

# Unpredictable Betrayal : A Sweet of Revenge 71-80

“Are you serious about not attending the annual gathering event?”

Velia looked pouty. In front of her, Aurora sat, arranging some documents into the turquoise folder that was already prepared.

Yet, at nine o'clock, some doctors, nurses, and several core hospital staff at Santa Monica were gathering and getting ready to leave for the two-day gathering event held in the city of Bandung.

Initially, Aurora was all set to participate. She had even packed her clothes and various items she would need.

However, an emergency came up that made Aurora change her plans. And Velia was disappointed by this. She had even made many plans for what she and Aurora would do together when they arrived at their destination.

“Yeah, I can't join. Last night the nurse on duty informed me that my patient in the NICU PICU needed to be observed today.”

Velia sighed deeply. It was truly disappointing that Aurora couldn't join the annual event that was guaranteed to be fun and lively.

From previous years, it was certain that many doctors and nurses would participate in making the celebration lively. Moreover, this celebration was only held once a year.

“But, it's Saturday. Isn't your schedule off too?”

Aurora nodded and then smiled. Understanding seeing Velia continuously displaying an unwilling expression. Aurora knew, surely during the gathering later, her friend would feel bored because she wouldn't have anyone to chat and sleep with.

“Well, I’m a doctor. I have to be on standby whenever duty calls. Whether I’m sleeping, shopping, or eating. I have to be ready anytime.”

Velia couldn’t deny that. Doctors indeed were sworn to be ready to assist patients whenever needed.

“But doctors are human too, right? They need refreshing and a break from work for a moment.”

Aurora nodded again. There were times when tiredness arose and time was needed for a short break. However, once again, because of work demands, Aurora couldn’t just let go.

“Yeah. But, this patient is an emergency, Velia. Their condition is unstable. So, I have to make sure that they can get through the critical post-operative period.”

“Then, if your patient’s condition starts to normalize later, will you join us?”

The brown-eyed woman shook her head. She didn’t want to take the risk of going far away. Afraid that she might be needed suddenly and wouldn’t be able to handle it. Moreover, even if there was time, she believed Asher wouldn’t allow her to go alone to catch up.

“I can’t. You go on your own. There are other friends there, right?”

“It’s such a shame,” Velia murmured regretfully. It was evident that something was missing because Aurora was genuinely believed not to participate in this event. “Does that mean Dr. Alden will be there alone without you?”

“What can I do?”

Aurora was also reluctant. Truly, if asked what she wanted, she wanted Alden to stay and accompany her at the hospital.

However, Aurora realized that such an act would seem selfish. She knew that Alden also needed time to refresh or just have some fun by participating in activities with other doctor friends.

“But, does Dr. Alden already know that you’re not joining?”

Aurora shook her head. She hadn’t had the chance to inform Alden yet. She planned to tell the man directly when they met at the hospital.

“Not yet. If I meet him, then I’ll tell him. I’ve been busy dealing with this patient since this morning.”

“Do you want to switch shifts? So, I can handle your patient. Or... I could cancel my participation in the gathering so I can accompany you here?”

Velia offered. Perhaps with her presence, Aurora could be helped and not feel bored. Because almost all the doctors who usually accompanied Aurora were participating in the gathering event today.

“No need, Velia. I’m fine. Even if you take over my schedule today, it still won’t work. From the beginning, I’ve been the one handling this patient.”

Velia’s hope was dashed. If it’s like this, how could she force it?

And just before returning to the NICU PICU room, Aurora indeed bumped into Alden who had just come out of the elevator. The man looked surprised. Intentionally approaching, perhaps realizing that Aurora was wearing her duty clothes. Unlike other doctors who would attend the gathering today, they wore casual clothes.

“Where are you going?”

Alden looked curious. Making sure where Aurora would go.

“I’m going to the NICU room. There’s an emergency patient that I have to monitor until noon.”

Alden was shocked. He confirmed what he had just heard.

“Does that mean you’re not joining the gathering today?”

Aurora shook her head.

“Sorry, it seems not. I can’t leave this patient. Are you okay if I don’t join?”

Alden nodded. The man smiled understandingly. What else could he do, it was already a work demand. Like it or not, Aurora had to be responsible for the task given to her.

“Well, it’s okay. Maybe some other time we can go somewhere together. So, I’ll be the one attending the Gathering, are you okay with being left behind?”

Like a young couple, Alden seemed to be asking for permission. Making sure Aurora didn’t mind if he participated in the event held by their workplace.

“Yeah, of course.”

“Sure?”

Aurora nodded repeatedly.

“Absolutely sure. Why do you ask?”

“Who knows, maybe you’ll end up feeling lonely and missing me.”

Alden teased, causing Aurora to blush. NôvelDrama.Org owns all © content.

“Hahahaaha, you’re quite confident.”

“Just kidding. If it’s not okay, I’ll cancel. So I can accompany you at the hospital.”

Once again, Aurora smiled shyly. Though she was sincerely okay if Alden canceled his plans, she felt embarrassed to admit it.

“Alright, get ready. They’ll be leaving soon, right?”

Alden acknowledged that. Before he left, he asked for permission again.

“I’m off then. I’ll let you know once I arrive. You also take care at the hospital. Make sure to go home with the driver.”

“Yeah,” Aurora replied softly. “You also be careful on the road.”

Like a scene from a romantic movie, Aurora bid farewell to Alden. But before anything else could happen, Regina appeared again, disrupting the moment. She suddenly arrived, approaching Alden while pulling her suitcase.

“Doctor Alden, let’s head to the front. Everyone else is already gathering.”

Alden nodded and prepared to leave. Then, Regina casually asked Aurora.

“Doctor Aurora isn’t coming along?”

Aurora shook her head briefly.

“No. I’m on duty today.”

“Ah, it’s a shame you can’t join. It’s going to be a lively event there.”

Aurora just smiled this time. Somehow she felt like Regina was deliberately taunting her.

“It’s okay. I can join next year’s event.”

“Alright then. Alden and I will go ahead.”

Ensuring all the doctors had left, Aurora resumed her work. She spent quite a while in the NICU PICU room. Fortunately, the patient she was attending to was gradually improving. The critical phase had passed successfully.

“Doc, if you want to rest or go home, please do. We can take over here. Besides, the patient’s condition is stable now.”

One of the nurses offered, ensuring Aurora had fulfilled her duties well, they allowed her to rest.

“Let me check and wait a little longer. If by two in the afternoon the status remains stable, I’ll hand over this patient to you for further care.”

While waiting, Aurora occasionally checked her phone, hoping to receive news from Alden about whether he had arrived at his destination or not. But so far, she hadn’t received any messages or calls. She began to worry, fearing that something might have happened to him. Especially since her last message had gone unanswered.

At exactly two o’clock, and ensuring that the patient she was handling could be left, Aurora decided to get ready to go home. Once again, she checked her phone, but still didn’t receive any response from Alden.

Aurora wasn’t angry. Instead of being upset, she was the one who sent another message.

Aurora: My work is done. The patient’s condition has stabilized. I’ll be heading home soon.

Aurora: How about you? Have you arrived at your destination?

Since she didn’t receive a reply, Aurora decided to go to the hospital lobby. She waited there for a moment, waiting for her private driver to pick her up.

“Aurora.”

Hearing her name called, Aurora reflexively turned to the source of the voice. At that moment, she was surprised to find the person she most wanted to see standing right in front of her.

“Alden... aren’t you supposed to be at the gathering?”

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

Don't ask how Aurora feels right now. Of course, it's a mix of emotions when suddenly finding Alden standing there, perfectly poised while throwing a smile her way.

Swear to whatever, Aurora was momentarily dumbfounded. In her mind, she felt like she was dreaming. Aurora was sure that her ex-boyfriend had joined the gathering convoy this morning to head to Bandung.

However, strangely, why is he suddenly in front of her now? Did something get left behind? Or is there an emergency call that made him decide to return to the hospital?

"Alden... why are you here? Weren't you supposed to go to Bandung for the Gathering?"

Alden still wore a smile. Stepping forward, he approached the bewildered figure of Aurora. More shocked, actually. Clearly not expecting and wondering why Alden decided to return.

"Earlier, on the way, Asher called. He said he needed my help tomorrow morning to handle a heart bypass operation."

Alden wasn't boasting. Along the way to Bandung, his mind was indeed in turmoil. He kept remembering Aurora, who didn't join the Gathering event this year.

Although, if only before leaving Aurora had asked him to stay, Alden would do it without hesitation. But, who would've thought Aurora would give permission and let him join with his other friends.

Luckily, as if God heard his concerns, Asher suddenly contacted him and asked for help.

"Alden, where are you? Are you far already?"

Alden looked out the window. Making sure where the bus he was riding was currently positioned.

"Actually, I'm in the middle," Alden explained. "Why, Ash? Is there something urgent?"

A sigh was audible on the other end. After a few seconds of pause, Asher resumed his conversation.

“I actually want to ask for your help to handle the bypass operation tomorrow morning. Coincidentally, I already have a schedule. I was going to ask Dr. Adrian, but he’s already scheduled for a seminar out of town.”

“Oh, alright then. In that case, I’ll just head back.”

“Is that okay?” Asher asked to make sure. Actually feeling bad knowing Alden was already on the way.

“Just chill.”

“Later, you can ask the driver to stop at the rest area. So, I’ll ask the driver to pick you up.”

Alden also thought, God is indeed good. Knowing he was uncertain, he was given a moment that made it possible for him to return to meet and be with Aurora.

After being picked up by Asher’s driver, Alden was immediately taken to the hospital. Besides, he intentionally left his car so it would be easier to come back later and no longer have to bother with public transportation.

Who would’ve thought that when he arrived at the hospital, Alden would meet Aurora instead? Apparently, she was just about to leave and seemed to be waiting for a ride.

