The woman in front of Nicole laughed.

“Easy. That can be arranged.”

Nicole’s friend was indeed kind. They had been friends for a long time. This wasn’t the first time she had been offered help.

“So, which hospital are you moving to?”

The woman smiled. She finished her strawberry milkshake first. Then she answered Nicole’s question.

“I got my assignment at Santa Monica Hospital. So, in the future, I’ll be practicing there.”

Nicole immediately burst into laughter. Suddenly, she remembered something.

“Are you really moving to Santa Monica Hospital?”

“Yes. Why?”

Instead of answering, Nicole just smiled broadly. After that, she said something to her friend.

Unpredictable Betrayal : A Sweet of Revenge

Aurora had finished her breakfast. Reaching for the doctor’s coat hanging on the chair, she quickly got ready and headed straight to the front of the house, worried that Asher had already arrived at her residence.

However, when she stepped out, Aurora was taken aback. Instead of her brother, she found Alden there.

“Alden? Why are you here?”

Alden just smiled. He knew Aurora must be confused.

“I’m here to pick you up.”

Aurora paused for a moment. “Pick me up? But I’m supposed to leave for work with Asher. He’s the one who usually picks me up.”

Alden nodded. He didn’t deny Aurora’s statement.

“Yeah, I know. Actually, I came here early because Asher asked me to pick you up in his place.”

This made Aurora even more puzzled. Why would her brother suddenly ask Alden to pick her up? Was it intentional because he wanted her and Alden to get closer again?

“Wait,” Alden said. He then took out his phone, opened the messaging app, and showed it to Aurora. “I’m not lying. Asher asked for my help.”

Aurora turned to look. She directed her brown eyes to the phone Alden handed her.

Asher: Alden, you have a morning schedule today, right? If you don't mind, please pick up Aurora and take her to the hospital. I have some important matters this morning that I can't leave.

After reading it, Aurora sighed. Her brother just casually passed her off to someone else. If he was busy, why didn't he say so from the beginning? She also had a driver who could have been utilized.

"Asher is such a jerk. He didn't even mention that he asked you to pick me up."

Alden chuckled at Aurora's annoyed expression. It was understandable that the woman was getting irritated by her brother.

"It's okay, really. Besides, I don't mind being asked to pick you up."

"But, I'm sure this was deliberate."

"It doesn't matter," Alden replied casually. "Whether deliberate or not, I'm sincerely willing to pick you up."

Aurora sighed. Then Alden was allowed to get into the car immediately. What else could she do? She had already been picked up and it was impossible to refuse. She resigned herself to accompanying him to the hospital.

"Do you want to grab breakfast first?" Alden offered as they drove. He knew very well that Aurora was the type of person who had to have breakfast before doing anything.

"I've already had breakfast, but if you want to grab breakfast first, that's fine. Go ahead."

While driving, Alden shook his head.

"No, I brought some."

Then, while continuing to drive, Alden used one hand to open the dashboard. He took something out from there and handed it to Aurora.

“What’s this?”

“Just open it,” Alden requested without taking his focus off the road. Exclusive © content by N(ô)ve/l/Drama.Org.

Meanwhile, Aurora complied. She opened the blue lunchbox in her hand. Inside, she found a sandwich filled with eggs and meat, which she used to eat frequently in the past.

“Oh my, this is from back in the day.”

“When we were in college, you used to make me lunches like this all the time.”

Aurora laughed. It was crazy how almost every day Alden reminded her of the small things they used to do when they were dating.

“Can I have one?” Aurora took out a piece of cake from the box. She looked at it while turning it over and over.

“Sure, go ahead. Just don’t forget to say a prayer first.”

Aurora laughed happily. As she ate, she couldn’t help but remember the flashes of the past when she and Alden used to finish a whole box of sandwiches together in the campus library. And they did that almost every day without getting bored.

“It tastes just like it used to,” Aurora said admiringly. She believed that the sandwich Alden made tasted exactly the same as the ones she used to have.

Along the way to the hospital, Aurora enjoyed the sandwich given by Alden. Once they arrived and after making sure Aurora entered the room, Alden immediately left to carry out his daily tasks.

“Looks like someone is happy.”

Just as she sat down, Velia started teasing. Seeing Aurora coming to the hospital with Alden in person, it was certain that Velia would make fun of her.

“Happy about what?”

Aurora pretended to be indifferent. It would be dangerous if Velia knew she was getting sentimental about being treated kindly by her ex-boyfriend.

“Gosh, why can’t you just be honest if you actually enjoy Alden’s company?”

Aurora squinted. Even though it might be true, she still didn’t appreciate being accused so blatantly.

“Seriously! I’m fine, really.”

“What do you mean fine? Your face can’t lie, Rora. Look at those stars in your eyes.”

Velia was always the first to grumble or tease. There was always something for her to use to corner Aurora. But, for some reason, Aurora was very fond of her friend.

“It’s still early. Let’s not start World War III.”

“Who’s starting a war? I’m just being honest. Besides, even if you’re happy, it’s not a big deal. You’re free to be close and have relationships with any guy. As long as they’re not someone else’s husband.”

Aurora just nodded. She didn’t really care about Velia’s nagging. But, she never ran out of material; there was always something her friend would talk about and turn into conversation fodder.

“I almost forgot.”

“What now?”

“This week there’s the annual gathering event. Are you going?”

While checking the report, Aurora shrugged. She hadn’t really thought about whether she would attend or not, as usual.

“I don’t know yet.”

“Do you have plans?”

Aurora shook her head. Usually, when she was still Alex’s wife, every weekend was spent going out or having dinner together. Now that she was officially single, Aurora hadn’t thought about what activities she would do.

“Nothing.”

Velia sighed loudly.

“Geez. If you don’t have any urgent schedules or agendas, you might as well join the gathering event. It’s fun. Once a year.”

“Yeah, I know. Alden also asked me to join earlier.”

Velia immediately perked up and pulled the chair in front of Aurora’s desk. Sitting there, she engaged her friend in a one-on-one conversation.

“Well, that’s clearly an invitation for a date. You shouldn’t refuse.”

“Who’s going on a date?” Trying to recall, Alden inviting her to join the annual gathering event. There was no mention whatsoever of a date or anything like that. Velia was just making things up.

“It’s you and Alden.”

“Who’s going on a date? Alden just invited me to the gathering event.”

