Unpredictable Betrayal : A Sweet of Revenge 91-100

Aurora was completely surprised when she found Zendaya suddenly visiting that evening. After all, it was the first time the woman had set foot in Aurora's residence.

In the past, although close and familiar with Zendaya, it was always Aurora who visited or picked her up first. Despite often accompanying her home, Zendaya never once stopped by herself.

And now, finding the middle-aged woman bothering to come over herself for a visit, Aurora believed there must be something important she wanted to convey directly.

"Can Auntie come in? There's something Auntie wants to discuss with you."

This sentence further unsettled Aurora's feelings. The negative thoughts that had previously vanished now came rushing back.

"S-sure, Auntie. Please come in."

Aurora led Zendaya into her home. She was invited to sit down immediately, while Aurora went to the back briefly, asking the household assistant to prepare drinks and some cakes.

"Don't bother, Aurora," Zendaya interjected as Aurora returned to the living room. "I won't stay long."

Aurora hurriedly sat down, preparing to listen to what Zendaya wanted to say.

"It's no trouble. Auntie Zendaya rarely visits here anyway. So, why not let Aurora play host." Shortly after, Aurora's household assistant arrived with a tray of drinks and some cakes. They were served promptly, and guests were invited to try them.

"Thank you."

"Don't hesitate. Please have a drink first."

"How are you doing? Are you well?"

While sipping the warm tea in her cup, Zendaya slowly started the conversation. It seemed like small talk before getting to the main topic.

"So far, Aurora is doing fine."

"Thank God," Zendaya replied with a smile. "Auntie has just recovered from a cough and cold. Lately, the weather hasn't been very good."

Aurora nodded in agreement. It was true about the weather lately. The transitional seasons recently made many people susceptible to illnesses.

"Same here. Many people in the hospital have also been affected by respiratory infections. Anyway, just drink plenty of water to avoid dehydration and keep our throats from drying out."

Zendaya nodded.This content © Nôv/elDr(a)m/a.Org.

"Yeah. That's why Auntie also has plenty of vitamins at home."

Then, Zendaya set down the cup she had been holding and slowly raised her face again. Seconds later, she fixed a deep gaze at Aurora, asking something again.

"How's your relationship with Alden? Is everything okay?"

Aurora nodded immediately. Despite being hit by storms and harassed by unimportant people, Aurora admitted her relationship with Alden was still fine. She admitted she had been angry and misunderstood about the arranged marriage yesterday. Not to mention Zendaya asking Alden and her to take a break from their relationship. But after a long explanation, she understood Alden's situation.

"So far, Aurora and Alden are fine, Auntie."

Zendaya nodded. They remained silent for a moment, with Zendaya observing Aurora sitting right in front of her. Whether she was formulating the best words. But this actually made Aurora feel even more anxious.

"Actually..." Zendaya continued softly. "There's something Auntie needs to tell you, Aurora. And Auntie is 100% sure Alden must have already told you about the issue and Auntie's request for both of you to keep your distance or take a break from your relationship for a while."

Aurora nodded. She didn't deny what Zendaya said.

"Yeah, Alden already told me."

"So, what's your response to that request? Is it wrong after the turmoil that happened, Auntie asked Alden to take a break from your relationship for a while?"

This time Aurora fell silent. Honestly, she wasn't prepared to be bombarded with sensitive questions like this.

"Aurora...."

"Yes?" Zendaya pursued. "How?"

"To be honest, Aurora felt sad at first. Aurora didn't want turmoil or complicated issues like this to happen. Besides, Aurora is also aware of her status as a widow. But, after thinking about it again, just because she carries the status of a widow, does that mean Aurora can't be happy?"

Zendaya shook her head.

"You deserve to be happy, Aurora. And it's important to underline, Auntie never questioned your widow status. Besides, you must know what led Auntie to ask Alden to keep his distance, right?"

"Yeah, Aurora knows. Alden has told me about the slander spread by Auntie Savana that has caused Mom trouble. My God, Aurora apologizes for the uproar that has occurred. But, Aurora and Alden agree to resolve this issue immediately. Aurora hopes Auntie will be patient, just for a moment. We are both dealing with this issue seriously."

Zendaya sighed deeply. There were many difficult things for her to convey. Considering Aurora and her son seemed firm in their determination to persevere.

"Alden also mentioned the same thing about his desire to clear your name and hold Savana accountable for her actions. However, there are a few things that have happened to Auntie that Alden and you have no idea about."

Aurora was startled by Zendaya's confession.

"What do you mean, Auntie?"

"There have been many malicious words spread by Savana in several groups and at every meeting. She believes that you are having difficulty conceiving. She's saying Alden is one of the reasons for your divorce and your son's separation. Not to mention your habits of partying and squandering money, leaving behind a lot of debt. Most hurtful of all, Savana accuses me of deliberately offering Alden to be your companion because she's lured by the lucrative family business your family holds. Truly, Aurora. Auntie is very saddened and disturbed."



Aurora could hear how soft Zendaya's voice sounded. Laden with sadness and so much hurt. Perhaps heartache from baseless accusations made by Savana.

"Just imagine. Mom worked hard to reach her current position. But, she's casually accused of all sorts of things."

"Aurora apologizes, Auntie. Aurora promises to resolve this issue."

Zendaya shook her head.

"It's not just that. What's even more painful is that some of them have canceled partnerships because they think Auntie really deliberately offered her own son for business interests. This is seen as unprofessional." Zendaya took a breath, trying to suppress the emotions that might be building up in her chest. "Moreover..." she continued. "They assume that Auntie is deliberately turning a blind eye to what Alden is doing. Moreover, until now, you're still in contact and even seem more intimate outside. This strengthens their assumption that Mom is deliberately negligent because she wants to profit."

Aurora's chest felt painful. She didn't know that the slander spread by Savana would have such long-term effects.

"So, what should Aurora do, Auntie?"

Truly, Aurora didn't know what to do. On one hand, she also couldn't bear to see Zendaya struggling like this.

"Because Auntie has asked Alden, but he doesn't want to respond at all, now it's Auntie's turn to ask for your help."

Aurora blinked. She listened carefully to Zendaya's words.

"Ask for help? What does Auntie want to ask for help with?"

Zendaya seemed to take a deep breath. As if ready, she slowly informed.

"Auntie is asking for Aurora to stay away from Alden for a while."

Aurora froze. She never expected Zendaya to ask for something unexpected. Avoiding Alden temporarily meant not being in contact with him anymore? Why did things get more complicated like this?

"Auntie knows this isn't easy," Zendaya added. "But, please also consider Alden's reputation. Because of this issue, he's labeled as a materialistic man. Whereas, Auntie worked tirelessly, day and night, to make Alden a man who should have a respected name. Just because of vicious slander, his reputation has been tarnished."

"But, Auntie..." Aurora tried to provide an argument. If possible, she wanted to resolve this issue without hurting anyone's feelings. "Aurora and Alden are working to resolve this and clear our names. That's why, Aurora -"

"Auntie knows," Zendaya cut in hastily. "You must resolve this issue. But, Auntie requests that you not have any contact until this issue is resolved. Let the rumors outside subside and disappear first."

Aurora was at a loss for words. Moreover, Zendaya's words just now sounded more like an order that couldn't be disobeyed.

For a few days, there had been a nagging feeling. Eventually, today proved that her relationship with Alden was threatened to end at an indefinite time.

"Aurora..." Zendaya called gently as Aurora fell silent. Rising from her seat, unexpectedly the middle-aged woman knelt in front of Aurora.

"Auntie Zendaya... What are you doing?"

Aurora was extremely surprised. She asked Zendaya to immediately get up and return to her seat. "Why are you kneeling, Auntie?"

"I just want to ask for your help, just this once. Please stay away from Alden for a while. Auntie is sad to hear that he's out there being accused of all sorts of things because of his relationship with you. If you really love and care for him, please consider this carefully."

Pressed in such a way, Aurora finally nodded. Moreover, she had no choice but to obey.

"Fine..." Aurora nodded to Zendaya. "Starting today, Aurora will try to keep her distance from Alden."