“So, you really didn’t join the Gathering?”

Aurora asked again. Still not believing that Alden was really in front of her.

“Yes. Besides, all the way here, I kept thinking about you. So when Asher asked for help, I agreed right away.”

Aurora suddenly pulled a confused face.

“You were thinking about me? Why?”



“It’s like I didn’t want to be separated and far away again.”

“Oh my God, exaggerating!”

Alden laughed. He liked teasing Aurora and seeing her pout like she was now.

“Are you finished and ready to go home now?”

“Yes,” Aurora nodded. “My tasks are all done today. If the patient’s condition remains stable until seven, they’ll be transferred to the ward.”

“Thank goodness. In that case, let’s go together. I’ll be the one to take you.”

“B-but... I already asked for a ride.”

“Forget it... just come with me.”

Without further ado, Alden grabbed Aurora’s wrist and asked her to follow him to the car.

“Do you have any plans for today?” Alden asked before actually starting his car.

“No, why?”

Alden smiled. He nodded.

“Alright then.”

“Alright then what?”

Aurora was puzzled. Especially seeing Alden’s face which was hard to read. He just smiled before Aurora forced him to explain.

“Oh God, why so secretive. What’s up?”

“If you don’t have any plans or activities, I want to take you around today.”

“Around?”

While focusing on driving, Alden nodded.

“Yeah. I want to take you out, watch a movie, and then have dinner together. Besides, it’s Saturday night, the perfect time for couples to go on a date, right?”

What dream did Aurora have last night, suddenly without any prior planning or discussion, she was spontaneously invited by Alden for a date. Although, if he had said it earlier, Aurora would have changed and dressed up nicely first.

“Are we really going out now? Aren’t we going home to shower, change clothes, get ready, or anything first?”

Alden chuckled. From the tone of his voice, he believed Aurora was a little panicked.

“No need. No need to dress up or change clothes. Besides, no matter what you wear, you always look beautiful to me.”

Oh, Alden found time to tease. Although Aurora was seriously asking. Don’t ask how Aurora is feeling right now. Her heart has been fluctuating since Alden kept surprising her unexpectedly.

Resigned to Alden’s invitation, Aurora chose to just go along with wherever he took her. So the first place they visited was, of course, the largest mall in the city. Exclusive content © by Nô(v)el/Dr/ama.Org.

They both seemed to wander around. Enjoying their time together while discussing enjoyable topics. Sometimes, they even reminisced about memories from the past.

Then, Alden took Aurora to the cinema. The two of them spent three hours watching a movie they had chosen together.

“How was it? Did you like it?”

Aurora nodded her head. Honestly, she didn't really like the movie. But she enjoyed the moments she spent with Alden.

"I liked it. I really did," Aurora said, looking happy.

"Next weekend, I'll schedule us to watch together again. You want to, right?"

Aurora immediately nodded repeatedly. This was a golden opportunity, so why would she refuse?

Since it was promised that they would also have dinner together, after watching the movie, Alden immediately took Aurora to one of the restaurants located on the top floor of the mall. While enjoying the city view, adorned with the shimmering lights blending with the moonlight and stars, Aurora and Alden enjoyed their dinner together.

"It's been so long since we had dinner like this together."

Aurora smiled, admitting to that fact. If only she hadn't acted impulsively before, maybe by now her relationship with Alden would have been more serious.

"Yeah. Last time was when you were on break from college before going back to America."

Alden nodded.

"That's why, from now on, I'll often ask you out for dinner. So, don't get bored."

They both then indulged in the served dishes, savoring each passing moment. Aurora couldn't deny feeling happy. It was as if something made her feel joyful and elated.

She didn't want it to end quickly. But, because it was already late, Alden decided to accompany Aurora home.

"Thank you so much for today. I really enjoyed it."

Alden grinned widely, pleased that Aurora enjoyed what they did all day.

“You’re welcome. I hope it’s not just today that we get to spend time together.”

“In that case, I’ll head down now. You take care on the road. Let me know when you get home.”

Aurora intended to get out of the car. But suddenly, Alden grabbed her wrist, stopping her from leaving immediately.

“Wait...” he said softly.

“Why?”

Alden paused for a moment. He gazed at Aurora’s face intently before speaking again.

“Are you busy tomorrow afternoon or evening?”

“I’m free tomorrow. Why?”

Alden went silent again. Aurora became puzzled seeing his behavior.

“Umm... if you’re free tomorrow and don’t have any plans, can I pick you up again?”

“Pick me up?” Aurora repeated with a smile. She thought Alden wanted to take her out again. “Where do you want to take me?”

“I want to take you to meet my mom. Are you willing?”

Aurora was taken aback. She didn’t expect that Alden actually wanted to introduce her to his mother. It had been a long time since Aurora last met her. So, after all this time, is she ready to meet her again this time?

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

Zendaya Harvey is the mother of Alden Maximus. Aurora knows this 55-year-old woman as warm, kind, and friendly. Back when she was still in a relationship with Alden, he often brought Aurora to meet his parents. Aurora never forgets how his mother treated her like her own daughter, with genuine affection, fully supporting the relationship she and Alden had. Even when they had arguments, Zendaya sometimes intervened to reconcile them.

Aurora and Zendaya used to be a very cohesive pair, like partners. Sometimes, Aurora would visit Zendaya not to see Alden, but just to accompany her while she cooked, go for a walk in the mall, or simply go out to eat.

Honestly, when she ended her relationship with Alden, Aurora felt lost. And now, after not meeting for so long, Aurora feels nervous and apprehensive when Alden invites her to visit his mother again.

Imagine this: since morning, Aurora has been standing in front of the mirror for a long time. She looks confused, trying to decide which outfit would be appropriate for her outing with Alden today.

Usually, whenever there's a big and important event, Aurora never struggles or fusses over choosing clothes. But today, for some reason, it feels different. She really wants to make sure her appearance is perfect.

"Aurora, how many more outfits are you going to pile up on the bed? They're all scattered everywhere."

Elena, who is staying at her daughter's house, protests. She shakes her head at Aurora, who has been throwing some of her clothes on the bed.

"Which one's better, Mom? The black one from earlier or the cream one she's wearing now?"

Elena, who was grumbling before, suddenly gives a critical look. She inspects her daughter's appearance from head to toe. In fact, to reassure her mother, Aurora even turns around, making sure her outfit looks good from the front to the back.

“The cream one you’re wearing now looks better. But for the shoes and bag, you should use lighter colors so they don’t get overshadowed.”

Aurora nods. She walks to the closet, looking for shoes and a bag that she thinks would match.

“Is this gold glitter bag good? Or do you have another suggestion that you think would be more suitable, Mom?”

Aurora points to the bag she’s referring to, showing it to her mother while asking for her opinion again.

“Just the gold one. The smaller one.”

“Does Mom mean this one?” Aurora points to the bag her mother meant.

“Yes, exactly. That one matches your outfit better. And for the shoes, just wear the white ones. If they’re too high, you’ll have trouble later on.”

“Are you talking about these?” Aurora points again to the branded shoes.

“Yes. Perfect.”

Aurora then takes out all the items her mother has chosen. She puts them next to the sofa so she can wear them immediately after finishing dressing up.

“Where are you going? Why are you making such a fuss about choosing clothes? Are you meeting the president or something?”

Aurora shakes her head. Smiling, she approaches her mother, who is now sitting on the edge of the bed.

“No, Mom. Guess who Aurora is going to meet today?”

“Pfft! Probably some hospital client or someone important.”

“No,” she shakes her head again.

“Then who?”

Aurora smiles. The look in her eyes cannot hide her excitement and nervousness.

“Today, Alden invited Aurora to meet his mother.”

Elena pauses for a moment. She reconsiders Aurora’s words, then asks to confirm.

“Wait... wait... you’ve been invited to meet parents and stuff, does that mean your relationship with Alden is official—?”

“Yes, Mom,” Aurora interrupts her mother’s question with nods. There’s no need for further clarification; Aurora knows what her mother wants to ask. “Aurora has decided to accept Alden’s invitation to slowly rekindle the relationship that they once broke off. Who knows, maybe this time it will end well, as hoped.”

Elena immediately gets excited. From being just normal, her face now shows enthusiasm. She’s happy because her daughter’s relationship has seen a significant improvement.

Elena doesn’t forget when she met Alden the other day, Aurora was still playing hard to get. She still felt traumatized by the failure of her marriage.

However, now things are different. Elena is very grateful that her daughter is willing to open a new chapter, even if it involves someone from the past. It doesn’t matter, as long as Aurora is comfortable and happy. Besides, Elena knows Alden’s family background. She also knows his personality better, so there’s no need to feel doubtful anymore.

“Oh my God, Mama is so happy to hear that. Could it be that Alden wants to propose to you, that’s why he invited you to meet his mom first?”

“Gosh,” Aurora replied with a chuckle. She knew her mother was someone who couldn’t wait. But it’s not like Alden would propose right away. “It’s just a regular meeting. Just invited for lunch together.”

“If it’s just a regular meeting, why are you fussing over choosing clothes? Just dressing like usual is enough.”

Aurora scratched her head. Her mother was right. But it felt like something was missing if she didn't look her best. "Just to look pretty. Besides, it's been a long time since I've seen her. So, I want to look perfect."

"Oh, you're just being silly." Aurora laughed. She was used to seeing her mother nag like this.

"Just pray for a smooth meeting today, Mama. Hopefully, there will be more meetings after this. And don't forget to bring a gift. It's not polite to visit empty-handed."

Aurora understood this one. That's why she was busy ordering the favorite cake that she used to bring when visiting Alden's house. Until now, Aurora hadn't forgotten what kind of food and snacks his girlfriend's mother liked.

"Don't worry. I've prepared everything."

"Alright, you keep getting ready. Alden might be here soon. It's a pity if he has to wait long."