Velia nodded.

“Well, that’s just an excuse for him to still get close to you there. Plus, are you really okay with letting Alden go to the gathering alone? Don’t forget, he’s handsome. There are plenty of nurses and colleagues who have their eyes on him. What if he gets snatched up by someone else? Are you okay with that?”

Seriously, Aurora had never thought that far. Velia was going crazy. This woman was indeed skilled at provoking and instigating others.

“I think you’re overreacting.”

“How am I overreacting? I’m serious. Don’t regret it later if he suddenly gets taken by someone else because you’re slow to make a decision.”

Then, Velia got up. She grabbed Aurora’s wrist to follow her.

“Let’s go to the second floor. There’s a new doctor introduction today, right?”

Aurora nodded. Luckily Velia reminded her. Then, both of them headed to the meeting room on the second floor. There, many doctors had already gathered.

“Doctor Alden.”

Velia immediately greeted when she saw Alden entering the room with Asher. She waved for him to come over along with Aurora.

“I thought Doctor Alden had a morning surgery schedule.”

Alden smiled.

“Today, fortunately, there’s none. I have a surgery scheduled for this afternoon, a patient transferred from Singapore.”

Then Asher asked for attention. He invited the doctors to listen to him.

“As I mentioned earlier, today our hospital is welcoming three new doctors. I hope all of you can work together for the progress of Santa Monica Hospital.”

After that, one by one, Asher asked the new doctors to introduce themselves.

“Hello, I’m Haris, an anesthesiologist.”

“I’m Jasson. A specialist in orthopedics.”

The last one left to introduce herself happened to be a woman.

“Thank you for the welcome. I’m Regina. A specialist in obstetrics and gynecology. I hope to work well here.”

Regina smiled broadly. She looked at each of the doctors in front of her.

Unpredictable Betrayal : A Sweet of Revenge

“This is all because of Aurora!!!”

Savana cursed loudly. Her heart ached deeply accepting the reality of what was happening to her family at the moment. No matter how many times Alex tried to calm her down, she couldn’t extinguish the anger and frustration that had built up so high.

“Be patient, Mom. Just consider this as the consequence we have to bear.”

Savana couldn’t accept it. Turning around, she shot a sharp look at her son. Why couldn’t Alex understand what he wanted?

“You tell Mama to be patient? After splurging, wasting money on useless women like Nicole? And what’s the result? You’re tangled in debt and end up selling Dad’s inherited house?”

Alex sighed wearily. Almost every day they argued about the same things.

Even though he had eventually managed to pay off all his debts to Aurora by selling the only remaining house, Alex couldn’t say he was living peacefully. Until this moment, his mother was still angry. She was not accepting at all because they had to move to a smaller place than before.

“What else could we do? That was the only way out to pay off the debt. Besides, the proceeds from selling the house can still buy us a new one. Not a rental. Plus, there’s a little bit left to save.”

“But, this is too small, Alex. Mama doesn’t like it.”

Alex took a slow breath. He struggled to make Savana understand their situation.

Accustomed to living in a large house with all the facilities, Savana seemed shocked when Alex asked her to move to a smaller and, dare I say, simpler house.

Savana felt restricted in her movements. Not to mention some hobbies that she used to do at home, which she wouldn’t be able to do anymore.

“This is not small. It’s more than enough for the both of us.”

“No!” Savana shook her head. “Bring back the rose garden that Mama used to use to pass the time. And where’s the spacious kitchen Mama used to cook and bake?”

Alex closed his eyes tightly. It wasn’t easy to reason with his mother.

“I promise, I’ll buy Mama a bigger house later.”

“When? Don’t make empty promises. Mama doesn’t like being given false hopes.”

Alex’s throat tightened. It was difficult to deal with his mother, who was very hard to persuade.

“Mama, just pray that out of the many job applications I’ve submitted, one of them will be approved soon. For now, please be patient. The most important thing is we can still eat and live healthily.”

Savana scoffed. Her name wasn’t a little kid, and she wasn’t susceptible to empty promises and persuasions like that. If Alex weren’t her favorite son, she might have cursed him from the start.

“Yeah, for now, we’re healthy. But, eventually, Mama will go crazy if she’s forced to live in such a crappy place! Anyway, Mama swears she’ll get back at Aurora.”

“What else does Mama want to retaliate? Don’t be ridiculous. Enough with the theatrics. Just the other day, Mama caused a scene at the hospital. What if Aurora had reported it to the police?”

During the incident of Savana’s attack at the hospital, Alex was surprised when he received news from the hospital security that his mother had gone berserk and almost harmed Aurora. When picked up, the security also warned Savana never to return to Santa Monica hospital or be reported to the authorities.

However, Savana seemed unfazed or not repentant at all. Instead of feeling regret or guilty, it was still obvious that she harbored a deep grudge against Aurora.

“Let it be! Your ex-wife deserves to be treated harshly. Her words were rude and hurtful. Anyway, Mama will retaliate against her for making both of us suffer. Just watch out! Mama won’t let Aurora live happily. You’ll see!”

Savana wasn’t boasting. She swore deep in her heart. Anyway, if there’s an opportunity, she’ll retaliate against Aurora for the suffering she’s been enduring.

—

Done with her duties, Aurora sat in contemplation. Her mind wandered as if recalling something. Somehow, since yesterday, she had been feeling irritated. There was one moment that was actually ordinary. But, undoubtedly, it felt very disturbing.

“Alden?”

After the formal introduction with the new doctors, Regina, who was an obstetrician, greeted Alden as if they had known each other for a long

time. She invited him to shake hands, and unexpectedly, even kissed his cheeks without caring about the other doctors around.

“You work here too?”

Alden nodded and just smiled. He didn't overreact to what the woman in front of him said.

“Yes.”

“Oh my goodness, I never thought we'd work in the same hospital. If I have difficulties or need help, can I ask you, right?”

As someone who currently didn't have an official relationship with Alden, Aurora shouldn't be angry, let alone jealous. But, for some reason, seeing Alden suddenly kissed on the cheek by another woman, she felt... difficult to describe.

Aurora also swore she saw Alden uncomfortable with such treatment.

Because of this incident, Aurora became lazy to do anything. Sometimes, she wondered if Regina had any relationship with her ex-boyfriend.

“What are you doing? You must be thinking about Dr. Alden, right?”