Unpredictable Betrayal : A Sweet of Revenge

Alden seemed to be wandering around. Since earlier, he had been searching for Aurora's whereabouts, which hadn't been seen at the hospital. Today, because there was a morning surgery schedule, Alden couldn't go to work with Aurora. After finishing his duties, Alden tried to contact her as usual. However, his girlfriend hadn't responded to his text messages or phone calls that he had been sending. This made him worried. He was afraid that something might have happened to her.

"Dr. Velia, have you seen Dr. Aurora?"

Alden went to visit Velia in her office. Because Aurora had mentioned yesterday that she would be leaving with Velia, he believed that she would know where his girlfriend was.

"Dr. Alden?" Velia quickly rose from her seat. She approached Alden, who was standing at the door of the room. "I haven't seen Dr. Aurora today."

Alden's brow furrowed reflexively. He was certainly surprised to hear the confession of the pediatric specialist in front of him who apparently also didn't know where Aurora was. Yet Alden had thought that his girlfriend had gone to work with Velia as previously stated.

"Really? Last night, Aurora said she would go to work with Dr. Velia this morning."

Velia confirmed this.

"Yes, Doctor. That was the plan. But this morning, she called and said she wouldn't be joining. When I asked why, she just said she had some matters to attend to."

Alden became even more confused. Now he didn't know where else to look for Aurora, while she still hadn't responded to his messages.

This was the first time Aurora had acted strangely by disappearing suddenly. Wait a minute. Or could it be that Alden was just being overly anxious in searching for her?

"Well then. Let me try looking again."

"Is there something urgent that Dr. Alden wants to convey?" Velia asked, concerned. She felt sorry for Alden, who clearly seemed lost.Contens belongs to Nô(v)elDr/a/ma.Org

Alden shook his head.

"It's not really urgent. I'm just confused because I haven't seen Dr. Aurora since earlier, and I can't reach her either."

"Do you want me to help search?"

Velia became worried too. She took out her phone, then tried to call Aurora and got the same result. The Arab-descended woman didn't answer any of her calls.

"She's not answering my calls either. Let me help search, okay?"

Alden shook his head again. Knowing Velia's busy schedule this morning, he politely declined her offer. After all, he could try to find her on his own.

"No need, Doctor. I'll look for her myself."

Velia nodded understandingly. She didn't insist on her offer to Alden.

"In that case, let's keep each other updated, Doctor. If I happen to find Aurora, I'll inform Dr. Alden as soon as possible."

Alden nodded and left. Once again, he wandered around trying to find Aurora's whereabouts. Before long, he remembered something. Out of all the rooms he had checked, there was one that he had missed.

"Oh, Asher's room."

With big strides, Alden hurriedly made his way to the leadership room. Upon arriving and knocking on the door, he found Aurora there, chatting with Asher.

"Oh my goodness, Aurora."

Still catching his breath, Alden exclaimed. But afterward, he felt relieved because Aurora, who he had been searching for, was indeed in her brother's room.

"Al, what's wrong with you?"

Asher, puzzled, asked. He got up and then invited Alden to come in and sit on the guest sofa.

"Come. Sit next to Aurora."

Alden agreed. He took a seat next to Aurora. "I've been looking all over for you. I even checked the rooms and couldn't find you. I asked Velia, but she didn't know."

Alden expressed what had made him anxious and panicked. Meanwhile, Asher just shook his head and chuckled.

"Aurora has been here the whole time. She's been going to work with me."

"Yeah," Aurora nodded in agreement. "I've been with Asher all this time."

Alden nodded in relief.

"Thank goodness. I thought you were missing. And why didn't you answer my calls or messages?"

Aurora then checked her pocket. Realizing her phone wasn't there, she suddenly remembered.

"Oh my goodness, I just remembered my phone is in the drawer. I'm so sorry for making you panic."

"It's okay. The important thing is we found you now."

Asher chuckled again. He found it amusing to see Alden's obvious worry and panic.

"Don't worry. Aurora isn't going anywhere. She won't go missing as long as she's with me."

"It's just panic. It's not like her to not reply to messages or not answer calls."

Alden continued to laugh hearing Aurora's response. From this, he could tell that his colleague was genuinely afraid of losing her sister.

"But, since you're here too, I want to discuss Savana's case."

The handsome face, previously filled with worry and panic, suddenly became more serious. Alden was sure that if Asher was discussing Savana's case, there must be something important he needed to know.

"How's Aunt Savana? Can action be taken yet?"

Asher nodded.

"Don't worry. Next week, the legal team and the police will arrest that crazy woman."

"Seriously?"

Alden looked pleased. That meant he could soon clear his mother's and Aurora's names in front of everyone.

"That's what I've been discussing with Asher," Aurora added. "Honestly, I'm tired and I want this to be over quickly."

"Yeah," Asher continued the conversation. "Don't worry. This case couldn't be rushed from the beginning. We need to find the right time so that Aunt Savana doesn't realize she's been targeted from the start. It's dangerous if she finds out she's going to be arrested. She might play the victim, pretend to be crazy, or even intentionally escape. That's why Rayyen and I have been coordinating lately to find the right time."

Alden didn't expect Asher to think that far ahead. From this, he became more confident in Aurora's statement that Asher was calculated and reliable in solving every problem. "But, before she's arrested, I ask that she confess to everyone that what she said was slander."

Asher nodded in agreement.

"Don't worry. This time I won't show any mercy. Because she embarrassed Aurora, I'll embarrass her in front of everyone. Just wait and see what I'll do."

"Anyway, if you need help or anything, just let me know. I can't wait to see Aunt Savana being held accountable for what she's done."

After meeting with Asher, Alden invited Aurora to stop by the hospital cafeteria for a moment. While enjoying cold drinks, he wanted to tell something to his girlfriend.

"Tomorrow, there's a health seminar scheduled at the Magnola building. I'd like your permission to attend."

Aurora smiled. She nodded in response to Alden's explanation.

"Sure. Why do you need permission? I won't stop you."

"I know," Alden replied hastily. "But, one of the seminar partners tomorrow is Regina. I'm afraid you might misunderstand."

The smile still lingered on Aurora's beautiful face. Instead of changing her mind and forbidding it, she seemed to respond casually to the information Alden gave.

"No problem. Besides, I'm sure you won't do anything inappropriate, right?"

"Of course not."

"Well, then. Just relax. I won't get jealous."

Now it was Alden's turn to smile. If he got the green light like this, he felt relieved and comfortable to carry out his work later. "Thank you for allowing me."

Aurora nodded. Then, not long after, she spoke again.

"The day after tomorrow, can we have dinner together? There's something important I want to tell you."

Alden checked his schedule on his phone first. Believing there was no important activity to be done, he shook his head afterward.

"No, there isn't. My schedule is clear the day after tomorrow. So we can have dinner together. Moreover, what do you want to talk about?"

"The day after tomorrow, I'll tell you everything. If now, there's not enough time. Besides, you'll have to return to work soon, right?"

Before Alden could respond, one of the nurses approached. Asking Alden to hurry to the Emergency Department because there was an emergency patient who needed immediate examination.

Meanwhile, Aurora chose to return to her own room. Unfortunately, she had to meet and, whether she liked it or not, share the elevator with Regina.

"You already know that tomorrow I have a seminar schedule with Dr. Alden, right?"

Despite this, Aurora deliberately remained silent and pretended not to see Regina. However, Regina decided to speak up and intentionally engaged in conversation.

"If you genuinely want to win someone's heart, there's always a way," Regina bragged. "God knows what's best and should be given an easy path."

"Feel free to take it if you can."

Aurora responded briefly. She didn't feel like wasting energy to entertain Regina's talk, which she considered unimportant.

"Don't be arrogant. I'm sure Dr. Aurora already knows the gossip out there about Alden being accused of various things because he's close to a doctor, right? Would you really let Alden be humiliated and degraded like that? Don't be selfish."

Aurora laughed.

"What did you say? I'm selfish?"

Regina nodded.