After Elena left, Aurora hurriedly tidied up the clothes she had scattered on the bed. Then she started to get ready. She put on the clothes she had chosen, then applied makeup until she felt her appearance was stunning and perfect.

Exactly at eleven o'clock, the doorbell rang. Not long after, her mother's voice was heard calling from downstairs. Aurora was sure that the one who came was Alden.

He had promised to pick her up after finishing his surgery schedule last night.

"Aurora, it's taking forever."

Elena continued to protest. Although Aurora was already rushing down the stairs to greet Alden, who was sitting in the living room waiting.

"Yes, be patient, Mom. I'm still getting ready."



Then Aurora strode forward. She approached Alden, who stood up as soon as he saw her.

“Sorry for the delay.”

Alden smiled. He seemed relaxed.

“No problem. I just got here too.”

“Please excuse us, Alden. Aurora is always like this. She takes a long time to get ready. Especially when it’s for meeting the future in-laws, she spends hours.”

“Mama!”

Aurora glared then playfully pinched her mother. Why did her mother always embarrass her like this?

“Don’t listen to her.”

“How can you say that?” Elena replied hurriedly. “It’s a sin not to listen to the words of your parents.”

Alden just laughed. Making sure it was time to leave, he took the initiative to ask for permission and say goodbye.

“Mama Elena... Alden asks for permission to take Aurora out for a while. Alden promises to bring Aurora back before late at night.”

Elena smiled. While accepting Alden’s invitation to shake hands, she gave her permission.

“Sure. Be careful. Mama entrusts Aurora to you. It’s okay if she doesn’t come back. The important thing is not to forget to feed her.”

Alden couldn’t help but laugh. He had always known Elena’s attitude to be like this.

“Don’t worry, Mom. I’ll make sure to feed her plenty so she’s full and comfortable.”

Meanwhile, Aurora could only sigh. Protesting would be useless. Her words wouldn't be heard.

"Oh, Alden," Elena called out again. Although Aurora and Alden were ready to leave.

"Yes, Mama Elena. What's up?"

"Since today Alden invited Aurora to meet his mother. Next weekend, it's Mama Elena's turn to invite Alden for dinner at home, and you have to agree."

Of course, Alden wouldn't refuse. When else could he have dinner with his girlfriend's immediate family? It's a step to further strengthen the family relationship before moving on to a more serious level.

"With pleasure. I'll make sure to come."

After that, Aurora and Alden bid farewell and left. Leaving Elena smiling happily as she watched her daughter leave.

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Aurora's heart beats faster. She feels nervous as the car Alden is driving finally arrives and is now neatly parked in front of his parents' house.

Repeatedly, Aurora took deep breaths, trying her best to calm herself so that when she met Alden's mother, she wouldn't appear nervous.

"Aurora, let's get down. We've arrived."

Alden helped open the door, inviting Aurora to enter his parents' house.

"Ma..." Alden called out. And he found his mother busy at the dining table, seemingly preparing something.

"Aurora..."

Instead of responding to Alden's greeting, Zendaya, Alden's mother, addressed Aurora. She quickly stepped forward and immediately embraced the woman who had once been her son's girlfriend.

"Are you okay? It's been so long since Auntie last saw you."

Aurora blinked, nodding her head. She could see how enthusiastic Zendaya was in welcoming her after such a long time of no contact.

"I'm okay, Auntie. I've missed you too."

After accepting the gift that Aurora brought, Zendaya immediately took Aurora's wrist and led her to the dining room, inviting her to sit down while enjoying the food she had prepared.

"Let's chat over lunch, shall we? Auntie has cooked a lot today."

Aurora complied with Zendaya's request. Even when the middle-aged woman offered her a lot of food, Aurora tried each one without hesitation.

"Do you and Alden work at the same hospital now?" This is from [NôvelDrama.Org](http://NôvelDrama.Org).

Aurora nodded. "Yes. I didn't expect Alden to come back from America and end up working at the same hospital as me."

Zendaya laughed. "That's fate. Even if you're separated far apart, one on the American continent and the other in Asia, in the end, you'll meet and be reunited. Auntie was also happy when Alden told me that he met you again."

"Oh, really? So, Alden told Auntie?"

Zendaya nodded. "Yes. He also told me that he wants to approach you again."

Aurora blushed. Her heart warmed at Zendaya's continued affection, just like before.

“Come on, Aurora. Eat more. Otherwise, your mom will scold me if you’re not full.”

Alden teased. He took more food from the table and moved it to Aurora’s plate. Then, they both enjoyed lunch while chatting as if releasing the pent-up longing.

“Coincidentally, Auntie’s birthday is next week. Aurora, you have to come.”

In the midst of their conversation, Zendaya invited Aurora, making sure her son’s girlfriend would attend the event she was hosting.

“Aurora, please try to come.”

“Yes,” Zendaya added. “Who knows, maybe Alden will propose.”

Aurora blushed even more. Why were both mother and son so mischievous?

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

“Hey Aurora, how’s it going? Is Alden’s mom okay? And how’s her attitude towards you? She didn’t kick you out, did she?” NôvelDrama.Org owns all © content.

Just arrived at the hospital, Velia was immediately nosy. Instead of bringing souvenirs from Bandung after attending the Gathering two days ago, the woman bombarded her with many questions.

Last night, Aurora did tell Velia a bit over the phone. She informed Velia that she was invited by Alden to meet and have a meal together with his mother.

“Instead of bringing breakfast or souvenirs, you’ve been gossiping since morning.”

Aurora protested hastily. Why not let her sit and relax for a moment first? Just take a breath. But, she was bombarded with many questions.

“Sorry. I’m just curious.”

Velia had been curious since last night. She even had to patiently wait for Aurora to hear the story directly from her friend.

However, since souvenirs were mentioned, she immediately pulled out a silver paper bag she had prepared. She handed it to Aurora with a pouty face.

“This is the bribe. I bought you various things.”

Aurora laughed joyfully. She happily accepted Velia’s gift paper bag. It’s no wonder she’s friends with that beautiful woman. Wherever they go, even if it’s nearby, she always brings Aurora souvenirs or gifts without being asked.

“Thank you, lovely Velia. Love you so much.”

Velia sighed. Rolling her eyes, she reiterated what she had asked before.

“Since you’ve received the gift, now it’s your turn to tell. Please, don’t keep others curious.”

“What do you want to know?”

Velia pinched Aurora’s arm affectionately. Even though it was clear what she meant. Yet, she still asked what it was about.

“Yesterday, how was your meeting with Alden’s mom?”

Aurora nodded.

“Oh, about that. It went smoothly until it was time to leave.”

“You weren’t lectured or intimidated, right?”

Aurora shook her head. Initially, she was afraid of being treated like that too.

“Not at all. Completely safe.”

“I swear,” said Velia. “I was worried before that Alden’s parents, being doctors, wouldn’t welcome you. Especially since you clearly left their son to marry another guy. And the replacement fiancé is even under par.”

Aurora squinted. In the midst of Velia’s discussion, she managed to sneak in an insult.

“Can we not veer off topic?” Aurora reminded her irritably.

“Okay... just nagging. So, how’s Alden’s mom?”

“She’s fine,” Aurora replied again. “Honestly, I was nervous too, a bit stressed, and worried. Afraid that my presence wouldn’t be accepted. But, who would’ve thought? Right after we met, she hugged me and said she missed me because we hadn’t greeted each other for a long time.”

“Oh my... so kind.”

Aurora wholeheartedly agreed with this statement.

“She’s always been kind. Gentle. And caring too.”

“Similar to Alden, huh? Maybe Alden’s traits come from his mom.”

Countless times Aurora nodded. She didn’t deny what Velia said. If felt and observed, indeed, all the good qualities of Alden’s mom were passed on to Alden. Even until now, that kindness hasn’t changed at all.

“So, during lunch yesterday, did you guys talk about whether this relationship will be taken to a more serious level or something?”

“Not at all.”

Aurora remembered there was no discussion about that yesterday. It was more of a reunion event. As if releasing longing because they hadn't seen each other for a long time.

"Besides, I think it's too early to discuss more serious matters. We've only just started meeting again after so long. So, let's just let things flow naturally for now."

What else could they do? Velia couldn't force it either. Even though she was impatient to see Aurora rebuild her family, she also had to respect her friend's opinion.

"But..." Velia continued again. As if the woman remembered something important. "Alden's mom knows you're a widow, right?"

"She knows."

Aurora didn't deny that she had also worried about that. Indeed, the issue of her current status as a widow had made her lose confidence.

"For God's sake, Aurora was afraid she wouldn't be accepted. Especially since Alden is a single, established man. He's the only son and the hope of his parents. Aurora also believed that his mother would have higher expectations for him.

"Aurora, why are you spacing out? Come down. Mom's waiting inside."

Yesterday, when visiting, Aurora was indeed filled with doubt. She even considered canceling her visit and just going back home.

"Al, is it really okay for me to meet your mom? Maybe I should just go home?"

Alden looked puzzled. He didn't understand why Aurora suddenly became unsure.

"Why should you go home? It's fine. Don't be afraid. Plus, why are you so anxious?"

Aurora remained silent. She was confused about how to explain the fear she was feeling.

“Aurora?” Alden called out to make sure.

“I’m just afraid your mom won’t like my status.”

Alden then laughed. Finally understanding what was troubling Aurora.

“Oh my. So, you’ve been pale because of this all along?”

Aurora nodded. For her, the question of status wasn’t trivial. She was worried that Zendaya wouldn’t accept her status as a widow and now being close to her beloved son.

“Not everyone can accept my status, Alden. Especially you, a single and established man. If you think about it, you could even find a woman better than me.”

“And... would you be okay if I paired up with another woman?”