Aurora lifted her face. Glancing briefly while pouting, she ignored Velia's words just now.

“Aurora...” Velia called again. “What's wrong with you? What's going on? Did you eat something wrong or what? You're not sick again, are you?”
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Velia bombarded Aurora with many questions. It was her fault that her friend had been acting strange since this morning, like someone with a lot of debts. During work, she only talked casually. Even when asked, she answered lazily. So weird!

“I'm fine.”

Velia sighed. Taking a bottle of cold mineral water, she handed it to Aurora and sat down in front of her friend.

“Lie. When a woman says she’s fine, it means something’s wrong, right?”

Aurora glanced up again. She took the water bottle given by Velia while sighing softly.

“Just feeling fed up.”

“Why are you fed up? Is something wrong?”

This time Aurora remained silent. She let Velia be confused again. Guessing on her own what actually happened.

“Ohhh...” Velia exclaimed hurriedly. “I know why you’ve been so irritated like a tangled thread. You must be thinking about Dr. Alden who was so intimate with the new doctor yesterday, right?”

Whatever deeds Velia’s mother did when she was pregnant with this girl. Or when she was a child, whatever nutritious food Velia ate. Why her friend was so good at guessing and sensitive to whatever happened to Aurora.

Throughout, almost all of Velia’s thoughts and opinions she expressed were always correct and proven. The solutions Velia often offered also made sense and were effective to follow. Truly magical.

“Just admit it. No need to be shy,” Velia teased when she found Aurora still remaining silent. Perhaps still feeling embarrassed to admit what she was feeling. “Besides, it’s human to feel annoyed, especially jealous.”

Aurora immediately lifted her face. She looked at Velia who was smiling in front of her.

“Is it really okay for me to be jealous?”

Velia nodded repeatedly.

“Of course, it’s okay. It’s a common thing.”

“But, Alden and I don’t even have any relationship.”

“Who says?” That serious look was clearly visible on Velia’s face. She enthusiastically responded to Aurora’s heartfelt expression, which sounded like someone troubled. “Let’s say it’s not official yet, but Alden has openly expressed that he wants to re-establish a close relationship like before. The problem is, you’re the one who’s unclear. Asked to accept it quickly, you’re still hesitating.”

“As I said before, I need time to heal from the trauma I’ve experienced.”

“Just go for outpatient treatment. No need to be hospitalized for long. If you take too long, your relationship will be in a coma.”

Aurora squinted. Couldn’t Velia be serious for once when talking to her?

“Furthermore...” Velia continued. “Alden didn’t ask you to get married tomorrow. Why not just accept his offer? After that, you can slowly rebuild the relationship that was once strained. When the time comes, discuss the next step more seriously. Done. It’s not as complicated as you think.”

Aurora fell silent. Staying in her seat, she thought carefully about the advice Velia had just given her. Upon reflection, there was indeed some truth to her friend’s words.

“Don’t think too long,” Velia said again. For God’s sake, this woman was so talkative. Everything had to be done immediately. “If you take too long, it’ll be stale. Seriously, another woman will snatch Dr. Alden. Whether it’s a nurse, a patient, or Dr. Regina, for example. Just look at their behavior yesterday. It’s guaranteed they already had a close relationship before. Otherwise, how could Dr. Regina dare to kiss Dr. Alden’s cheeks and call him brother?”

Unpredictable Betrayal : A Sweet of Revenge

Aurora's heart grew even hotter provoked by Velia. Although the jealousy she felt earlier hadn't disappeared. Now, instead of being extinguished, it was fueled further until the fire in her heart burned even brighter.

"So, what do you think I should do?"

"Just make a decision. So far, Alden has clearly shown that he's interested and trying to win your heart again. My advice is, you accept and reciprocate his kindness. If necessary, clarify and make sure about your relationship. So that no one dares to disturb you again in the future."

Aurora nodded. At the same time, her phone rang because there was a text message that came in.

Alden: Aurora, have you had lunch? If not, want to have lunch together? I'm currently at the cafe next to the hospital.

Aurora showed Velia the message Alden had just sent. Asking for her opinion on what she should do.

"Just go. Hurry up and catch up. Besides, why are you hanging around in the room? You're not even working!" Nôvel(D)ra/ma.Org exclusive © material.

Aurora laughed. After receiving enlightenment and a lengthy lecture, she decided to catch up with Alden who was already at the cafe next to the hospital.

When she arrived, the man waved at her. He gestured for Aurora to sit down in the chair in front of him.

"Sorry, I'm late."

Alden smiled. If observed closely, the man's smile hadn't changed since forever. Always the same and made his handsomeness increase by 100%.

"No problem. Waiting five or ten minutes, waiting for you for a lifetime, I'm willing."

“Can you please stop with your cheesy lines?”

This time Alden laughed.

“It’s just a hobby. By the way, what do you want to eat? I was planning to have soup and fried chicken.”

“Just go with that. What you chose is fine.”

Alden then called the waiter. After ordering their food, he invited Aurora to chat while waiting for their lunch to be served.

“How about the Gathering, will you join?”

Aurora nodded. After some thought, she indeed should attend the event.

“It seems like I’ll participate.”

“Ah...” Alden smiled broadly. Happy that Aurora finally decided to join the event. “Thank goodness. The last time we attended such an event was when we were about to graduate from college, right?”

“Yes. It’s been a long time.”

“Then, who are you going home with this afternoon? With Asher?”

Aurora shook her head.

“I think I’ll ask the driver to pick me up. Asher has a consultation schedule with a patient who’s going to have surgery tomorrow. So, he’ll be coming home late.”

“In that case, let me be the one to take you home.”

“Sure.” Unlike usual, Aurora immediately nodded in agreement. Remembering Velia’s advice earlier, if she indeed wanted to start rebuilding a serious relationship with Alden, she couldn’t afford to give any room or disregard any of his offers.

“Okay.”

Alden laughed heartily. Happy because Aurora wasn't overthinking anymore. Before digging into the food that had been served, he remembered something to explain.

"Oh, by the way, Rora."

"Hmm? What's up?" Aurora replied while enjoying her soup in front of her.

"About what happened yesterday, I apologize."

Aurora understood what Alden was talking about. She believed he must feel uncomfortable because Aurora saw him being kissed by another woman whom Aurora didn't know beforehand.

"I'm afraid you feel uncomfortable. But, you need to know. Me and Regina, we --"

"Alden!"