"Yes. Doctor indeed seems self-centered. For the sake of her own happiness and obsession, Doctor Aurora closes her eyes to the current condition of Alden and his mother, who are currently genuinely destroyed by the accusations of people out there. If not selfish, then what is it?"

"You're exaggerating, Regina."

Regina laughed.

"Exaggerating? Doctor Aurora is the one who's been exaggerating by turning a blind eye." Regina then approached a little closer. Narrowing the gap, she spoke while also making a point.

"Think carefully, if Alden can be happy with another woman, why does Doctor Aurora insist and ultimately sacrifice Alden's and his mother's happiness? It's better to let go. Let Alden's reputation return to its original cleanliness. After all, why force him to live with a woman who actually tarnishes his image in front of many people?"

After the elevator door opened, Regina innocently walked away. Leaving Aurora without giving her the chance to respond to what she had said.



Unpredictable Betrayal : A Sweet of Revenge

"I'm heading to the seminar first. Later this evening, once everything's done, I'll head straight back to the hospital so we can go home together as usual."

"Okay. Take care on the road. See you later this evening."

Aurora watched Alden leave as he filled in for a health seminar at one of the renowned universities.

Although Aurora knew that one of Alden's partners for the day was Regina, she didn't feel worried or jealous at all. No, Aurora remained calm.

"Today, maybe Alden and I will go to the seminar together. Who knows, maybe tomorrow we'll both leave work together or end up living together. No one knows how destiny will unfold, right?"

After the briefing in the meeting room, Regina took the opportunity to give a warning. As if she enjoyed bothering Aurora with all sorts of chatter.

"Hopefully, God grants your wish, Dr. Regina. Like you said yesterday, if Alden is truly meant for you, you shouldn't be worried, let alone afraid." Regina nodded.

"I'm not afraid, Dr. Aurora. I just want to clarify and remind you that it's better to step back slowly than to end up hurting many people."

Regina's words were hurtful when listened to closely. But, because she didn't want to bother, Aurora just ignored it as usual. It wasn't that she couldn't reply. Aurora considered it nothing more than a waste of time. Besides, she was also confident that Alden would not be tempted, let alone easily change his heart.

Moreover, after knowing that Asher was also accompanying the seminar today, Aurora's heart was much calmer. That meant there was no chance for Regina to seek attention, let alone get close to her lover.

"Aurora Harperwood."

Velia called out. Turning, she saw her friend approaching as if wanting to convey something.

"Your patient in the VIP Rose Room is waiting for your visit. Here's the examination report that I summarized yesterday."

Aurora accepted the folder handed by Velia. She briefly read it carefully, then nodded in understanding.

"All right, I'll check on it now before leaving for the visit."

Velia nodded. But soon she seemed to realize something.

"Are you okay? Your face looks pale. Are you sick or something?"

Aurora then held both of her cheeks. Shortly after, she responded.

"Oh yeah? Do I look pale?"

"Yes!" Velia insisted. "Are you not getting enough sleep? Do you have any problems? Or what?"

Aurora smiled. She casually responded to Velia's questions, which were like a train.

"It seems like it's because of lack of sleep. I also have a lot on my mind. My head feels so heavy right now, especially the back part feels really tense."

Velia immediately narrowed her eyes. Knowing that Aurora was sick, why didn't she rest?

"Are you thinking about something? Just tell me. Maybe I can help. Well, even if there's more complaining."

"A lot, just things I'm thinking about."

Aurora wasn't joking or bluffing. Until now, she was still thinking about Zendaya's request to keep her distance or stay away from Alden for a while. Initially, Aurora wanted to inform her lover quickly. But, considering there were many surgical schedules these days. Also, Alden also had a seminar schedule, Aurora didn't want to disturb his concentration. That's why she looked for the right time and chose the day after tomorrow to talk to her lover and discuss all of this thoroughly. Aurora didn't want to hide anything. In a relationship, they should be as open as possible to each other.

"If you're not feeling well, let me take over your patient visit. You can just rest in the room. It'll be dangerous if something happens."

Aurora shook her head. Feeling capable, she chose to finish her work herself.

"No need. I'm fine."

"Then, who are you going out with after this?"

"Don't worry, I'm not alone. I'm going out with some nurses."

"Okay then. If anything happens, just let me know immediately."

Aurora then finished the work that had been waiting for her. According to schedule, afterward she went out with the nurses to visit one of the health centers on the outskirts of the city.

Fortunately, everything could be done on time. At exactly two in the afternoon, after everything was done, Aurora decided to stop by the supermarket for something she wanted to buy.

After so long, for some reason or another, Aurora had to meet Savana. Although she hoped that if she ever met her crazy ex-mother-in-law again, at least they would meet at the police station. And Savana would be the defendant for all the various wrongdoings she had done to her.

"Oh my, meeting my beloved ex-daughter-in-law here. I've been avoiding so hard, yet still, we meet."

Savana deliberately greeted first. Her words and gaze were clearly mocking. Truly, Aurora felt uncomfortable.

"How's it going? Are you still getting along with Zendaya's child? Or maybe you've broken up already?"

Aurora stared silently. Trying to leave, but Savana blocked her path so she couldn't go anywhere.

"Why the rush? Are you scared or what? They said he's great?"

"Why should I be scared?" Aurora finally replied. She responded to Savana's low-quality banter. Seemingly looking for trouble to provoke her response.

"And why are you avoiding?"

Aurora responded casually.

"Just don't want to waste my time."

Savana laughed to herself, amused by Aurora's disregard for her words and presence.

"Aurora..." she called. "Don't feel so proud. Don't think for a moment that you've won."

"So, what should Aurora think?"

"You should be careful," Savana replied with a smile. "What's happened to you so far is nothing compared to what you've done. You should remember well, as long as I'm alive, you won't ever feel even a bit of happiness. You can't and you never will."

Aurora smiled back. She responded casually to Savana's words.

"So, Aurora should be careful?"

Savana nodded.

"There are still many surprises that you might receive after this."

Aurora simply nodded. Summoning her courage, she approached Savana.

"Perhaps, Aunt Savana should also be careful. There's a price you must pay for the chaos that has occurred. Aurora swears, this time there will be no more forgiveness for people like you who have no shame."

Aurora then left. While Savana could be heard shouting behind her.

"We'll see. I'll make trouble for anyone close to you! Just wait and see."

Meanwhile, Aurora's head had been pounding since last night. Wanting to calm herself, she instead met Savana, which only made her brain nerves even tenser.

Truly, if she hadn't made a promise with Alden to wait for him to return from the seminar, Aurora would have wanted to go home. After all, her body felt weak. She just wanted to lay down and rest as soon as she got home. Aurora had already taken pain relievers. But, for some reason, her headache just wouldn't go away.

Just as she was about to stretch her muscles, one of the nurses approached her room. Informing her that there was a visitor, Asher, who wanted to meet her, and she had no choice but to take over.

"Just let him in. I'm not busy right now."This content © Nôv/elDr(a)m/a.Org.

The nurse nodded. Exiting promptly, then ushering the guest into Aurora's room.

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"Excuse me. May I come in?"
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Aurora recognized the deep voice well. Turning around, she saw Alex smiling at her.

For God's sake, she had just met his mother a few hours ago. Why was God now making her encounter her ex-husband, who she clearly wanted to forget? What sin had Aurora committed today? Why did she feel so unlucky?

"Yes. Please, have a seat."

Since Asher wasn't there, Aurora had to be the host. She believed that her ex-husband came for work purposes. Due to the demands of professional work, she tried to act normal.

"Sorry for intruding. Today, I want to deliver the invoices for the items that have been received by Santa Monica Hospital."

Aurora received the invoice sheet that Alex handed over. She read it carefully and meticulously. Checking everything thoroughly until she was sure, then she signed it as proof that she had directly received what was invoiced.

"Okay. I've received it. You can wait for two to three days for the payment process. Usually, there will be a report sent later."

"Understood," Alex replied promptly. He then looked at Aurora, and shortly after, asked something unrelated to work. "I'm sorry if I'm being presumptuous. Are you sick? You look very pale."