Aurora fell silent. If she could be honest, she wouldn’t be willing to be separated again and eventually lose Alden for the second time. If possible, she hoped her relationship with Alden this time would work out. Besides, she was tired of looking for someone new and starting a relationship from scratch.

“Even if I try my best, if it’s not meant to be according to God’s will, what can I do?”

Alden seemed relaxed. He reached for Aurora’s wrist and gently held it.

“Don’t be afraid or worry excessively. My mom knows your status. You know, I always tell my mom everything. So, before deciding to bring you home, I already asked for her permission.”

“And your mom doesn’t mind my widow status?”

Alden shook his head.



“Don’t worry. That’s not a big deal to be concerned about.”

Because Alden assured her that there wouldn’t be any problems, Aurora felt relieved and decided to get out of the car. And indeed, when they met, Zendaya welcomed her warmly.

“Thank goodness Alden’s mom knows your status,” Velia said with relief. “I was just worried that unwanted problems might arise.”

“Let’s just pray that everything goes well without any issues.”

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Aurora glanced from a distance. In front of her, she saw Regina chatting happily with Alden in front of the laboratory.

She didn’t know what they were talking about. But Aurora felt uncomfortable. Especially seeing Regina occasionally playfully hitting and pinching Alden while they talked. Truly, Aurora felt annoyed.

That’s why Aurora decided to approach. She approached Alden, then called out to him.

“Doctor Alden.”

The one called turned immediately. Flashing a smile, he stepped closer to Aurora.

“Is Doctor Aurora’s practice finished?”

Aurora nodded.

“Yes. Just finished.”

“Haven’t had lunch yet, have you?”

Aurora indeed hadn’t had lunch. Originally, she wanted to have lunch with Velia. But seeing Alden being bothered by another woman, she felt itchy and wanted to whisk her beloved away from Regina.

It didn't matter if Regina genuinely liked Alden or just enjoyed seeking his attention. Anyway, whatever her reasons were, Aurora didn't like it.

Moreover, if she sees another woman being overly intrusive, she would react the same way. Aurora didn't want to give anyone the chance to ruin, let alone become a third party in the relationship she had just started building with Alden.

"Not yet. That's why I came to get you."

"Alright, let's have lunch nearby," Alden invited, preparing to leave.

"Doctor, can I join you?" Regina immediately interjected.

Aurora turned immediately. Keeping her composure to hide any signs of jealousy, she gave a thin smile. However, don't ask how Aurora's heart boiled with jealousy.

"Maybe another time, Doctor Regina." For heaven's sake, Aurora was prepared to respond. But, before she could, Alden responded to Regina's request first. "There's something important I need to discuss privately with Doctor Aurora."

"But, doc-"

Without waiting for Regina to finish her sentence, Alden immediately took Aurora away. While Aurora just turned and waved as if bidding farewell to Regina who pouted.

"So, what's the important thing you wanted to talk to me about?"

As they walked, Aurora inquired. She was curious what important matter Alden wanted to discuss privately with her.

"Nothing," Alden casually shook his head.

"Then?"

"Just said that so Regina wouldn't bother us. Otherwise, if she joined, you'd be annoyed. And then I'd be ignored all day."

Aurora laughed. Alden was smart to understand her thoughts.

“Seriously! I thought there was really something important to discuss.”

They continued walking. Right in front of the hospital entrance, unexpectedly, they ran into the woman Aurora hated the most.

“Oh, seems like you’re getting closer now.”

Standing in front of Aurora was Nicole. She was here for some reason and for what purpose she visited the hospital where Aurora worked was unclear.

“What are you doing here? Don’t you have any shame?”

“Me?” Nicole pointed to herself. “Just getting a check-up. Can’t I meet Alex?”

Aurora couldn’t be bothered to respond. Besides, her cousin wasn’t important to her anyway.

“The widow is stepping up, huh?” Nicole sneered again. Then Nicole shifted her gaze to Alden standing next to Aurora. “I wonder why a doctor would go for a widow? Aren’t doctors still bachelors? Why not aim for someone on your level?”

Aurora was furious. But in front of Nicole, she couldn’t afford to be provoked.

“Hey, Nicole! Stop babbling,” Aurora responded calmly. “Do you ever look at yourself in the mirror or what? Aren’t you a widow too?” Aurora covered her mouth with her hand. She deliberately did it to silence herself. But then she spoke again. “Oh, forgot. We’re from different castes. If I’m a rich widow, what about you? You’re a destitute widow, aren’t you?”

Nicole glared. She hated it when Aurora belittled her like this.

“Don’t get angry or offended like that,” Aurora said softly. “You started it, right? Besides, whoever gets close to me, it’s none of your business.

You're too idle to meddle in other people's lives. If you need a job to support yourself, just say it. There are plenty of cleaning service vacancies open wide at the hospital."

Aurora urged Alden to leave Nicole behind. If they lingered, the more troublesome she would become later on.

## Unpredictable Betrayal : A Sweet of Revenge

One day before Zendaya Harvey's birthday celebration, it was Alden's turn to be invited to dinner with Aurora's large family. Held at Elena's house, Asher and Chava were also present at the dinner event.

Since morning, Aurora had been busy in the kitchen. Alongside Elena, they cooked themselves for the dinner to be served later, to be enjoyed together when dinner time arrived.

"Are you sure you cooked this much?" Elena shook her head, momentarily disbelieving at her daughter's enthusiasm in cooking so many dishes, especially when only Alden was invited.

"But Asher and Chava are also here, Mom. Besides, we can share this food with the other workers too. So everyone gets an equal share."

Elena smiled knowingly, liking Aurora's inclusive thinking, never differentiating between family and workers; everyone was considered family and entitled to the same food.

"But, Aurora..." Elena interjected again. "These dishes aren't like the usual ones we cook for events. Could it be that this-" This is from NôvelDrama.Org.

"Hehehe..." Aurora grinned. "I purposely cooked Alden's favorite food, Mom. So he'll feel comfortable staying longer at our house. Plus, Mama said that when entertaining guests, we should give our all, right?"

Elena sighed, then pinched her daughter. No wonder she didn't see some of their usual signature dishes that were usually cooked for family events. Besides, her daughter was smart in finding excuses, even selling her name for it.

"Alright, hurry up and finish. After that, you can arrange the cakes that have been ordered. Once everything is okay, hurry up and shower and get ready."

Aurora quickly finished all her tasks from cooking, preparing the cakes, and some other small dishes. Making sure everything was neatly laid out, she hurriedly cleaned herself up and got ready to welcome Alden, who might arrive soon.

"No need to keep peeking. If your prince comes, you'll hear the sound of his car."

Asher teased, highlighting Aurora's actions of constantly peeking from behind the window, to make sure if Alden had arrived or not.

Aurora turned around, pursing her lips, looking annoyed. "Well, I'm just curious. What if he suddenly shows up at the front of the house?"

"Why not just call him? Ask where he is?"

Aurora shrugged unwillingly. "No. He's on the road. It's dangerous to call."

"Typical unclear behavior. That's why, before leaving, ask him to send live locations. So you know exactly where he is."

At the same time, the awaited person finally arrived. Ignoring Asher's banter, Aurora headed straight to the door. She waited for Alden until he got out of the car. Then she led him to enter immediately and was invited to join them at the dining room.

"Before anything else, Alden, say thank you to Mama Elena and Papa Joshua for the dinner invitation."

Elena smiled. She handed a plate to Alden, then responded to his words.

“You’re welcome, Alden. It’s been a long time since we gathered like this, hasn’t it? Today, Aurora cooked all your favorite foods.”

“Oh, really?”

Elena nodded. She reached out her hand, then pointed to several dishes laid out on the dining table. “Take a look,” she said. “Almost all of them contain your favorite foods, Alden.”

Alden smiled awkwardly. He felt uncomfortable because his arrival had already caused Aurora trouble.

“Thank you very much. Even just being invited to dinner, Alden is already happy.”

“Well then, just try and finish everything,” added Joshua. “Consider this a trial for Aurora before becoming a wife.”

Asher chimed in. It was only one sentence from him, but it already caused a stir at the dinner table.

Aurora was certainly annoyed. Actually, she wasn’t surprised that eventually she would become the subject of mockery. That’s why she immediately invited Alden to enjoy the food. Enjoying each dish while chatting. Discussing various topics from work to eventually delving into relationship matters.

“So, now Alden and Aurora are getting close again like before?”

This is Joshua asking. He wants to ensure the relationship between his daughter and the man he already knew from the past.

Once again, Joshua wants to make sure. This time he doesn’t want to be fooled or let his daughter fall for the wrong man for the second time.

“Yes,” Alden affirmed without hesitation. “It was Alden who initially asked Aurora for permission to try to rekindle the relationship that had once been interrupted.”

Joshua stroked his long beard as he nodded. “But, you are aware of Aurora’s current status, right?”

Joshua stared closely at the man sitting right in front of him. He locked his gaze with those brown eyes as he continued the sentence that had been postponed.

“Like it or not, Aurora’s status is that of a widow. But, I assure you, she is a well-educated and dignified woman. Because Aurora has experienced failure, pain, and betrayal in her previous marriage, I don’t want to make the mistake of letting her fall for the wrong man again. Honestly, I don’t want Aurora to be hurt again. So, as a father, I have to be selective this time.”

Alden understood deeply. After all, Joshua was being protective because he didn’t want his daughter to experience suffering again. Therefore, Alden had to convince Aurora’s parents that he was worthy of their blessing.

“From the beginning, Alden has never once questioned the status. Since the end of Alden and Aurora’s relationship, until this moment, Alden has never intended to look for a replacement. Who would have thought, God has been kind enough to return Aurora to Alden. That’s why, this time, Alden won’t waste the opportunity.”

Joshua listened carefully to Alden’s confession and explanation. Believing the man was sincere and earnest towards his daughter, he responded wisely.