Before Alden finished speaking, the person being discussed suddenly appeared. Carrying a tray of food, even without being invited to sit down, she sat right next to Alden.

"Can I join you?"

Then Regina looked at Aurora. She invited the woman to talk.

"Is it okay, doc? I'll sit here too. All the other tables are full. I'm really hungry after just finishing a cesarean section surgery."

Aurora nodded awkwardly. She allowed Regina to join her and Alden. After all, there were no available or empty tables.

"Alden, how long have you been working here?" Regina asked while eating her food. Meanwhile, Aurora continued to eat, occasionally observing the woman in front of her.

"For a while."

“And how’s your mom? Is she doing well?” Regina smiled widely.

“She’s fine.”

“Thank goodness. It’s been so long since I moved abroad, I haven’t seen them. Can I visit them sometime soon?”

Alden simply nodded. He chose to quickly finish his meal and then urged Aurora to return to the hospital.

“Sorry if you didn’t feel comfortable earlier.”

“It’s okay,” Aurora chatted. “I’m fine.”

Even though her heart was boiling. Enjoying a meal together, only to be interrupted by another woman.

“Well then, I’ll head back to work. After I’m done for the day, I’ll come by. We can continue our conversation on the way home.”

Aurora let Alden leave. She chose to continue working.

At exactly five o’clock, Alden kept his promise to pick up Aurora in her office. They both prepared to leave together.

“Next time on my day off, would you like to have dinner or watch a movie together?”

As they walked through the hospital lobby, Aurora glanced back. She was briefly puzzled about whether to accept the offer right away or think about it first.

“We can go whenever you’re free,” Alden added softly. Understanding that Aurora might not have made up her mind yet. “Whenever it suits you.”

Aurora smiled.

“Sure, that’d be nice. As long as you treat me to ice cream.”

Alden was overjoyed. If Aurora agreed, it was just a matter of deciding when to take his former girlfriend out.

As they reached the parking lot, Alden helped open the car door. But before Aurora could get in, someone called out.

“Alden.”

Once again, Regina approached. Carrying her bag, she approached Alden who was standing next to the car.

“Can I hitch a ride home? I didn’t bring my car today. You know my parents don’t allow me to take a taxi home.”

“But—”

“Please... just this once.” Regina then turned to Aurora. Once again, she asked for permission. “Can I join, doc? Fortunately, my house isn’t too far from the hospital. It’s only about a kilometer from here.”

Aurora couldn’t refuse. She nodded, allowing Regina to join.

“Thank you, Dr. Aurora, Dr. Alden.”

Then, without hesitation, the woman got into the car. Instead of sitting in the back seat, she sat in the passenger seat, next to Alden.



Unpredictable Betrayal : A Sweet of Revenge

“Darn it!!!”

Aurora screamed loudly while in her room. She vented out the frustration that she had been holding back since earlier.

Although Aurora had already shampooed, showered, and even soaked in warm water for a while, for some reason, she still felt the sparks of emotion inside her heart not subsiding.

Since earlier, Aurora had been trying to forget. But still, the image of what happened in the car on the way home kept crossing her mind.

“Does Dr. Alden still live with Mama Zendaya? Or does he have his own place?”

Regina, sitting next to Alden, asked casually. From the beginning of the trip, she had been discussing something or the other. Truly, Aurora felt irritated just seeing the woman’s behavior.

“He lives in an apartment.”

Regina blinked. She turned to make sure she heard correctly.

“Seriously, now he lives alone? I thought he still lived with Mama. I remember vividly how your mom used to nag about not letting Dr. Alden study abroad because she didn’t want to be far from her beloved son.”

“You still remember that.”

This time Regina flashed a wide smile. She seemed nodding along.

“How could I forget? Before they moved, almost every day I was left at Dr. Alden’s house by your mom. So, I know very well how fond and clingy Mama Zendaya is with Dr. Alden. By the way, which area is his apartment in?”

While focusing on driving, Alden tried to answer briefly.

“Not far from the hospital either.”

“Oh, really? Does Dr. Alden drive to the hospital every day by himself?”

Alden nodded. Previously, he always went everywhere alone. Only recently had he been looking for opportunities to go to and from work together with Aurora.

“Yes, luckily,” Regina said then. “That means if someday I don’t bring my car and I want to join, it’s okay, right? Besides, our places are in the same direction, and the distance isn’t far either.”

Alden remained silent. He neither rejected nor accepted Regina’s request just now.

Although the conversation lasted only about 15 minutes, Aurora still felt irritated. After dropping off Regina at her destination, she chose to stay quiet.

Perhaps feeling something was wrong, Alden gave an explanation. Before getting out of the car, he held Aurora for a moment, then told her what he wanted to say at the cafe earlier today.

“It’s not about being confident, I know you might feel uncomfortable and uneasy about Regina’s behavior since she arrived yesterday, right?”

At that moment, Aurora remained silent. She wanted to be honest and admit it, but she felt embarrassed.

“No. I’m fine.”

Alden smiled. He had known Aurora’s character for more than just a day or two. They had been in a close relationship for several years. Of course, he knew her habits and gestures.

“Okay. But, I think it’s necessary to explain this to you so there’s no misunderstanding. Regina and I do know each other. Besides being

neighbors, our parents are also friends. When we were kids, she did stay at our house often.”

Aurora listened carefully. In the end, she understood why Regina was acting so familiar with Alden.

“Oh, you’ve known each other since childhood? That’s why you seem so close. But, back when we were dating, why didn’t I ever see her?”

After asking this question, Aurora cursed herself. Earlier, she had claimed to be fine. Why was she now so curious and asking all sorts of questions?

“When we were dating, she had already moved with her parents who had duties outside the area.”

Aurora just nodded. Then the situation became silent again. Both of them remained silent. Until the car Alden was driving reached Aurora’s house, he held Aurora back for a moment.

“For heaven’s sake, I never thought Regina would become a new doctor at Santa Monica Hospital.” Alden seemed to be straightforward. There were no more pleasantries he conveyed. “And yesterday during the introduction session, I never thought Regina would be kissing cheeks left and right. I’m sorry.”

“Sorry? For what?” Aurora asked, puzzled.

“Sorry if you might feel uncomfortable. Or if there are any behaviors or attitudes of mine that make you uneasy. But, I need to make it clear that I have no relationship whatsoever with Regina.”