Just like Velia, Alex apparently noticed that something was wrong with Aurora. Seeing his ex-wife pale, he dared to ask her directly.

"I'm not sick. Just haven't been getting enough sleep. That's why I feel a bit weak."

Alex nodded in understanding. Suddenly, a sense of worry crossed his mind.

"I thought it was because you were sick or not feeling well."

"No. I'm perfectly fine."

Once clarified like this, Alex couldn't ask any more questions. Feeling uneasy to disturb her, he decided to bid farewell. Besides, there was a lot of work he had to finish.

Out of respect for Alex, Aurora escorted him to the door.

"I'll take my leave now. Thank you for your time. If there are any complaints about the items, you can directly inform our company."

Aurora nodded softly. Before she could reply, suddenly she felt dizzy and then lost consciousness. Perhaps she was too tired or couldn't bear the pain in her head anymore.

Fortunately, Alex was still there. Quickly, he reached out to catch Aurora before she fell to the floor. Moments later, Alex called the attending nurses who happened to be passing by. He asked them all to help bring Aurora to the examination room without noticing Alden, who had just returned and witnessed the incident.

Unpredictable Betrayal : A Sweet of Revenge

"Doctor, can I have your photo?"

"Doc, can I take a photo with you?"

Alden felt overwhelmed. After finishing the seminar, he was swarmed by medical students who wanted to take photos with him.

This had also happened to Asher. However, since the man was invited by the dean for a discussion, it was only Alden who had to deal with the photo session with the group of female students who came to mob him.

"Thank you very much, Doctor Alden."

"Yes, you're welcome," Alden replied politely. Regardless, he couldn't refuse their invitations for photos.

"Doctor, are you married? Do you have a wife already?"

Several students bombarded him with questions. They were still crowding around, waiting for Alden before he left.

"Yes, Doc. Are you already married or not yet?"

"Not yet," Alden replied casually.

"In that case, can I have your WhatsApp number, Doc?"

One of the students boldly asked, straight to the point with her intentions. Perhaps captivated by Alden's good looks that had caught the attention of the seminar participants from the start.

"A WhatsApp number? For what?"

"Just in case we want to ask something or discuss in the future. Also to get closer."

"Yes, Doc. Can we have it?" They all waited eagerly, hoping Alden would kindly share his phone number with them.

"No, you can't!"

Regina intervened. Approaching Alden, she shooed away the female students so they wouldn't flirt with her target.

"Doctor Alden already has a partner," she stated firmly.

"But he's not married yet, right, Doc?"

One of them tried to find an opening. They just didn't want to miss any chance.

"Well, he's not officially married yet, but Doctor Alden is already engaged and will be getting married soon."

Asher, this time, answered. After the discussion, he approached Alden, who was visibly surrounded by many female students from a distance.

"Who?" The student threw another question. "Is Doctor Regina his fiancee?" they asked, pointing towards Regina, who was also standing there.

However, Regina was already smiling and nodding happily at being considered Alden's partner. But Asher shook his head, denying the students' guesses in front of them.

"No, no. Doctor Alden's fiancee is not Doctor Regina. She's currently at the hospital. She's also a doctor and coincidentally not participating in the seminar today."

"Gosh, that's too bad."

"We thought he didn't have a partner yet."

"Even though we hoped Doctor Alden was really single."

Asher laughed again. He urged Alden to get ready to leave. But before they left, he took the opportunity to give some advice.

"You guys should focus on studying properly to graduate quickly. Once you become great doctors, it'll be easy to find partners. Plus, with Doctor Alden's model-like looks, he wouldn't want a partner who's still a student. He's already in the stage of looking for a future wife who's ready to get married."

After that, Asher took Alden and Regina back to the hospital in a hurry. In the parking lot, it was Regina's turn to try her luck and seize an opportunity with Alden.

"Doctor Alden didn't bring a car, right? Why not ride with me? I'm alone."

"No, thanks."

"Then, who will you go home with, Doctor?"

At the same time, Asher drove by, honking the horn of his black Rubicon. Lowering the window, he signaled for Alden to join him immediately.

"I'm going home with Asher. Thanks for the offer. Just be careful on the road."

Regina immediately became upset. She had hoped Alden would agree to her offer to ride home together.

Meanwhile, Alden, already inside the car, looked relieved. It was the second time today that Asher had rescued him from various assaults and distractions from the female students and Regina.

"Please have a drink first."

Knowing that Alden seemed tired, Asher handed him a bottle of mineral water that was available in his car, asking his friend to relax and calm down.

"Thank you very much, Ash. Seriously, thanks a lot for being my savior today."

While focusing on driving, Asher laughed. If he were Alden, he believed he would face the same difficulties. "Just relax. That's the risk of being handsome. You'll always be a target for many women."

"Did you used to be like that too?" Alden asked, curious. He didn't deny that his colleague beside him also had handsome looks, especially considering everyone knew that Asher was wealthy. It was certain that many women were after him.

"Don't ask. Right now, it's safe. Clara's got her bodyguards. So, if you don't want to be bothered, hurry up and get married."

Alden laughed. But, Asher's advice was indeed true. At least if he were married, he could minimize unpleasant incidents like earlier.

"Just pray that I can get married in two or three months. I'm working on it."

"Don't worry. I'll pray for you. Hopefully, everything goes smoothly and you're really meant to be with Aurora."

Alden appreciated the prayers Asher offered. He was thankful as well because his friend had provided a lot of support and full belief that he and Aurora could unite.

"I didn't expect to be surrounded and asked various things by the female students," Alden remarked afterwards.

"That's nothing. If you were to give out your phone number, they'd be even bolder. They'd see it as an opportunity to get closer."

"But, the most important thing is that you've saved me from Regina. Honestly, I'm more exhausted dealing with her."

Asher chuckled. From Alden's tone of voice, he knew the man seemed incredibly grateful.

"From the start, I actually knew that Regina was after you."

Asher's recent statement immediately caught Alden's attention. He didn't know that Asher had realized this from the beginning.

"Oh, really? Was it obvious?"

Asher nodded. Briefly, he turned his head, then continued to talk. Besides, there was something he wanted to tell Alden.

"Just by her mannerisms, it was clear she was trying to get your attention. And just so you know, Regina is friends with Nicole."

Alden was even more surprised. Despite knowing Regina longer and sometimes interacting with her at the hospital, he truly had no idea that Regina was friends with the woman who had hurt Aurora's feelings.

"What? Nicole? Seriously?"

Asher nodded repeatedly. He assured Alden of his earlier statement.

"Yeah. The other day, I saw Nicole getting a checkup at the hospital. At first, I thought nothing of it. Until I accidentally overheard their conversation about you and Aurora."

"They were talking about me and Aurora?"

"Yeah," Asher replied again. "The gist of their conversation was that Nicole supported Regina in approaching you by any means necessary. Nicole also intentionally provoked Regina to ruin your relationship with Aurora. She considered Aurora, the widow, unsuitable for you, who are still single."

"Damn it!"

Alden sounded frustrated. He was angry at himself for only now finding out that Regina and Nicole had sinister plans against him and Aurora.

"You should also know, yesterday Aurora even told me that Regina blatantly approached her and challenged her to compete to win you over. Regina also asked Aurora to step back and if possible, gracefully accept that you would be her partner, claiming that you and Regina had known each other longer." Alden was even more stunned. He finally knew what Regina had been up to behind his back.

"Damn it! I only found out now."

"That's why today, I joined the seminar too because I didn't want Regina to act recklessly. Now, I'm even keeping an eye on her movements. If she tries anything, watch out! I'll confront her. I don't care if she's a woman or not."

Alden nodded in agreement with what Asher said. After this, he was more determined to keep his distance and not give Regina any opportunity to approach him.

Upon arriving at the hospital, Alden hurriedly got out of the car. Striding purposefully, he intended to surprise Aurora by coming home early from the seminar.

However, just as he stepped out of the elevator, from a distance, Alden saw Aurora standing in front of the room with a man he recognized. Alex, Aurora's ex-husband.

Initially, Alden deliberately gave some time, waiting until Aurora's visitor left.