“In that case, I leave this relationship to both of you. If you’re meant to be together and feel ready, I’ll wait for your family to come and propose. After all, both of you are adults. What else are we waiting for after this?”

Aurora and Alden then exchanged glances. Grateful that Joshua had given his blessing to both of them.

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Meanwhile, Aurora believed that Alden must be busy. But, because he didn't want to let Aurora go alone, Alden was willing to pick her up. Taking his girlfriend to his mother's house to celebrate the birthday event.

"Actually, I can go alone. Why bother coming to pick me up?"

On the way, Aurora protested. It's not that she didn't want to go, she was just worried that Zendaya might be busy and needed help organizing the event. But, her boyfriend chose to pick her up instead of letting her go alone.

"It's okay. I just don't want you to go home alone at night. It's dangerous for a woman to drive alone. It's better for me to pick you up."

Aurora sighed. She knew Alden was being caring. But, she still felt uncomfortable.

"What if your Mom needs help?"

"Don't worry. You don't have to be afraid. There are plenty of people at home to help."

Trying to believe Alden's words, Aurora fell silent again. Letting her boyfriend focus on driving until they finally reached their destination.

Entering the house yard, Aurora saw many guests had arrived. Perhaps from family, close friends, or also from the savings group. Aurora knew well that Alden's mother had many friends. Especially since the passing of Alden's father, Zendaya had been managing their family business.

"Aurora."

Just entering the house, Zendaya called out. She approached Aurora to give her a hug.

"Aunt has been waiting for you. I thought you might be busy and wouldn't be able to come."



Unraveling the hug, Aurora smiled. Little did she know that her presence was eagerly awaited.

“But Aurora promised she’d make time to come.” Then Aurora handed over the bag containing the gift she had prepared. Hoping what she gave would make Zendaya happy. “Happy birthday, Mom. I hope you like the gift.”

Zendaya accepted the gift from Aurora. Once again, she hugged her son’s girlfriend affectionately.

“You went through so much trouble just to give a gift. Just your presence alone is more than enough.”

“If only Mom knew, Aurora even spent days looking for the right and special gift to give to Mom.”

Alden added. Zendaya was even more delighted to hear her son’s explanation.

“Wow, that’s so thoughtful. But, thank you very much again. Later, I’ll be the first to open it.”

“Aunt Zendaya...”

From a different direction, Regina suddenly appeared. Whoever invited her, but this time the woman came bearing gifts along with a middle-aged woman whom Aurora believed was her mother.

“Gina, how are you?”

“Good.”

In turn, Zendaya gave Regina a hug. She seemed happy to see Regina and the woman accompanying her. “How about you, Melisa? I thought my invitation didn’t reach you.”

“I’m as healthy as you see. Fortunately, I read your invitation in the WhatsApp group, and luckily Regina wasn’t on duty at the hospital. So I had a driver to take me to your birthday party.”

Zendaya smiled broadly. She was pleased that her old friend could attend the event she had organized.

“Well then, why don’t you both try the dishes first. I’ll go around for a bit.”

Then Zendaya turned back to Aurora. She reached for the woman’s wrist. Intending to take her around. “Come with Aunt. Let Aunt introduce you to Umi’s family and friends who have arrived.”

Aurora felt embarrassed. But, because she couldn’t refuse, she followed Zendaya’s request to take a walk.

One by one, the middle-aged women were introduced to Aurora. Even, she was invited to join the most lively group of savings group mothers among the other guests.

“Introduce her, this is Aurora,” Zendaya said to her friends. “She’s a pediatric specialist who owns the Santa Monica Hospital.”

“So, is she Alden’s future bride?” one of the guests asked, immediately echoed by Zendaya.

“What do you think? Beautiful, isn’t she?”

Zendaya proudly showcased Aurora. She introduced Aurora to all her friends.

“Yes. Alden is smart to find a partner. They look so compatible. Handsome and beautiful.”

“It’s pointless to be beautiful if the heart is not good.”

At the same time, another friend of Zendaya’s appeared. Walking into the middle and immediately interrupting the conversation.

“Not all that glitters is gold.”

Aurora turned. In that moment, she found Savana, who had been at the birthday party for who knows how long. What did her former mother-in-law want?

## Unpredictable Betrayal : A Sweet of Revenge

Actually, Aurora was surprised to see Regina's arrival at Alden's mother's birthday party. Imagining the woman being showy, pretending to be cute, and overly familiar made Aurora nauseous.

However, Aurora immediately recalled Alden's story the other day. Their families had been close for a long time. They even used to live next to each other, and Regina's mother and Alden's mother were friends. But it felt like they weren't genuinely willing. Especially because despite the long-standing connection, Regina had acted overly.

"Auntie, I miss you so much, it's been a while since we met."

Upon arriving at Zendaya's residence and after her mother gave hugs and birthday wishes to the celebrant, it was Regina's turn to show off. She even bothered to bring a large-sized gift. She presented it directly while expressing her longing because they hadn't seen each other in a long time.

Zendaya welcomed her warmly. She returned Regina's hug, then accepted what the woman had brought.

"Auntie, I miss you too. Back then, when you moved, you were still in school. Now they say you're a doctor, right?"

Regina smiled broadly. The woman nodded repeatedly.

"Now Gina has become a specialist doctor too."

"Yes," added Regina's mother. Then the middle-aged woman glanced at Alden, who was standing next to Zendaya. "Back then, she used to whine about wanting to go to medical school to be like Alden, she said."

Hearing this, Zendaya was certainly proud. She was glad her son was being made a role model and influencing positively the daughter of her friend.

“Auntie, it’s not surprising. Gina has always been smart.”

Regina’s head swelled even bigger after receiving praise and validation from Zendaya. In Aurora’s eyes, Regina even looked like a worm squirming uncomfortably, the woman seemed to be grinning for no reason.

“Gina even works at the same hospital as Alden.”

“Oh, really?”

Regina nodded her head again.

“Yes. That’s why I’m so happy.”

“Just so you know...” Regina’s mother interjected. “Almost every day she’s excitedly cooking packed lunches and says she wants to share them with Alden.”

Aurora continued to listen to the stories of the mother and daughter in front of her. She was actually a bit bored. Fortunately, Zendaya concluded and immediately invited her to tour around.

“Alright, you guys enjoy the food that’s already prepared. There are plenty of varieties there. I’ll go around to greet the others first.”

She took Aurora around. Upon observation, Aurora realized that Alden’s mother actually had many friends from various backgrounds. It could be seen from the various guests who attended.

There were some from ordinary backgrounds, businessmen, government officials, and also some socialite mothers. What was unique was the last group of people that the woman approached. From their appearance, Aurora believed that this gathering might indeed be intended for the Arab descendant mothers.

“Come on, let’s introduce you to Alden’s potential partner.”

Zendaya pulled Aurora. She showcased the woman to her friends.

“She’s a pediatric specialist. The one who owns Santa Monica Hospital.”

“Wow, impressive.” One of Zendaya’s friends exclaimed in awe. “And she’s beautiful too. Matches Alden who’s handsome.”

“Yes,” another agreed. “Harmonious. The guy is handsome. The girl is beautiful. If they have children, their faces will surely be cute.”

Aurora smiled to herself. Her ears swelled with praises from a group of well-dressed mothers in front of her.

“It’s pointless to be pretty if your heart isn’t good.”

From the back row, a woman’s voice interrupted. Soon after, her figure appeared, causing Aurora to freeze momentarily. Savana’s presence seemed sudden, as if she had been there for a while and suddenly appeared out of nowhere. Was she actually on the guest list? Or did she sneak in like a thief, as she used to do at the hospital?

“Zendaya...” Savana called out. “Are you sure you want to make Aurora your daughter-in-law?”

Zendaya turned, carefully observing Savana’s movements. Meanwhile, Alden immediately pulled Aurora to move behind him while adopting a wary stance. He was worried that the middle-aged woman would go crazy as she usually did.

“Why do you ask?” Zendaya inquired to make sure. “Is there something wrong?”

Savana responded with a smile.

“Do you know about Aurora’s status —”

“Widow?” Zendaya cut in, as if she knew exactly what her friend was about to say. “I know, and that’s not something that’s a problem.”

A wide smile still adorned Savana's face. Her eyes displayed a gaze that was difficult to decipher.

"What about Aurora being barren and unable to have children?"

"Enough, Aunt Savana!"

Alden interjected sharply. He stared intensely at Savana, who appeared nonchalant. Meanwhile, the guests surrounding them immediately focused their attention after hearing the commotion.

"Don't slander and speak recklessly! Besides —"

"Alden..." Zendaya shook her head. She urged Alden not to lose control, which would only further disrupt the atmosphere. Contentt belongs to Nove/IDrâ/ma.O(r)g!

Meanwhile, Aurora couldn't do anything. Zendaya had already signaled her not to take too much action, fearing that it would attract even more attention.

"Savana..." Zendaya called out. Her voice was soft but firm. "Please don't cause a scene here. Please respect me as the host."

But Savana wouldn't be herself if she obeyed. The more she was forbidden, the more she revealed herself.

"Why, Zendaya? Do you think I'm speaking recklessly? Do you think I'm spreading slander?" Savana then looked around. She saw each and every person gathered around, observing her. "Just so you know, Aurora used to be my son's wife."

This first statement startled Zendaya. She wanted to make sure, but Savana quickly spoke again.

"That's why I know how rotten Aurora is. She was divorced by my son because she couldn't bear children. And even before officially becoming a widow, she was already flirting with this handsome doctor." She boldly pointed at Alden. And because of Savana's recent remarks, surely everyone there who heard immediately became restless and agitated.

“For God’s sake, that’s slander!” Aurora spoke up. She couldn’t stand hearing herself being belittled and slandered like this.