Aurora should have felt relieved because Alden openly gave assurance that he had no special relationship with Regina. But, for some reason, Aurora still felt overwhelmed by annoyance.

“Why does she have to tease like that?!”

Aurora kept muttering. While pacing back and forth, she was annoyed remembering Regina’s behavior all day.

“What’s wrong, Aurora? Why are you shouting like that?”

From the front door, Elena appeared. She, who happened to be at Aurora’s house, hurried over when she heard an unusual scream coming from her daughter’s room. It was Aurora’s fault for not closing the door properly. So, whatever she did was heard by her mother.

“Aurora is upset, Ma.”

Elena sighed. She pulled Aurora to sit beside her on the bed.

“Damn it!”

Aurora shouted loudly from her room. She released the frustration that she had been holding back since earlier.

Even though Aurora had already shampooed, showered, and even soaked in warm water for a while. But, for some reason, she still felt the lingering emotions inside her heart didn’t subside. NôvelDrama.Org © 2024.

Since earlier, Aurora had been trying to forget. But, the image of the incident that happened in the car on the way home kept passing through her mind.

“Does Doctor Alden still live with Mama Zendaya? Or does he have his own house?”

Regina, sitting beside Alden, asked casually. From the beginning of the trip, that woman always found something to talk about. Truly, Aurora couldn’t help but feel annoyed seeing her behavior.

“He lives in an apartment.”

Regina blinked. She turned to make sure she heard correctly.

“Seriously, he’s living on his own now? I thought he was still with Mama. I remember vividly how your mother used to nag about not letting Doctor Alden study abroad because she didn’t want to be far from her beloved son.”

“You still remember that.”

This time, Regina flashed a wide smile. She seemed to be nodding in agreement.

“How could I forget? Before moving, almost every day I was left at Doctor Alden’s house by Mama. So, I know very well how Mama Zendaya doted on and stuck to Doctor Alden. By the way, which area is his apartment?”

While focusing on driving, Alden tried to answer as best as he could.

“Not far from the hospital either.”

“Oh, really? Does Doctor Alden drive to the hospital every day?”

Alden nodded. Previously, he always went everywhere by himself. Recently, he had often sought opportunities to go to and from work together with Aurora.

“Yes, luckily,” Regina said later. “That means if I don’t bring my car someday and want to join, it’s okay, right? Besides, our places are in the same direction, and the distance isn’t far.”

Alden remained silent. He neither rejected nor accepted Regina’s request just now.

Unpredictable Betrayal : A Sweet of Revenge

Although the conversation lasted only about 15 minutes, Aurora still felt irritated. After dropping Regina off at her destination, she chose to remain silent.

Maybe because she felt something was wrong, Alden briefly explained. Before getting out of the car, he held Aurora back for a moment, then told her what he wanted to say at the cafe earlier today.

“It’s not about being overconfident; I know you might feel uncomfortable and uneasy about Regina’s behavior since she arrived yesterday, right?”

Aurora remained silent at that moment. She wanted to honestly admit it, but she felt embarrassed.

“No. I’m fine.”

Alden smiled. He had known Aurora’s character for more than a day or two. They had been close for several years. Of course, he knew her habits and gestures.

“Okay. But, I think it’s necessary to explain this to you so you don’t misunderstand. Regina and I do know each other. Besides being neighbors, our parents are also friends. When we were kids, she often stayed at our house.”

Aurora listened attentively. In the end, she knew why Regina acted so familiarly with Alden.

“Oh, you’ve known each other since childhood? That’s why you seem so close. But, when we were dating, why didn’t I ever see her?”

After asking this question, Aurora cursed herself. Earlier, she had admitted she was fine. Why was she now so curious and kept asking various questions?

“When we were dating, she had moved with her parents who were assigned out of town.”

Aurora just nodded. Then the situation fell silent again. Both remained silent. Until the car Alden was driving reached Aurora’s house, he held Aurora back for a moment.

“By God, I never expected Regina to become a new doctor at Santa Monica Hospital.”

Alden got straight to the point. There were no more pleasantries he conveyed. “And yesterday during the introduction session, I also never

expected Regina to be so affectionate, kissing on both cheeks. I apologize.”

“Apologize? For what?” Aurora asked, puzzled.

“Apologize if you might feel uncomfortable. Or if there’s any behavior or attitude of mine that makes you feel uneasy. But, I need to emphasize that I have no relationship whatsoever with Regina.”

Aurora should have felt relieved because Alden openly assured her that he had no special relationship with Regina. But, for some reason, Aurora still felt annoyed.

“Why tease like that?!”

Aurora continued to grumble. Walking back and forth, she felt annoyed remembering Regina’s behavior all day.

“Why are you upset, Aurora? Why are you shouting like that?” NôvelDrama.Org © 2024.

From the front door, Elena appeared. She, who was indeed in Aurora’s house, hurried over when she heard an unusual shout coming from her daughter’s room. Aurora’s own fault for not closing the door. So, whatever she did was heard by her mother.

“Aurora is upset, Mom.”

Elena sighed. She pulled Aurora to sit beside her on the bed.

“Why upset? Tell Mama.”

Aurora took a deep breath. Usually, whenever something happened, she always talked to her mother. Besides getting solutions, her mother was also good at keeping secrets.

“I want to tell. But, you’ll probably laugh, Mom.”

“Why laugh? What’s wrong?”

Aurora reassured her heart again. Believing in all the consequences she would face, she told Elena.

“Is it normal for someone who has just divorced to start a new relationship with someone else?”

Elena smiled. She understood why Aurora was so confused.

“Why wouldn’t it be normal? Your status is official on your own. Wanting to open a new chapter with another man isn’t a problem. Besides, life goes on. You deserve to be happy.”

Just like Velia, Elena never discouraged her daughter from starting a new relationship. Moreover, why linger in the past.

“I’m actually feeling suffocated, Mom. Aurora is jealous of a woman who is close to Alden.”

Elena burst into laughter. Finally, she knew what made her daughter so irritable.

“Oh dear, Aurora. So, you’re jealous? Yesterday when Grandma was matchmaking, you were being coy.”

Aurora pouted while sulking. She knew she would be teased by her mother.

“I know this is excessive. But, what can I do? I’m really upset.”