However, a few seconds later, his eyes caught sight of Aurora suddenly collapsing and losing consciousness.

Swiftly, Alden ran. Seeing Aurora's body being caught by Alex, he approached and immediately took over.

"Let me do it."

Alex was momentarily confused. But, afterwards, he allowed Alden to carry the woman towards the examination room.

"Doctor Alden, let me help with the examination."

Velia, who also witnessed the incident, immediately offered assistance. She examined carefully while gently trying to awaken Aurora. "Aurora has been pale since this morning, doctor. I asked her to rest because she complained of dizziness and weakness."

Velia informed Alden, who was still standing beside her. She recounted the chronology of why Aurora had lost consciousness.

"Aurora..." Alden called, trying to wake her up. "Aurora... come on, wake up."

Slowly, Aurora began to regain consciousness. Opening her eyes, she murmured.

"My head hurts so much."

"Your blood pressure is low, Aurora," Velia replied. This content © Nôv/elDr(a)m/a.Org.

"Is your head still hurting?" Alden asked afterward.

"It's really painful. I just want to go home."

"Alright, I'll take you home right now."

Instead of being assisted or supported to walk, Alden lifted Aurora's still weak body. Carrying her confidently, he then brought his beloved to the car, passing by the people bustling in the hospital.

This incident certainly caught Alex's attention, who was still there. Somehow, he felt a pang of pain seeing Aurora being cared for so much by another man.

Unpredictable Betrayal : A Sweet of Revenge

"Hey, how's Aurora? Is she okay?"

Finding out that his sister suddenly lost consciousness, Asher panicked as well. After work, along with their mother, Asher decided to immediately follow Aurora, who was already at home.

Upon arrival, Asher found Alden already there. He was somewhat relieved because Aurora had received initial treatment from his colleague.

"She's still weak. I've asked her to rest fully. I've also told the house assistant to prepare warm soup so she can eat and take her medicine later."

Asher nodded in understanding. Now it was his turn to take action.

"Thanks a lot for being prompt to help and bringing Aurora home, Al."

"No problem. I'll take my leave now. If there's anything, please let me know as soon as possible."

As Alden left, Asher and his mother hurried to Aurora's room. There, he found his sister lying down, looking weak and frail.

"Are you sure you don't want to be admitted to the hospital? You're weak like this."

Aurora shook her head, immediately rejecting what Asher had just offered.

"No need. I'm fine. I'll just rest at home."

"But your blood pressure is very low. Or should I get an IV for you? So you can rest properly."

Again, Aurora shook her head, refusing what Asher offered.

"No need. I really am fine. Just need to rest at home as usual today. Tomorrow will be better."

Seeing Aurora insist on resting at home, Asher finally agreed. Essentially, Aurora was the type of woman who couldn't be forced into anything.

"Alright then. But before I leave, let me give you a vitamin shot so you won't deteriorate further. And as a precaution, Mom said she'll stay here until you're in better condition than now." This time, Aurora nodded in agreement. After being given a vitamin injection and once again ensuring her condition was okay, Asher decided to leave. He left Aurora with their mother, who would accompany and stay until her condition improved.

Elenna took care of Aurora diligently. She let her daughter rest first.

As night approached, Elenna brought food to the room and helped feed Aurora. She made sure her beloved daughter finished the meal she had prepared.

"How are you feeling? Any more headaches?"

While massaging Aurora's feet, Elenna asked, making sure whether her daughter's condition was improving or worsening. But seeing Aurora sitting up strong and now leaning back on the bed, Elenna believed that Aurora's condition was much better than before.

"I'm feeling better, Mom. Not as tense as before."

"Thank goodness."

Elenna truly felt relieved. She knew both her children, especially Aurora, rarely fell ill since they were young.

Upon hearing from Asher that Aurora had suddenly fainted, he was naturally worried. Elenna was convinced that Aurora must have reached a point of exhaustion to the extent that her condition dropped as it is now.

"Have you been sleeping poorly or something? According to Asher, your blood pressure is really low. Could it be that there's some problem?"

Elenna knew Aurora's habits well. From the numerous illnesses her daughter had experienced, Elenna knew that if Aurora's blood pressure was low, she must be stressed or involved in some trouble.

"I've just been having a lot on my mind lately."

"What could you possibly be thinking about that's making you this sick? Is it related to Savana? Or perhaps Alden's mother's request?"

Aurora glanced over. Even if she didn't want to share, she was sure her mother had her own intuition about her. Moreover, Asher had also told their mother about the issues he faced without leaving out any detail.

Not to mention Savana's crazy behavior. Elenna even knew about Alden's mother's request for Aurora to distance herself from her son for a while.

"That's one of the reasons, Mom. It's indeed Mrs. Savana who's the main cause of me being this sick."

Elenna felt both sad and sorry seeing Aurora's clearly exhausted face. She approached, gently stroking Aurora's wrist as if to strengthen her daughter's resolve.

Elenna knew there were many problems plaguing her daughter. She realized that Aurora was a strong and patient person. She persisted despite always being belittled and regarded as a useless daughter-in-law. Twice betrayed by her husband and her own cousin.

And now, even after the divorce, she had to endure vicious slander that had serious repercussions. It was only human that Aurora's condition eventually collapsed like it did now.

"You're the one who's patient, Aurora. You're Mama's strongest child."

With teary eyes, Elenna embraced her. She held Aurora close while tears streamed down her face. It was heartbreaking to see her daughter endure so much suffering, seemingly never given the chance to experience complete happiness.

"If you're tired, you can rest first. Don't force yourself," Elenna whispered softly into her daughter's ear. Her voice sounded fragile, indicating immense sadness. Despite her promise not to cry, she couldn't hold back any longer.

"Just leave everything to Asher. Let him handle it all."

Truly, Elenna was afraid. She feared that not only Aurora's physical health but also her mental well-being would be disturbed if she continued to be bombarded with unresolved problems. Elenna couldn't bear to see her daughter suffer endlessly.

Realizing her mother's sadness, Aurora tried to loosen the embrace. She wiped the tears from her mother's cheeks, then tried to smile.

"Forgive Aurora, Mama. I'm sorry for always worrying you like this."

Elenna shook her head. She cupped Aurora's cheeks.

"You don't need to apologize. You've done nothing wrong."

Aurora took a deep breath. Trying to calm herself, she asked again.

"In your opinion, should Aurora just follow Alden's mother's request to distance herself for a while?"

Elenna remained silent for a moment. She delved into Aurora's brown eyes. She looked deeply to ensure she understood what her daughter had just said.

"Actually, Mama doesn't have the right to decide because it's you who's in the relationship. But, personally, and if I may give advice, Mama wants you to rest for a while. You also need a break to calm yourself. Refresh your mind and heart from various problems and complexities that have occurred. If forced, I'm afraid you might lose your mind. It would be a pity for Mama's beautiful daughter to lose her sanity."

Aurora chuckled softly. Her mother's joke managed to lift her mood. She listened attentively to what was advised to her.

"So, it's okay if Aurora takes a short break."

Elenna smiled. She kissed the back of Aurora's hand that she had been holding.

"When you're tired, you really need to rest, right? If forced, things might get worse and fall apart." Elenna paused for a moment in her sentence. Then she continued speaking. "But, whatever your decision is, don't forget to discuss everything with Alden. Regardless, he has the right to know your final decision. Considering you two are in a serious relationship now."

Aurora listened carefully. After thinking it over, it seemed like she needed to do what her mother had said. After that, she contacted Asher to discuss something.

In the evening, before going to bed and truly resting, Aurora received a call from Alden. She knew for sure that her beloved was worried about her current condition.Contens belongs to Nô(v)elDr/a/ma.Org

"Have you eaten and taken your medicine?"

Alden asked to make sure. From his voice, the concern was still evident.

"I've done everything."

"And, are you still feeling dizzy like earlier this afternoon?"

"It's getting better," Aurora replied softly. "After being injected by Asher, my condition is much better now. I can sit up."

"In that case, just rest now. Tomorrow morning, before work, I'll stop by to bring you breakfast."