“What slander? You did marry Alex and eventually got divorced, right? And even after divorcing, you shamelessly left debts to the extent that Alex had to sell the house to pay them off.”

“Enough, Aunt Savana! It’s all —”

“Aurora!”

Zendaya interrupted. Meanwhile, Alden immediately called security. He asked them to escort Savana out of his mother’s residence.

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“Aunt... Aurora needs to leave now. Aurora apologizes for —”

“It’s okay...” Zendaya cut in. From her expression, it was clear that she didn’t want to discuss what had just happened. “Just be careful on your way home. Thank you for coming.”

Aurora bid her farewell with mixed feelings. She was worried that the earlier incident might have a negative impact on her relationship with Alden in the future.

“Why are you quiet?”

Ten minutes into the journey home, Alden noticed Aurora sitting silently. Her gaze seemed vacant, as if she were pondering something heavy. And Alden was sure that Aurora was still disturbed by the commotion caused by Savana earlier.

“Are you thinking about the quarrel earlier?”

Aurora turned to him. The beautiful woman nodded weakly, behaving as if she were deeply troubled.

“Let it go... don’t think about it. Besides, it’s just slander.”

Aurora chuckled bitterly.

“Maybe you know it’s slander. But not everyone there who heard Mama Savana’s rant knows that what she accused me of is nothing but nonsense. Besides, I feel bad for your mom. Her birthday party was ruined because of that insignificant incident.”

As they arrived in front of Aurora’s house, Alden immediately unbuckled his seatbelt. He turned to face Aurora with a smile.

“Don’t worry, Mom won’t be angry. Besides, I’m sure she’ll understand.”

“Yeah.” Aurora knew that. “Perhaps Aunt Zendaya doesn’t mind. But I’m still worried that there will be unpleasant gossip afterward. Just imagine, Mama Savana telling everyone about my status as her son’s former wife.”

“So what? I don’t care if you’re anyone’s former wife.”

“I know,” Aurora debated irritably. “But still, others might think differently about your family. Not to mention she slandered me about being barren and having difficulty having children. A flirtatious widow who left debts.”

“Okay... okay.” Alden tried to calm her down. From her tone alone, he knew Aurora was getting worked up.

“I swear by anything, yes! Mama Savana really needs to be taught a lesson. She’s really gone too far.”

This time, Alden just smiled. He chose to offer a bottle of drink to Aurora and not respond to what she was complaining about, fearing she might be provoked further. If possible, he wanted Aurora to stop discussing Savana rather than getting angrier and ending up frustrated herself.

“Okay, let’s go, and when you get to your room, just rest. Please, don’t stress about what happened earlier.”

For her sanity, Aurora complied. She hoped that after this, there would be no more problems for her to worry about.



Meanwhile, Alden chose to return to his mother's house instead of going to the apartment. As soon as he arrived and entered the house, Zendaya intercepted him. She called him over, asking him to come closer.

"Alden, Mama needs to talk to you seriously."

Alden approached. He immediately took a seat next to his mother.

"It's late, Ma. Can't it wait until tomorrow?"

"No," Zendaya shook her head. "I need to talk to you right now."

"About what? About Aunt Savana's rant? It's all untrue. She's just slandering."

Zendaya shook her head again. She wore an extremely serious expression.

"Mama wants to make sure about Aurora." Now it was Alden's turn to put on a serious face. He tried to guess what his mother wanted to discuss with him.

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

"Mama wants to ask about what?"

Alden became curious. He wanted to know what his mother really wanted to ask or clarify about Aurora.

"Come here," Zendaya waved. She asked her son to come closer and sit next to her. Side by side and facing each other. "There's something Mama needs to clarify."

"About what?"

"About Aurora, Savana's former daughter-in-law."

Alden took a deep breath. He understood, more or less, that his mother might have been triggered and perhaps preoccupied with Savana's remarks at the party earlier.

"What's the matter? Didn't Alden already inform you that Aurora is actually widowed?"

"Yes," Zendaya nodded. She didn't deny this issue.

Before, the two of them had indeed had serious discussions. Alden had been candid and sought Zendaya's permission before daring to approach Aurora again.

"Do you remember Aurora, Mama?" Alden asked back then.

"Aurora Harperwood? Your first love?"

"And forever will remain Alden's true love."

"Why? Why talk about her all of a sudden? Didn't you say Aurora got married to someone else?"

Alden nodded. Content © exclusive by Nô/vel(D)ra/ma.Org.

"Yes. She did get married. But, a few days ago, she got officially divorced."

Zendaya was surprised. From being normal before, now she responded with enthusiasm.

"How did you find out about this?"

"Because Alden works at the same place as Aurora."

Zendaya was even more surprised. Since he changed jobs, Alden had never mentioned or told her about working with his ex-girlfriend.

"Why didn't you tell me?"

"Well, Alden told Mama about it."

Zendaya sighed. Her son didn't seem to understand what she meant.

"So, if Aurora is divorced, why? Or did she divorce her husband because of you?"

"Oh my, don't accuse randomly, Ma!"

Alden stared. He never expected his mother to accuse him like that.

"Her husband was caught cheating twice. That's why they divorced."

Zendaya shook her head. She felt sorry for Aurora's unfortunate fate.

"Oh dear, that's so unfortunate. Maybe all of this happened because she left you in the past."

This time, Alden laughed. Previously, his mother felt sorry. Why was she now annoyed?

"Because Aurora is now alone, single, Alden wants to ask Mama for permission."

"Permission for what?"

Alden looked closely at his mother's face. He locked onto the two blue eyes of the middle-aged woman. Then he spoke softly and cautiously.

"Alden wants to re-approach and establish a serious relationship with Aurora. Alden asks for Mama's permission."

Zendaya remained silent for a moment. She carefully pondered her son's words.

"Are you sure? She even left you and married someone else."

"Alden knows. But, it's also Alden's fault. That's why, this time, Alden wants to make amends for the mistakes Alden made in the past."

Zendaya looked at her son's face, displaying a pleading expression. Realizing how much Alden loved Aurora from the past until now, Zendaya couldn't bear to refuse.

"Can I, Ma? Alden pleads."

Zendaya took a deep breath. Then she nodded in agreement.

"Alright. Mama allows it. But, don't let yourself get heartbroken for the second time."

At that time, Alden did inform about Aurora's newly widowed status. He never mentioned or talked about who her ex-husband was or whose child the man who had once been Aurora's husband was.

"But, you didn't tell me that her ex-husband is Savana's child."

"Why?"

Zendaya furrowed her brow.

"Why do you ask why?"

"Whether Aurora used to marry Savana's child, an artist, or even the president's child, it doesn't matter. After all, they're exes. The most important thing is that Aurora is currently single. Not married or someone's wife. So where's the fault?"

Actually, if looked at closely, Alden's words were somewhat right. No matter who Aurora's ex-husband was, her current status was that of an ex. However, there were still things that made Zendaya's heart feel blocked and uneasy.

"Then, what about Savana's statement that Aurora is barren? Is that true?" Zendaya took a deep breath. While looking at Alden's face, she slowly expressed her inner thoughts. "I just can't bear it if you end up not having children."

Alden tried to understand his mother's concerns. He admitted that Savana's spread of rumors had successfully provoked many people, including his own mother.

"That's slander, Ma. The one who's actually barren is Savana's child. It's not meant to defend, but Alden knows for sure what really happened. When they were still married, Aurora and her husband underwent examinations twice and it was found out that the husband was the one who was infertile. Just so you know, Aunt Savana knows that her child has difficulty having children. But, until now, she denies it and still blames Aurora."

Zendaya shook her head incredulously. The issue of slander thrown by Savana had even ruined her birthday party.

"Then, what about the debt that Aurora left until Savana and her child had to sell their house? How about that?"

For this question, Alden laughed instead. Although Zendaya was waiting for her son's serious answer.

"Why are you laughing?"

Alden continued to chuckle.

"Ma..." he called out. "You know who Aurora is, right?"

Zendaya nodded. As a woman who dabbled in business, she knew the exploits of Aurora's extended family, which was famous for having a business empire.

"Mama knows. Who doesn't know a big businessman like Joshua Harperwood?"

"That's it! From there alone, Mama should have been able to judge whether Savana's words are facts or just mere slander. Let Alden clarify, the one who has the debt is Alex, Savana's child. During his tenure and still being Aurora's husband, he often embezzled company funds for pleasure and to spend on his affair. So, when this scandal was revealed, it's not wrong for Aurora to demand compensation, right?"

Zendaya agreed with this statement. If she were Aurora, she would do the same.

“Enough, Ma. Don’t think about it. Everything that Aunt Savana accuses is nothing more than slander. Alden dares to guarantee that.”

Hearing Alden’s explanation, Zendaya tried to believe. Hoping that this problem would not escalate and make things difficult for her.

But, the reality was not as easy as Zendaya thought. Several days later, when receiving a lunch invitation from her socialite friends, Zendaya met Savana again. Because she didn’t want to get involved in conversation, she deliberately avoided her. But, one of her friends opened a discussion that seemed to touch on and imply the events of her recent birthday.

“So, the woman close to Dr. Alden is Mrs. Savana’s former daughter-in-law?”

Zendaya remained silent for a moment. She wanted to deny it, but the truth was indeed so.

“Yes,” she replied shortly.

“Why is Dr. Alden interested?”

Zendaya’s eyebrows immediately furrowed.

“What do you mean?”

“Well, Mrs. Zendaya’s son is still single, handsome, established, and a doctor. Why not look for someone equal?”

Zendaya just smiled, trying to keep her emotions from flaring up.

“I think Aurora is equal to Alden. She’s also a doctor and her life is already established.”

“But, if you can get a single person, why choose a widow?”