“Not excessive, Aurora. It’s human. That’s why if you still like Alden, just don’t play hard to get. Show him how you feel.”

“Is it really okay?”

Elena laughed again. She admitted that her daughter was hopeless when it came to love affairs.

“Yes, it’s okay. Besides, Mama sees that Alden still has feelings for you too. And he’s a good guy, polite, with a clear background.”

“He did confess already. He said he wants to rekindle our relationship like before.”

Elena suddenly pulled her face.

“Oh really? Then what are you waiting for? If Alden is ready, just accept it. Mama will give you blessings for a more serious level.”

Aurora seemed to weigh it. Although she liked it, she couldn't just marry right away.

“I'll think about it later. Let's take it slowly for now.”

“Alright. It's up to you. Just don't take too long to think. Alden might be taken by someone else soon.”

If yesterday she was upset, perhaps this morning Aurora felt happy. How couldn't she, when early in the morning Alden had already come to pick her up. He then invited Aurora to stop by a nearby eatery for breakfast.

For Aurora, although brief, the time spent with Alden was quite meaningful. She reminisced about the moments and routine activities they often did when they were still dating.

“How is it? Are you full? Or do you want to buy more snacks?”

Aurora smiled. After finishing her drink, she shook her head.

“I'm good. I'm already very full. Let's go to the hospital now.”

“Don't you want to buy snacks for the room? So you can eat with Velia?”

Aurora nodded. Alden's idea had merit. She chose to buy some snacks first, then hurriedly went to the hospital.

However, just as they arrived at the hospital, Aurora and Alden once again crossed paths with Regina. Without hesitation, the young doctor called out and immediately approached.

“I’ve been looking for you everywhere. Turns out Doctor Alden just arrived.”

Alden, who had just passed through the lobby, turned immediately. He redirected his gaze to Regina.

“Looking for me? What’s up?”

Then Regina handed something over. She asked Alden to accept it.

“Here, it’s from my mom. I told her that we work at the same hospital. So, early this morning, she made this pandan cake to be given to Doctor Alden. Please enjoy it.”

Alden couldn’t refuse. He accepted it and excused himself to go to the emergency room.

Meanwhile, Aurora did the same. A little annoyed, she went straight to the room. Velia wasn’t visible at that moment. While grumbling softly, she poured out her frustration because her mood had been ruined since morning by Regina’s presence, who came and directly handed Asher a box of food.

“Why does she always bother? It’s annoying.”

Aurora grumbled. She made herself irritated.

“Why did Asher even accept food from his new female doctor? Like there’s no other doctor available. Well, it’s not a problem if he knows Alden. But, it’s not necessary to bother every day.”

Continuing to grumble, Aurora paced back and forth. Her steps halted when she heard someone knocking.

“Yes, come in!” she replied curtly. It wasn’t like her to act like this.

“What else?”

When she turned towards the door, Aurora paused for a moment. In front of her eyes, she saw the figure of a man whom she had half-heartedly tried to forget.

“Alex, what are you doing here?”

Unpredictable Betrayal : A Sweet of Revenge

“Alex, what brings you here?”

After a brief moment of confusion, Aurora immediately threw the question. She was a bit surprised to suddenly find Alex standing right in front of her room’s door.

She had been happy not to have any contact with her ex-husband. So, why did he suddenly appear like a ghost?

“Sorry, I didn’t mean to disturb you.”

Alex seemed visibly nervous and awkward. Perhaps he still felt guilty and uncomfortable about the wrongs he had done to Aurora.

“I was directed by the head pharmacist of Santa Monica Hospital to meet you.”

Aurora’s eyebrows furrowed. She couldn’t help but wonder why they asked Alex to meet her and what business they had with her.

“They asked you to meet me? What’s it about? Is it related to the hospital or something?”

Still standing facing each other, they engaged in conversation. There was no intention from Aurora to invite her ex-husband in or let him sit down first.

“Well, I’m currently working for a company in the medical supplies and pharmaceuticals sector. Coincidentally, this company always stocks

medicines and medical supplies for Santa Monica Hospital. Today, I was tasked to bring samples of some new medicines that Dr. Asher ordered.”

“And then? What does it have to do with me?”

Alex scratched his non-itchy eyebrow, struggling to explain it to Aurora. He realized that his ex-wife seemed uncomfortable.

“Because Dr. Asher isn’t available at the moment, so the pharmacists asked me to meet with the deputy manager, which is you, to check if the samples of the medicine I brought are what Dr. Asher requested.”

Aurora nodded in understanding. Stepping forward, she took the paper Alex offered. Glancing at it briefly, she then invited her ex-husband to sit for a moment.

“Wait here. Let me read and check.”

Alex nodded. He let Aurora check each medicine listed on the paper he provided. Afterward, she returned the paper to him.

“Everything’s in order. Nothing is missing or needs to be changed. So, they can start distributing them as requested.”

Alex nodded again.

“In that case, could you please sign the invoice? Some of the items I brought will be unloaded immediately. The rest will be delivered tomorrow.”

Aurora complied with Alex’s request. She quickly signed several documents he presented and handed them back to him.

“That’s all.”

“Okay.” Alex took the paper Aurora handed him and immediately stored it in the bag he brought. “Thank you for your time. I apologize if I’ve disrupted your work.”

With polite small talk, Aurora just nodded. She hurriedly got up and then ushered Alex to leave.

Her ex-husband indeed seemed ready to leave. However, just as he stood at the door, he turned back.

“Aurora...” he whispered softly.

“What? Did you forget something?”

Alex shook his head. That wasn’t the reason he called out.

“No, I didn’t. I... I want to apologize for my mother’s behavior the other day, which endangered you.”

Aurora remained still. It seemed this was what her ex-husband wanted to discuss with her.

“Don’t worry about it. As usual, I’ve forgiven her.”

Alex looked relieved. At least he could directly apologize for the dishonorable actions his mother had done. Actually, Alex felt ashamed. There were many bad things he and his mother had done to Aurora all this time, especially the last one that almost hurt his ex-wife.

“Thank you so much. I assure you that such things won’t happen again. And regarding the debts, I’ve paid them all off without leaving any.”

Now it was Aurora’s turn to nod. Although she wanted to rush, why did Alex intentionally engage her in conversation and linger?

“I know. Thankfully, you’ve managed to settle everything on time. After this, there won’t be any more issues between us.”