"No need," Aurora refused. "Let's just meet in the afternoon. We already planned to have dinner together."

Alden fell silent for a moment. Then shortly after, his voice could be heard again.

"Are you sure you still want to meet and have dinner tomorrow night?"

"Why? What's wrong?"

"Why?" Alden sounded puzzled. "Your condition isn't good right now, dear. If you want, we can reschedule for the following day until you're completely okay." "No." Aurora refused again. "I'm feeling better now, and I want to meet you tomorrow. It's been a while since we had dinner together. Besides, there's something important I need to tell you and discuss with you in person."

"Okay... okay... if you're sure you're feeling much better, we'll meet and have dinner together tomorrow. The important thing is to rest today and get some sleep."

While holding her phone, Aurora nodded. "Yes, I'm going to sleep now. You should rest too."

"Yeah, dear. In that case, see you tomorrow afternoon."

Unpredictable Betrayal : A Sweet of Revenge

It could be said that Aurora's condition today is much better. After receiving treatment and taking medication as prescribed, she can feel that her health has improved and gradually returned to normal as it used to be.

Still accompanied by Elenna, Aurora is sitting in front of the wardrobe this afternoon, arranging her clothes into the suitcase. Packing some items she wants to bring for traveling in the near future.

"Are you sure you want to go alone?" Exclusive \odot content by N(ô)ve/l/Drama.Org.

Elenna reassured again. Still anxious about the decision made by the princess.

After discussing with both parents and her younger sibling last night, Aurora finally heeded her mother's advice. She decided to take a break. Asking for time to calm herself until all the recent problems are resolved as she hoped. "If that's your decision, please go ahead. I, Mom, and Dad will fully support you."

After the discussion, Asher expressed his opinion. Knowing that his sister was sick due to too much stress and worries, he also felt sorry.

"But, you promise to resolve all the issues, whatever it is, related to Ms. Savana, right?"

Asher smiled and nodded. Since it's his duty and almost 100% completed, Asher felt confident and believed that this time his actions could silence Savana and prevent the crazy woman from causing trouble again.

"Don't worry. In a few days, Ms. Savana will pay for all her evil deeds. I assure you that when you return, all the problems will be resolved, and there will be no more bad rumors spreading."

Aurora felt a little relieved. In this way, she was sure she could leave with a peaceful mind.

"But..." Aurora murmured softly. "With a break like this, it doesn't mean you're running away from problems, right?"

Asher smiled again. He knew there were still worries and doubts clouding Aurora's heart.

"No way. Who's running away from problems? You also need to refresh your mind, have the right to calm down, improve your mood so you can feel better and less stressed than before. Besides, it's just a matter of days, all the big problems will be solved."

With full support from her family, Aurora made up her mind. She decided to go for a while until her heart and mind could calm down and improve.

"Aurora is sure, Ma. Besides, Aurora is already grown up. So, she can go wherever she wants alone."

"Yes, if you want company, Mama is ready to accompany you anywhere."

Knowing her mother was worried, Aurora approached and briefly hugged Elenna. She kissed her mother's cheek, then stared at her intensely to dispel the apparent worry.

"If Mama goes, Papa will be left alone. Don't worry. Aurora will be fine."

"But, how long will you be gone?"

Aurora smiled. It was funny to see her mother's attitude exactly like a parent sending off their little child on a school trip with the school group.

"Until Aurora feels ready to return. Mama, don't worry, Aurora will call and video call frequently. So Mama won't miss her too much."

Elenna pouted. But, seeing Aurora's decision which couldn't be questioned anymore, she accepted it and could only pray.

"Most importantly, before you leave, you have to talk to Alden first. Mama doesn't want him to have any bad thoughts."

"Yes," Aurora nodded. After finishing packing her belongings into the suitcase, she got up and walked to the sofa. Taking her phone, then sitting there for a while. "Today Aurora will meet Alden first. Aurora will tell him everything and inform him of this decision. Mama, please pray that everything will go smoothly."

"Of course, Aurora." Elenna reassured. After all, what mother wouldn't pray for the well-being of her children? "Mom's prayers always accompany every step you take."

Then, Aurora decided to contact Alden. She wanted to remind the man that they had to meet today. And for some reason, she had to advance the time from their previous appointment.

"Yes, dear?" Alden responded from the other side. From his voice, Aurora believed the man was on his way home from the hospital.

"Could we reschedule our meeting for today?"

"Sure. What time do you want to meet?"

"How about 5 p. m.?"

"5 p. m.? Sure. But, I have to drop off Mom first. Today she got an invitation, and coincidentally, she asked for a ride since last night. After dropping Mom off at the event venue, I'll come pick you up. How's that?"

"No need." Aurora declined Alden's offer. She thought it was a pity for her lover to go back and forth to drop her off and then pick her up. "Let's just meet at the restaurant. So you don't have to tire yourself back and forth. Worried you might get stuck in traffic, you know?"

"Yeah, that makes sense. Okay then. When you're on the way or arrive at the restaurant later, just let me know. If I'm late, wait for me for a while, okay?"

"Sure. No problem."

In the evening, Aurora dressed up beautifully. She wanted to look fresh and no longer pale like before at their evening meeting.

Occasionally, sadness crept in. If she could be honest, she didn't really want to be separated from Alden for a while.

However, because she felt this was the right decision, Aurora tried not to be indecisive anymore. And she prayed that when she told Alden about the decision she had made, he would accept it and support her like her parents and her sibling did.

Not wanting to get stuck in traffic, Aurora deliberately left early. She even took the time to stop by the bakery because she wanted to bring Alden's favorite cake.

Arriving at the restaurant, Aurora chose to wait. She informed Alden first that she had safely arrived at the restaurant and was now waiting for him.

Aurora: "I've arrived at the restaurant. Later, you come straight to table number 25 near the right-side window. I also brought your favorite cake."

Unpredictable Betrayal : A Sweet of Revenge

Meanwhile, elsewhere, Alden seemed focused on driving as he had to take his mother to one of the hotels. As far as he remembered, there was a birthday celebration event today that they had to attend.

Upon arrival, Alden helped his mother open the car door. But instead of letting him go after that, his mother held him back and invited Alden to come inside.Copyright by Nôv/elDrama.Org.

"You have to accompany Mom inside."

Alden was surprised. This wasn't what they agreed on at home.

"Why does Alden have to accompany Mom? Usually, Mom also comes by herself to every celebration or gathering. Why does Alden have to come now?"

Zendaya seemed indifferent. She didn't let go of her son's arm.

"The thing is, Aunt Riana is celebrating her birthday today. Mom feels bad if you don't come along. She invited both of us."

Alden was even more surprised. Only now did he know that it was his mother Regina's birthday.

"But, Ma. I already have plans. If I don't hurry, I'll be late."

"What plans? With Aurora?"

Alden nodded. He never lied to his mother.

"Yes. I've had plans to meet Aurora today for a long time."

"Accompany Mom for a while. Besides, it's not every day there's a birthday party. If you want to meet Aurora, you can do it anytime. You're together every day, right?" Alden sighed reluctantly. How could he refuse his mother's request now?

"But, Ma. I really can't accompany Mom. Aurora has been waiting for a while now."

"Then, aren't you concerned about Mom? Aren't you concerned that Mom will feel embarrassed if she has to lie when people ask why you're not coming?"

Alden felt more and more conflicted. In this situation, how could he refuse?

"Okay, Alden, accompany Mom inside. But, not for long. Anyway, Alden already has plans to meet Aurora. And Mom knows that a promise is a debt that must be repaid."

"Yes, Mom," Alden said reluctantly. "Now, you go inside first."

Whether he liked it or not, Alden followed his mother's steps. Meanwhile, he sent a message to Aurora first. Informing her that he would be a little late.

Alden: "Aurora, please wait for a moment. Mom asked me to accompany her into the event venue. After this, I'll come straight to meet you."

Aurora: "Sure, take your time. I just arrived too."

Counting the time, Alden followed Zendaya as she greeted her friends. Approaching Riana, who was celebrating her birthday, then Alden was instructed to give his regards.

"Thank you so much, Alden, for coming. Auntie is happy to see you here."