“Why does it matter?” Zendaya asked somewhat annoyed. “Besides, whether single or widowed, there’s no difference. Moreover, it’s really pitiful just because someone is a widow, then they’re discriminated against. Suppose the widow is one of your children here, then when they want to find a new partner but are treated like earlier, would you accept it?”

The woman who had been asking was suddenly silent. No longer debating Zendaya’s pointed explanation.

“Oh my God, Zendaya. There’s no need to defend so much.”

This time it was Savana who spoke. Finding her friends silent, she continued to ramble on.

“Moreover, I can guess what your reason might be if you still accept Aurora as a daughter-in-law.”

“What do you know?” Zendaya asked calmly.

“Just say you’re eyeing Aurora’s wealth, right?” Then Savana looked at her surrounding friends. She continued to speak as if providing information while provoking at the same time. “If you want to know, this Aurora is the daughter of a rich businessman, Joshua Harperwood. It’s because of this wealth that Zendaya is willing to accept Aurora. Otherwise, how could she agree to her son, who’s supposedly handsome, established, and independent, marrying a promiscuous widow like Aurora.”

Zendaya’s heart boiled. For God’s sake, she wanted to tear out Savana’s mouth, the one who loved to slander like that.

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

It’s been a week since the unpleasant incident that occurred during Alden’s mother’s birthday celebration. Although Aurora’s body was

physically present in the hospital, her mind still lingered far behind in that unpleasant incident.

Velia had tried to console Aurora several times, urging her to forget and just focus on maintaining her relationship with Alden without overthinking. But Aurora, being Aurora, could be stubborn at times when given advice.

“Don’t bother yourself, Aurora,” Velia grumbled. Thirty minutes before it was time to go home, she once again approached Aurora, reminding her to put an end to the anxiety and distress plaguing her friend’s mind at the moment.

“What else can I do? I’m worried,” Aurora admitted. She acknowledged that she was worried. So far, she and Alden could still meet freely, maintaining their relationship as if nothing had happened. But she still feared the repercussions of the commotion Savana had caused.

“Actually, I’m worried that the slander Savana spread might disturb Aunt Zendaya’s life,” Velia reflexively furrowed her brows. Pulling her face, she made sure once again what Aurora was conveying.

“What do you mean? How would it disturb?”

“Imagine this, the other day many of Aunt Zendaya’s friends and business associates witnessed and heard about the incident. I’m 100% sure they all heard the gossip about me being a widow. About being divorced because I’m barren and shamelessly approaching other men. And not to mention the false accusations of leaving behind massive debts,” Aurora sighed. Sometimes, it was pitiful to see Aurora constantly harassed by her ex-mother-in-law who was stressed and insane. Velia thought Savana couldn’t move on. She was so attached to Aurora that she made seeking attention a hobby and kept bothering her.

“Let it go, don’t think about it. Most likely, they don’t care about this cheap gossip,” Velia said, feeling sorry for Aurora’s constant stress and worry.



“Well, maybe some of them choose not to care or believe in Savana’s nonsense. But, I’m sure among them, there are also those who fall for it and turn it into mockery or discussion within their internal groups. I swear, no matter what, I don’t want something like this to disrupt Aunt Zendaya’s life.”

Understanding Aurora’s point, Velia tried to calm her friend down and stop her from being stressed or constantly preoccupied. She also tried to find the best solution that might help solve the problem.

“In my opinion, it’s better to report this old lady so she learns her lesson. Report her to the police for defamation. Besides, it’s not the first time she’s gone too far.”

Aurora nodded, remembering one by one the crazy actions Savana had done to her. From intentionally finding a woman to seduce Alex, then to the hospital to hurt her, and finally daring to spread slander to ruin her reputation in front of many people.

“Thinking about it, Savana has really crossed the line,” Velia growled. Why did Aurora just realize it now?

“She’s been like this for ages, right? You should gather evidence of her unpleasant actions. If she misbehaves again, report her and put her in jail to teach her a lesson. If you can’t do it, ask Asher to handle it all.”

“Ask me to handle what?”

Unexpectedly, Asher appeared at the door of the room. Somehow, he was there, but he stood alongside Alden.

“Oh, Dr. Asher. It’s...” Velia stuttered, embarrassed when the person they were talking about suddenly stood behind her.

“What?” Asher was curious. Turning his face to Aurora, he made sure again what caused the two beautiful doctors to mention his name in their conversation. Content © exclusive by Nô/vel(D)ra/ma.Org.

“Is there a problem?” Asher asked to confirm.

“We’ll talk about it later. It’ll take a lot of time to discuss this issue,” Asher nodded in agreement.

“So, why are you here? Is there something you need?”

“No,” he shook his head. “Just finished a surgery and passed by. That’s why I stopped. But...” Asher looked at Alden. “This is Alden, he said he wants to take you home.”

Alden nodded, confirming Asher’s words.

“Yeah, your work’s done, right?”

“Yeah, doc,” Velia chimed in. Always eager to encourage Alden when he was with Aurora. “Please take Aurora home soon.”

“Alright, let’s go home. Before I take Alden and hang out until night.”

Aurora immediately sighed in response to her younger brother’s remark. But, not wanting to waste Alden’s time, she promptly started packing. Straightening her belongings, she then followed Alden to the car.

“How’s your mom doing?” Aurora initiated the conversation. Almost every day when with Alden, she asked him the same question.

“She’s doing fine, right?”

Alden glanced briefly to give Aurora a reassuring smile. Even though asked almost every day, he never grew tired of providing comforting answers.

“Mom’s doing just fine, Aurora. Just like before.”

A soft exhale escaped Aurora’s nose. Somehow, she wanted to keep ensuring that Zendaya was okay and not even slightly bothered after the unpleasant incident during her recent birthday.

“Thank goodness for that.”

Silence lingered between them for a moment. Turning again, Alden spoke gently to his girlfriend.

“Don’t worry about it, Rin. It’s in the past now. Besides, it doesn’t affect anything for me and Mom. So, you don’t need to stress or think about it that much.”

Aurora understood. Alden had reassured her countless times. Again, she was just worried that he and his mother would face criticism or unpleasant remarks that cornered them both. Truly, if that were to happen, Aurora would feel deeply guilty.

“Whether there are negative comments or people poking their noses in, I don’t care. I know who you are the best. I’m the one in this relationship. Not them.”

“I know,” Aurora replied promptly. “I’m just worried that there might be—”

“Enough,” Alden interrupted, putting an end to it. He wondered how long they would discuss unimportant matters like this. “From today, we don’t need to discuss trivial issues. There are other things we can talk about or discuss.”

“Like what?”

Alden smiled softly.

“About the future of our relationship, for instance. If you’re ready, I want to propose to you as soon as possible.”

Aurora turned abruptly. Seeing Alden’s face, she knew he was serious. After all, this wasn’t their first discussion about engagement or marriage.

“Isn’t it too soon?”

Alden chuckled. He had anticipated Aurora’s response.

“Exactly how long do you want us to spend getting to know each other? How long should I wait for you? Is our time together still not enough? Or perhaps you’re still not sure about my sincerity?”

Aurora shook her head immediately. She never doubted Alden’s sincerity.

“Not like that. Who doubts you? It’s just that-”

“You’re still not sure? Still haunted by past failures? I assure you that will never happen.”

Aurora remained still, pondering Alden’s words. Besides, they had known each other for a long time. They knew each other well. So what else was there to wait for?

“Give me a little more time.”

“How long? A week? A month? A year? Ten years? Or?”

“A month,” Aurora affirmed. “Let me deal with the remnants of pain and trauma that still linger.”

Alden nodded in agreement. It wasn’t difficult for him to wait for just one month. Waiting for Aurora for years until she could return to his embrace, Alden could do that.

“Okay... use your time wisely. In a month, I’ll make sure to come to your house with my extended family.”

Aurora didn’t object. She let Alden with all the plans he had made.

“Alright, are you going back to the apartment or to your mom’s house?”

“I’m staying at Mom’s tonight.”

Aurora nodded in understanding.

“In that case, before we arrive, let’s stop by the bakery. I want to drop off some pastries for Aunt Zendaya.”

Alden immediately directed his car to the bakery Aurora mentioned. Together, they chose various pastries, then when Alden arrived at his parents' house, he went straight to find his mother, who had already arrived at home.

“Ma...” Alden called out. Then he approached his mother sitting in the living room. “Here, pastries from Aurora.”

Zendaya accepted the box of pastries Alden offered. She arranged them neatly on the table, then patted the sofa next to her, asking Alden to sit down first.

“Come here, Mama wants to talk to you for a moment.”

Alden sat down immediately. He focused on his mother as she looked serious, as if about to convey something important that couldn't be postponed.

“What do you want to talk about, Ma?”

“About Aurora.”

Both of Alden's eyebrows furrowed. Why did his mother suddenly want to talk about Aurora again?

“What about Aurora?”

Zendaya remained silent for a moment. Taking a breath, she slowly conveyed her point.

“From now on, I think you should keep your distance from Aurora.”

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

Thirty minutes after arriving home and freshening up, Aurora found Asher purposely stopping by her house.

Earlier at the hospital, she briefly explained that something had happened and they needed to discuss it. Asher immediately decided not to postpone it until tomorrow. He thought that whatever the problem was, it should be resolved as soon as possible.

“So, what important matter do you want to discuss with me?”

In the TV room, they gathered. Sitting casually on the sofa while enjoying the warm tea served on the table.

“It’s about my ex-mother-in-law.”

“Savana, the crazy one, right?” Contentt belongs to Nove/IDrâ/ma.O(r)g!

Aurora nodded. Despite wanting to deny or avoid it, the truth was that the middle-aged woman’s behavior was indeed crazy and extremely disruptive.

“Yes. I want to have a serious talk with you because it’s about her.”

“What else has she done?”