Actually, there was nothing more to discuss. But, for some reason, Alex still stood silently at the door, which made Aurora feel a bit confused.

“Why? Is there anything else you want to say? I need to get back to work.”

Alex lifted his gaze. He looked at Aurora intently.

“After this, can we still get along well?”

“What do you mean?”

Alex shook his head. He seemed like someone rushing to correct his words.

“Don’t misunderstand. I mean, can we still be good friends after this? I-I know it sounds presumptuous. I’m also aware of my mistakes and sins towards you. But, I don’t want us to be enemies.”

Aurora remained silent for a moment. She carefully considered Alex’s recent words.

“I can’t give you an answer. Besides, I haven’t thought about going back to having any kind of relationship, even just being good friends with you. The wounds from what happened before haven’t fully healed yet.”

Alex nodded in understanding. Not wanting to force her to choose, he bid his farewell. While Aurora sat down immediately. Her feelings were mixed because she had to meet someone who had clearly hurt her.

Nicole had just finished showering. Heading to her bed, she quickly picked up her phone from the pillow. Searching for someone’s contact, she dialed it right away.

“Ginaaaa.”

Nicole seemed impatient as she called out when her phone was immediately answered.

“Oh my God, it’s been so hard to reach you.”

Laughter echoed from the other end, seemingly satisfied with Nicole’s lengthy complaints.

“Sorry... sorry. I’ve been really busy these past few days. It’s all about adjusting to my new job.”

Nicole sighed. No wonder her friend had been ignoring her for the past few days.

“Are your patients overwhelming you?”

“Not exactly overwhelming yet. But, there are so many. I’m almost swamped myself. No wonder they had to hire new doctors here.”

Nicole listened attentively and enthusiastically. Remembering the reason for her call, she quickly asked.

“So, what happened? Did you meet the guy I mentioned the other day?”

“Who? Doctor Alden? Yes, I did.”

“And then? Is he handsome?”

“Oh my God, Nicole. Turns out I already know the doctor you’re talking about.”

Nicole’s eyes widened. She became even more impatient to hear the story from the woman on the other end.

“Seriously?”

“Yes. This Doctor Alden is actually my neighbor and childhood friend.”

Nicole’s smile immediately widened. It turned out her decision the other day to ask Regina for help was useful. [Novel\(D\)ra/ma.Org](http://Novel(D)ra/ma.Org) exclusive © material.

“I heard you’re moving to Santa Monica Hospital, right?” Nicole asked when they were at the coffee shop together.

“Yes. Why?”

“Can I ask you for a favor? Please, it seems like only you can help.”

“What is it?” Regina asked, curious.

“So, I heard my cousin, the one who’s been bothering me, is getting close to a guy who works at Santa Monica Hospital too. His name is Doctor Alden.”

“What does that have to do with me?”

Nicole sighed. She hadn’t finished her story yet but was already being interrupted.

“Just listen! So, when you start working there, find this doctor named Alden.”

“What’s Doctor Alden’s full name?”

Nicole shook her head. She didn’t know his full name. She only knew Alden’s name because she accidentally read it from his name tag when they crossed paths at the bakery.

“Ugh,” Regina groaned. “How am I supposed to find him? What if there are many Aldens? That would be a hassle.”

“Just find Doctor Alden who’s close to Doctor Aurora. You can ask the staff or nurses at the hospital. They must know.”

Regina nodded.

“Then, what do I do once I find him?”

“I want you to flirt with him to get his attention.”

Regina immediately shook her head, refusing Nicole’s request as she thought it was too much.

“No way. Am I supposed to flirt with a guy I don’t even know? What if he’s not handsome?”

“Don’t worry,” Nicole reassured. “He’s handsome. Still single. Perfect match for you. Plus, it’s not forever. Once you manage to get his

attention, you can break it off. The main thing is my cousin gets a taste of her own medicine!”

Regina didn't immediately agree. She wanted to think about the request Nicole made.

“Please...” Nicole pleaded. “Just this once, help me out. Besides, who else can help but you.”

Seeing Nicole's continuous pleading, Regina finally gave in. She agreed to help her friend.

“So, you actually know Doctor Alden.”

“I know him very well. If it's him, I won't lose if he becomes my boyfriend or even my husband for real.”

Nicole chuckled. She was ecstatic because Regina was no longer forced to help her.

“Alright, then go ahead and snatch him away from my cursed cousin. Just don't let her and Doctor Alden get together. She shouldn't have fun at my expense.”

“Don't worry,” Regina assured on the other end. “Even if you didn't ask, I was planning to win Doctor Alden's heart anyway. He's so handsome now. It wasn't in vain that I admired him for so long. You know, I even deliberately joined the annual gathering events just to get closer to him.”

Nicole laughed again. Satisfied with the good news, she ended her call. Besides, there was a man waiting to have fun with her.

“Anyway, if there's any important news, remember to contact me. Keep pestering her. Don't give her any chance. I'll be waiting for news of you two dating or even getting married to Doctor Alden if necessary.”

“Okay.”

“Alright, I'll call you again later.”

“Come on, you’re ending the call?” Regina protested.

“Yeah. It’s late. Plus, it’s time for me to have fun. You just sleep cuddling your pillow as usual.”

“Damn!”

Laughing, Nicole hung up the phone. Then, she focused on the man who was now beside her.

“Done with your call?”

Nicole nodded and smiled.

“Yes. Now it’s your turn to make me happy, Bastian.”

Both of them laughed. Spending time together, indulging in sweet kisses.

Unpredictable Betrayal : A Sweet of Revenge

Aurora heard humming. Her mood was indeed good this morning. Her face looked visibly cheerful as she cooked and prepared meals to take to work.

There was a reason why Aurora was acting like this. It all started last night, before going to bed, when she suddenly received a call from Alden.

“Sorry if I’m disturbing you. Are you already asleep?”

Alden asked in a soft tone. After reconnecting after a long time, this was the first time Aurora had heard his voice again through a phone call. Back in their dating days, almost every night before bed, he would make time to chat over the phone.

“Not yet. I’m finishing up some patient report summaries. Why are you calling all of a sudden?”

“Yeah, because if I send a message, I’m afraid you won’t read it because you’re already asleep.”

“No, I haven’t slept yet. What’s up? Is there something important?”