"Thank you, Auntie. Once again, happy birthday," Alden said mechanically. If possible, he wanted to leave immediately after this. Besides, he wasn't fond of being around and participating in gatherings dominated by those socialite ladies.

"Alden. Finally, we meet here."

Who else but Regina approached and addressed him. Out of nowhere, the woman appeared and Alden had no choice but to be polite.

"Have you eaten? Let's eat together, I'll accompany you around," Regina offered eagerly, hoping Alden would accept her invitation.

"Thanks. But, I'm still full."

"Alden..." Zendaya called out, making Alden turn to her. "Accompany Regina for a meal first. It's impolite to refuse the Hostess's invitation."

"But, Mom-"

"After that, you can leave. Later, I'll ask the driver to pick you up."

What could Alden do? Because he didn't want to waste any more time, he reluctantly moved towards the buffet table with Regina. He picked a piece of cake and ate it quickly.

"You seem to be in a hurry. Where are you off to?" Regina inquired.

"I have important matters to attend to."

Regina nodded, smiling knowingly.

"I guess you're going to meet Doctor Aurora, right?"

Alden looked at her, displeased. Especially remembering Asher's account of how Regina intentionally asked Aurora to stay away from him.

"That's none of your business."

"You better eat first. After that, you can go see Doctor Aurora. Waiting for a little while won't hurt, right?"

Tired of small talk and feeling like he had fulfilled his duties and obligations, Alden chose to ignore Regina and finally left her. He bid farewell to Riana and his mother first, then hurried to catch up with Aurora, whom he believed was still waiting at the restaurant. Driving at a speed above the average, Alden tried to reach his destination as quickly as possible. He tried to contact Aurora, but her phone seemed to be inactive.

Alden was worried for a moment. Even when he arrived at the restaurant, he hastily searched for the table Aurora had reserved. Unfortunately, when he reached the designated spot, he found no trace of his beloved.

Unpredictable Betrayal : A Sweet of Revenge

Alden: Honey, can you wait a little longer? Mom is still having a hard time being left alone. I'll leave in five minutes and come to pick you up right away.

Alden: Just a moment, Sweetheart. Sorry for being late.

Aurora took a slow breath after rereading the short message Alden sent an hour ago. Checking her gold Aigner watch wrapped around her left wrist, the time showed twenty minutes past six.

Initially, Aurora intended to remain patient. She even tried to contact Alden, but he didn't pick up several of her calls.

Convinced that there was no hope of meeting her lover today, Aurora decided to leave the restaurant immediately. She contacted Asher, who happened to be on standby not far from where she was.

Five minutes later, while waiting in the lobby, Aurora spotted Asher arriving with his favorite black Rubicon.

"Are we really going straight to the airport? Don't you want to wait a bit first?" she asked.

While fastening her seatbelt, Aurora nodded. It was evident from her expression that she was already sure.

"Yes. Let's head straight to the airport. My flight leaves in less than an hour."

Asher nodded. He drove at a moderate speed to promptly take Aurora to the airport.

After discussing overnight, Aurora finally decided to go and calm herself until an indefinite time.

Believing that this decision was for Aurora's well-being, all family members agreed and supported her. However, Elenna reminded Aurora to inform Alden so he wouldn't feel sad, disappointed, or misunderstand the situation.

"So, how about Alden? Did you tell him?" Asher asked again, reminding Aurora not to overlook this task.

"Just a moment," Aurora said. Then she tried to call Alden again. "I'm trying to reach him again. He hasn't picked up the phone since."

"He's probably still at the party. Sometimes, you can't hear or feel someone calling or sending messages," Asher replied.

"That's the problem!" Aurora sighed slightly frustrated. "Maybe he didn't hear your call because of the noise."

Then, Aurora tried calling Alden again. Once more, her five phone calls went unanswered.

"It's the same," Aurora said. "He's not picking up the phone."

Asher, who was focused on driving, also thought about it. Actually, he could help explain or tell Alden about his sister's departure.

However, Asher believed it would be better if Aurora told him herself to avoid any misunderstandings or disappointment.

"If you can't talk to him directly on the phone, you can write him a letter. Write down all the reasons or anything you want to tell him in the letter. If Alden stops by or looks for you at home later, I'll give him the letter directly. Plus, after reaching your destination, you'll want to turn off your phone, right?"

Asher's idea made sense. Agreeing to it, Aurora quickly opened the dashboard of her brother's car. She knew Asher often kept blank paper and a pen in each of his cars.

After finding what she was looking for, Aurora started writing down what she needed to tell Alden. She explained everything clearly, hoping he would understand and accept the decision she had made.

"How's it going? Have you written everything?" Asher asked as they entered the airport complex, making sure his sister was still busy writing. A few minutes later, the beautiful woman finished what she had been working on. Then she folded the paper neatly in her hand to hand it over to her brother.

"I've written everything here. If Alden stops by the house or looks for me at the hospital tomorrow, please make sure he receives and reads the letter I wrote."

Asher nodded. Pulling over the car, he accepted the paper handed to him by Aurora.

"Yes. You just relax. I'll make sure Alden gets this letter. If he asks anything, I'll handle it."

Before Aurora got out of the car, Asher gave her one last hug, wishing her a safe journey to her destination.

"Take care. If you need anything, just call me right away. Don't take too long. I have to take care of the hospital stuff myself."

"Sure," Aurora replied after releasing the hug. "Take care of Mom. Make sure to check on her regularly. I'm sure she'll be sad. And don't forget to resolve the issue with Mrs. Savana, whatever it takes. I hope everything will be sorted out without any leftover problems when I come back." Asher smiled. There was no way he would forget about this. After painstakingly searching for evidence, he made sure everything would be resolved properly this time.

"Don't worry. In a day or two, I'll have a surprise for Mrs. Savana. Let's see how she reacts."

Once again, Asher embraced his sister. Convinced that there was nothing else to check or miss, he escorted Aurora into the departure terminal until her figure completely vanished from his sight.

Meanwhile, Alden was in a hurry. He even left Regina without saying goodbye or asking permission.

However, upon arriving at the restaurant, Alden no longer found Aurora. Asking the waiter, they informed him that his girlfriend had left about 30 or 40 minutes ago.

Intending to contact her, Alden realized that Aurora had been calling him several times since then. Feeling guilty, Alden tried to reach out immediately. However, unfortunately, the calls he made were never answered because Aurora seemed to have turned off her phone.

Referring to the information provided by the restaurant waiter about Aurora leaving about 40 minutes ago, Alden decided to follow Aurora to her residence. He was sure his girlfriend must have already arrived home.

Alden hurried off. Upon arriving at Aurora's house, he found only Elenna and Asher there.

"Aurora isn't home?"

When invited in and seated, Asher informed Alden that Aurora wasn't at home. This naturally confused Alden. If she wasn't at home, then where could she be?

"Wasn't Aurora still not feeling well? Where could she have gone?" Alden asked again.

Asher took over once more. He tried to answer all of his friend's questions and alleviate his confusion.

"Actually, today Aurora wanted to meet you to talk and say goodbye."

"What?" Alden was even more surprised. He was certain he hadn't misheard just now. "Aurora saying goodbye? Where is she going?"

Alden stared intently, waiting for Asher's response. But instead of being told, Asher handed something over to him.

"At Aurora's request, I'm not allowed to say. But she left this letter for you. You can read it calmly and with a clear mind. And I hope you can accept and appreciate all the decisions she's made."

Still somewhat puzzled, Alden accepted the letter handed to him by Asher. Impatient and unwilling to waste much time, he decided to read the letter right then and there.

"Alden... if you're reading this letter, it means I've already left. Originally, I wanted to say goodbye in person. But because the timing wasn't right and it was too rushed, I apologize for having to leave without speaking to you directly. Don't be sad. I'm just going away for a little while to calm myself down. As you know, there have been many problems lately. Honestly, I pretended to be strong and to feel okay. But the closer it got, everything felt not okay. I couldn't handle it anymore and finally broke down like yesterday. Often I asked myself, what sin have I committed that makes it so difficult for me to feel happy?"