Actually, it took a lot of courage for Aurora to disclose something personal to Asher. Not because she was afraid, but more out of a sense of respect, considering Asher always dealt firmly with and resolved anything related to his family members.

As Rayyen had rightly said, if you could solve a problem on your own, it was better to do so immediately. But if you were stuck and confused about what to do, let Asher handle it right down to the root.

“She slandered me.”

Asher’s brow furrowed suddenly. Having not heard from Savana for a while, he thought that his brother’s ex-mother-in-law had perhaps come to her senses and repented. Asher remembered at their last meeting, he had threatened to send the woman to jail if she continued her unruly behavior.

However, upon hearing the unpleasant news Aurora had just revealed, Asher believed that something was amiss and indeed needed his attention.

“You were slandered? How could that happen?”

Aurora tried to keep her composure. Searching for the right words, she tried to explain the chronology of the problem that had befallen her.

“So, here’s what happened... a few days ago, I was invited to Alden’s mother’s birthday party. Unbeknownst to me, Mrs. Savana was also there. Apparently, she is part of a group of socialite mothers invited by Alden’s mother.”

Asher chuckled briefly. It wasn’t clear which part of Aurora’s statement amused him.

“What? Socialite mothers’ gatherings? Like they have money to join such gatherings.”

“Well, who knows, maybe there’s still some money left from selling houses that can be used to join such gatherings,” Aurora replied casually.

“So, why did she suddenly slander you?”

Aurora sighed deeply. Although it had happened some time ago, the feeling of suffocation and pain still vividly filled her chest.

“At that time, Aunt Zendaya was introducing me to all her friends. Not that I was being overconfident, but I felt like Aunt Zendaya was showing me off to almost all the guests.”

Asher nodded.

“And then, Savana caused trouble?”

Aurora affirmed Asher’s statement.

“Out of nowhere, Mrs. Savana appeared. Then, she casually said that my beauty was useless if my heart was rotten. Worse, in front of all the

guests, she intentionally revealed that I was a useless ex-daughter-in-law. Unable to bear children, not yet a widow but already flirtatious with other men.”

“What?!”

Asher began to lose his temper. His emotions were stirred hearing the story recounted by his sister.

“She said that in front of everyone?”

Aurora nodded repeatedly.

“Not only that, Ash. She also accused me of leaving behind a lot of debt, to the extent that her son suffered and had to sell her late husband’s house.”

Asher clenched his fists tightly. His jaw hardened with anger at the absurd accusations received by his sister.

“So, in front of many people, Savana said these things?”

Aurora nodded.

“Yes. You have no idea how embarrassed I was at that time. Even though all the accusations were clearly untrue, there must have been someone who believed those slanderous remarks.”

“So, you didn’t try to defend yourself?”

“I did.” Aurora quickly responded. “Even Alden tried to help. But out of respect for Aunt Zendaya, I couldn’t do much.”

Asher growled in anger. He regretted why he hadn’t jailed his former sister-in-law from the beginning. She had caused harm, endangered, and had many misbehaviors.

“For God’s sake, Ash...” Aurora continued with a voice that sounded weak. At this point, she felt helpless. “I’m ashamed in front of Aunt Zendaya. Although she initially accepted me as a sister who was a widow,



somewhat confident, I believe she must have been disturbed by Mrs. Savana's chatter. Worried that at every opportunity or meeting, Aunt Zendaya would become the subject of ridicule by her friends who fell for Savana's instigations."

"Hey, calm down first," Asher tried to reassure. He asked Aurora not to be sad, let alone think negatively.

"How can I calm down? I'm worried this incident will affect my relationship with Alden in the future. That's what's been bothering me for the past few days," Aurora replied.

Asher tried to understand. Knowing what he needed to do, he once again attempted to calm Aurora so she wouldn't get lost in distress.

"Just... try to stay calm. Let me handle all of this."

Asher hugged Aurora tightly. Believing that his sister was much better now, he decided to take his leave. Before he left completely, inside the car, Asher appeared to be contacting someone.

"Hello, could you come to my place tonight? There's something important that needs to be sorted out."

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

Alden was stunned. He was sure he hadn't misheard what his mother just said. The firm tone of her words made him immediately question.

"What? What did Mom just say?"

"From now on, you have to keep your distance from Aurora," Zendaya repeated, feeling compelled. There was no change whatsoever from her previous statement.

“Why does Mom suddenly ask me to keep my distance from Aurora? What’s wrong?”

Despite the unpleasant incident at his mother’s birthday party a few days ago, Alden didn’t think there was any major issue. Zendaya even reassured him that everything was fine.

So why today, after a week has passed without any incidents, out of the blue, his mother suddenly asked him to distance himself from a woman he clearly cared about?

“Mom...” Alden called out when he found his mother silent. “What’s really going on?”

Zendaya looked visibly conflicted. Her expression was hard for Alden to read. He couldn’t guess what had actually happened to his mother. Was there a big problem or something bothering her, causing her to suddenly change her mind?

“Mom knows this must be hard for you. But Mom feels you really need to start keeping your distance from Aurora.”

“But why? There must be a reason for Mom to suddenly act like this. Didn’t you say yesterday that there’s no problem at all?”

Zendaya nodded.

“I felt the same way before.”

“Then why the change now? What’s wrong with Aurora that I have to avoid her? Is it because of her status as a widow?”

“It’s not that,” Zendaya denied. “Mom has never once had an issue with Aurora’s status all this time.”

“Then why? Or could it be that Mom is starting to believe Aunt Savana’s rumors?”

This time, Zendaya shook her head vigorously. She denied the assumptions her son made. But deep down, she also didn’t intend to be

malicious like this. Zendaya knew well how much Alden loved Aurora. His feelings for her hadn't changed at all.

"Not like that, Alden."

"In that case, what's the reason? There's no way Mom would suddenly change like this without a reason."

Zendaya took a deep breath. Between embarrassment and feeling conflicted, she told Alden why she asked him to distance himself.

"At first, Mom thought everything was fine. But lately, Mom has been feeling disturbed, and it's been wearing Mom out."

"What do you mean, Mom?"

Zendaya then recounted. She recalled what had happened recently. It all started with Savana's remarks in one of the WhatsApp groups and continued when they met again a few days ago at a restaurant.

"If you want to get richer, you should be smart enough to find opportunities."

When they gathered, Savana rambled on. Acting like a know-it-all, she talked about anything and everything to her friends. "Do you want to know..." the woman of Arab descent then said. "Why Zendaya's business is thriving?"

"Why is that?" one of Zendaya's friends asked.

"Well, because she's smart at seizing opportunities."

Zendaya tried to cut her off then. That's why she responded to Savana's ramblings to stop talking nonsense.

"Everyone who wants to succeed must seize opportunities as best as they can. Whatever it is, as long as the goal is good, it should be utilized," Zendaya replied casually.

"Yeah, including selling your son for your own benefit, right?"

“What do you mean?”

Zendaya started to get angry. For how many days she had restrained herself from Savana’s words that seemed to cause chaos.

“Don’t deny it. Everyone knows your daughter is well off. But, for the sake of business profit, you let her have a relationship with a woman who clearly isn’t useful.”

“Savana... watch your words. Don’t embarrass yourself by spreading false news.”

Savana laughed. Contentt belongs to Nove/IDrâ/ma.O(r)g!

“Who’s spreading false news? For two years, Aurora has been married to my son. For two years, she hasn’t been able to give grandson.”

“Your son might be the one with issues. Don’t just blame the woman.” Savana retorted. She rejected Zendaya’s overt defense of Aurora.

“Don’t be ridiculous! The proof is there! When my son chose a new partner, that woman got pregnant. So, who’s the one with issues here? Besides, what do you expect from Aurora? If Aurora wasn’t the daughter of someone as rich as Joshua Harperwood, I’m sure you wouldn’t have ever allowed your son to marry such a cheap widow.”

“Enough!” Zendaya snapped. Pressing her lips tightly together, she refused to be insulted in such a manner. “Stop talking nonsense. And stop spreading baseless rumors.”

“Who’s spreading rumors?” Savana deliberately countered. “That’s the reality. If you don’t have any vested interests, I’m sure you wouldn’t let your child get involved with Aurora. Or, perhaps, you intentionally had Alden work at the same hospital as Aurora from the beginning. Yeah, to make it easier to get close. I also suspect your child deliberately seduced Aurora while she was still in the process of divorcing my child, right?”

For heaven’s sake, if Zendaya hadn’t been in a public place, she would have scratched that annoying Savana’s face. But, aware of her own

classiness, Zendaya chose to ignore her. From that moment on, she decided she would never want to know or associate with Savana again.

However, that wasn't enough. Two days later, during a business meeting, one of her associates approached her for a conversation while they were having lunch together.

"Zendaya, I heard from Savana that your son is going to marry a widow. Sorry if this is presumptuous, but why not matchmake your son with my daughter instead? She's also a doctor. If they're together, I'm sure our businesses could prosper even more. Well, even though I'm not as wealthy as Joshua Harperwood, at least my daughter is still single and definitely not barren."

Zendaya felt deeply hurt hearing her son being belittled. Moreover, almost all her friends who were influenced by Savana's words assumed she was seeking business advantage through her son's relationship.

"But, none of those accusations are true, Mom," Alden tried to defend. After all, he was the one in this relationship and knew exactly what was going on.

"Mom knows that. But, by God, this matter is really disturbing. I don't want to continue being seen as someone who's after profit from your relationship with Aurora, who's clearly a conglomerate's daughter. I can't bear it, Alden. It hurts me to hear them think you deliberately approached Aurora, a widow, for some gain in wealth and status."

"I'll resolve this issue as soon as possible. If necessary, I'll sue Aunt Savana for defamation."

Zendaya shook her head. "No. You don't need to do that. Just do what Mom asks."

"But-"

"If you love Mom, please keep your distance or stay away from her as soon as possible."