“No. I just wanted to let you know that I can’t pick you up and drop you off at the hospital tomorrow morning. I have a surgery scheduled for 6 a.m. So, I have to be on standby before dawn. Are you okay if you go there without me?”

“Oh my, I was wondering why. It’s okay. I can go by myself.”

“No,” Alden refused. He knew that Asher hadn’t allowed Aurora to work with her own transportation. “It’s better to go with Velia. I’ll still drop you off when you come back. As compensation, tomorrow I’ll make breakfast for you.”

Aurora smiled. Her heart fluttered with all the attention Alden was giving her. Even though he had no obligation to pick her up for work. In fact, he felt so uncomfortable letting Aurora go alone that he even offered to prepare all sorts of meals for her. When it comes to this, who wouldn’t feel touched?

“Are you sure it won’t be inconvenient?”

“It’s okay. Even if it is, I’m willing to be inconvenienced by you.”

Aurora’s feelings were stirred even more by Alden’s flattery. What woman wouldn’t melt when treated so kindly and attentively?

“Alright then, I’ll also make some snacks for you tomorrow.”

Knowing that Alden would provide her with breakfast, Aurora intended to reciprocate. That’s why early in the morning, she was already busy in the kitchen making Alden’s favorite snacks. The idea was that the food she made would serve as a companion for Alden in his workplace.

At exactly 8:30, Velia was seen coming to pick her up. Just as she sat down, the woman started talking endlessly.

“So, Alden told you to come with me this morning?”

While fastening her seatbelt, Aurora nodded. Trying to dodge the conversation seemed pointless.

“Yes. He called last night. He said this morning I should go with you instead. So, I’ll still be able to go back with him.”

“Wait a minute...” Velia interrupted. “Alden called you last night? For what?”

“Yeah, just to let me know he can’t pick me up because he has a morning surgery.”

While driving, Velia glanced briefly. Then she teased as usual.

“Oh my... there’s been an improvement. From just being shy and exchanging messages, now he’s brave enough to call.”

Aurora blushed. Her behavior was exactly like a young person in love.

“You’re annoying.”

“How am I annoying? I’m really happy about this. I like that your relationship with Dr. Alden is progressing and not just stagnating.”

Aurora just nodded.

“Just so you know, it’s not just about not being able to pick you up, he even offered to make breakfast for me as compensation.”

Velia glanced again.

“That’s really nice of him. I mean, I’m sure he’s busy getting ready for work in the wee hours of the morning. Yet, he’s also busy preparing meals. Seriously, Alden is so whipped for you, Rin. Oh well, don’t think too much. Just continue your relationship like before. Who knows, maybe next month he’ll propose.”

“Nonsense!”

Aurora pinched Velia's arm affectionately. She agreed to rekindle a serious relationship with Alden. However, taking it to a more serious level felt too rushed.

"Let it flow for now. If it's meant to be and ends up in marriage according to God's will, then I'll just surrender and accept it. But for now, let's just see how things go."

Velia burst into laughter. She found Aurora's behavior both adorable and amusing, as she wanted to proceed but still felt a sense of pride and shyness.

"Anyway, don't play hard to get. Instead of Alden turning away or being taken by someone else, you'll be the one regretting it. If Alden shows care and makes an effort, you should reciprocate so that it's balanced, and he feels appreciated."

Aurora considered Velia's words carefully. That's why, from now on, she convinced herself and her heart to focus on Alden. After all, as her mother, Asher, and Velia said, she deserved to continue living and be happy.

When Aurora arrived at the hospital, luckily Alden had just finished his duty. Passing each other on the second floor, he approached her with a bag containing a food box in his left hand.

"You just got here?"

Alden asked, and Aurora immediately nodded in response.

"Yeah. I went with Velia this morning."

"I thought you'd drive yourself."

"You said I should ride with Velia."

This time Alden laughed. It was amusing to see the expression Aurora showed him.

“Yeah. If you ride with Velia, then I’ll drop you off when you come back. So, have you had breakfast?”

Aurora shook her head. She purposely didn’t eat breakfast knowing that Alden would prepare it for her. Although she couldn’t go without eating before doing all her activities. She might faint due to lack of energy.

“Not yet. I deliberately want to demand breakfast from you, right?”

Alden laughed again. Just about to respond, Aurora asked again.

“So, what did you bring?”

Aurora glanced, convinced that the box in Alden’s tote bag contained food prepared for her.

“Oh, this?” Alden pointed. He lifted and took out the box from the bag he was carrying earlier. Opening it, he showed the neatly arranged cakes inside.

“These are cakes—”

“Doctor Alden!”

From the direction of the lift, Regina’s figure appeared. Walking a little faster, she hurried over.

“Good morning!” she greeted happily to Aurora and then glanced at the cakes Alden was carrying. “Wow, Doctor Alden brought cake.” She examined the cake box Alden was holding closely. “Looks delicious. Is this made by Doctor Alden? Can I have some?”

Although Alden hadn’t responded or offered, Regina had already taken two slices of neatly arranged cakes from the box. She eagerly ate them while murmuring with enjoyment.

“These cakes are seriously delicious.”

Aurora just watched in silence in front of Regina. Annoyed because this woman in front of her had once again acted rudely. Sometimes, Aurora

often wondered if Regina intentionally disturbed Alden when she was with him.

“Do you like it?” Alden asked, looking at Regina who was devouring the cake in her hands.

“I do. The cakes are really delicious.”

Alden smiled. Then he offered the cake box he was holding to Regina.

“In that case, it’s all for you.”

Regina suddenly looked happy. Meanwhile, Aurora became even more sulky seeing this scene. She had thought that the cakes Alden brought would be given to her. But because Regina was there, that woman ended up enjoying them and now she could enjoy all of them. How unfortunate!

“Really?”

Alden nodded confidently. He even gave her the plastic wrappings.

“Yes. Just eat. These are cakes given by Doctor Joshua. Fortunately, I also brought lunch to the room. So, instead of these cakes going to waste, it’s better for you to finish them.”

“So, these cakes are from—”

“Yes,” Alden interjected. Then he turned to Aurora. Fully aware that the woman had frowned at Regina’s behavior. NôvelDrama.Org © 2024.

“Doctor Aurora, let’s go to my room,” he invited. “I’ve prepared breakfast for Doctor Aurora in the room.”

Aurora then smiled. Following Alden’s steps to go to his room. Leaving Regina sulking for her wrong assumptions and miscalculations.