Alden sighed softly. It felt suffocating to read the letter Aurora wrote to him.

"Although there's a lot I want to tell you and discuss with you. It's not about complaining, but Aunt Zendaya recently asked me directly to keep my distance and take a break from our relationship for a while. Initially, I didn't accept it. But after seeing the effects of our relationship, I decided to leave for a while. Because if we're in the same place and still meeting each other, I can't avoid being in a relationship with you. Please, don't search or worry anymore. I swear to God, I'll be okay. I hope after I'm gone, the issues with Mrs. Savana can be resolved soon and then your and Aunt Zendaya's reputations can be restored like before. I permit myself to leave now. I hope later on, both of us will still be given the chance by God to be together."

Alden's chest suddenly felt tight after finishing reading the letter Aurora left for him. It was a mix of emotions. He regretted not hurrying today, resulting in both of them failing to meet for the last time.

"Don't worry, Al," Asher reassured. He knew Alden must be feeling sad and confused. "Aurora will be okay. Let's just let her rest and improve her mood and mindset so she won't be stressed like yesterday."

"Yes, Alden," Elenna added. "Mom hopes you understand Aurora's situation. She's really been under a lot of pressure from many sides. Just believe that she's meant for you. You two will eventually be together."

Alden couldn't offer much comment. Still in an uncertain mood, he decided to go home immediately. Not to his apartment, but to his mother's residence.

Entering the house's courtyard, Alden saw his mother's car neatly parked. Getting out of his car, he briskly walked up. Approaching Zendaya, who was in the dining room at that time.

"Mom...."

Zendaya reflexively turned. Seeing her son's new figure coming home, she greeted him as usual and responded. "Yes, what is it, Al?"

"Mama owes an explanation." Zendaya furrowed her brow quickly, thinking carefully. What kind of explanation did her son mean?

"About what? Mama doesn't understand," she replied.

Alden took a slow breath. Despite being somewhat emotional, he tried to remain calm.

"It's about Aurora."This content © Nôv/elDr(a)m/a.Org.

This made Zendaya even more confused. "What about Aurora? What's wrong with her?"

"Why did Mama ask Aurora to stay away from Alden?" Alden asked directly.

Zendaya fell silent immediately. She hadn't anticipated that her son would eventually find out about this issue. And now, she had to figure out how to explain so that her beloved son would understand her intentions.

Unpredictable Betrayal : A Sweet of Revenge

Alden didn't waver his gaze away from his mother. Intentionally sitting face-to-face, he waited earnestly for his mother to provide an explanation.

Disappointment was clearly etched on Alden's handsome face. Since the beginning, when his mother asked him to keep his distance from Aurora, he had worked hard to explain. He tried to reassure that without needing to distance or end the relationship, he would resolve the ongoing issues.

Truly, Alden didn't expect his mother to do what she did. Because she couldn't make him stay away, suddenly she went to Aurora and asked her to grant her request.

"For God's sake, what Mama did was way out of line."

Alden spoke up again. He waited for Zendaya to speak, but she seemed content to remain silent for a while.

"Mama says she's doing all this for my happiness?" Then he chuckled bitterly. "But Mama's doing all this for her own sake."

"Alden, enough!"

Zendaya finally responded. The middle-aged woman shook her head in disbelief. It was the first time she had seen her son so angry and disappointed with her.

"Do you know why Mama met Aurora and asked her to stay away temporarily? Mama did all this to alleviate the irresponsible accusations that people have thrown at our family, especially at you. Mama is hurt to hear her only child being accused of being materialistic. Purposely getting close to a widow just for her wealth. Oh God, Alden. We come from an affluent family. But, really, those accusations have hurt Mama!"

"If those accusations aren't true, why should Mama be hurt?"

From the beginning, since this issue arose and he knew that his mother became the subject of ridicule and irresponsible accusations from her friends, Alden had tried to calm her down. He tried to convince his mother to continue being indifferent until he managed to resolve all the chaos that had occurred.

However, it seemed Zendaya was impatient. Instead of waiting, she took matters into her own hands without considering Alden's feelings.

"It's not as easy as you think, Alden."

"And it's not as bad as what Mama imagines."

Alden immediately countered. He tried to refute Zendaya's arguments, which he thought were completely baseless and exaggerated.

"You just don't know how every day Mama almost becomes the subject of gossip among her other friends. Some of them belittle her. Even accusing various things against our family."

Alden chuckled bitterly. He didn't care at all about the opinions of people out there.

"Mama should be grateful, shouldn't she?"

Zendaya was immediately puzzled.

"What do you mean?"

"Yes," Alden nodded repeatedly. "From this issue, Mama finally knows who should be considered a friend and who should be discarded or considered an opponent."

Alden's words were certainly true. If Zendaya paid attention, there was a lesson to be learned from this problem.

"But..." Alden continued. "Mama only needed to close her eyes and ears, just for a while. Alden even said from the beginning to be patient for a while. Alden promised to resolve what was happening. But, what? Mama acted on her own without calculation. Forcing Aurora to stay away and now, Alden congratulates you. Mama succeeded in making Aurora leave."

From his tone, Zendaya believed her son was extremely disappointed. But, regardless, she did this for the greater good.

"What's so difficult about keeping your distance for a while until all the problems are truly resolved?"

"What's so hard about maintaining the same attitude without needing to distance ourselves while solving each problem one by one? Even if Aurora and I stay away, if Mama's friends don't like her, rumors and gossip will continue to spread."

Zendaya swallowed hard. Alden's words pierced her heart.

"Alden...."

"Enough, Ma. I admit Mama won this time. But, no matter what, I will still fight for Aurora. I've lost her once, and this time it won't happen again." Alden then rose from his seat. He prepared to leave. It seemed that starting tonight, he would return to his apartment. "And... about Aunt Savana's issue, don't worry. I'll make sure it's resolved soon. And Mama, remember! Never once try to match me with any woman other than Aurora, especially Regina. No matter what, I will never agree!" Alden didn't need to wait for his mother to respond or reply to his statement. He chose to leave immediately, feeling angry and disappointed.

Elsewhere, Aurora had just arrived at her destination. Exiting the airport, she was immediately picked up by a driver provided by Asher.

Not wanting to activate her old phone number, Aurora purposely bought a new one. On the way to the hotel, she tried to contact her mother and Asher.

"I've arrived," Aurora informed Asher so he wouldn't worry about waiting.

"Thank goodness. Earlier, Alden was looking for you."

Aurora was surprised. "Did he stop by the house?"

"Yes. And I already gave him the letter you entrusted."

"Then, what was his reaction?"

"At first, Alden seemed unwilling. But, Mama helped explain and understand. Yes, eventually, he resigned to your decision."

Aurora took a deep breath. There was still a reluctant feeling in her chest because she had to force herself to stay away from Alden. But, believing it was for everyone's good, she tried to accept it gracefully.

"Well then. Thank you for delivering the letter I wrote. I pray he will patiently wait."

"Don't worry," Asher replied on the other end. "As Mama said, if it's meant to be, it will happen."

Alden had been checking his phone continuously. Hoping that Aurora would reply to at least one of the string of messages he had sent since last night.

Today, at the hospital, the emptiness felt palpable. Usually, there would be someone to greet him, accompany him for breakfast, or just say hello as he passed by the emergency room.

Alden truly felt lost. Even if Aurora didn't come to work or had activities outside the hospital, they could still exchange messages or calls. And since last night, he had no news of his girlfriend at all.

Wherever Aurora was right now, whether she had arrived, woken up, had breakfast, or what activities she was doing.

Earlier, when he arrived at the hospital, Alden had briefly visited Asher just to make sure where Aurora was. But unfortunately, the man refused to tell him or share any information at all.

"Don't be offended, Al. I can't tell you where Aurora is because she asked to keep this secret."

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"Oh, God. But why?"
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Asher shrugged his shoulders. Honestly, he didn't ask why his sister wanted to keep her destination to calm down a secret.

"Maybe she really needs time alone and doesn't want to be disturbed by anyone." All content is property \odot

Alden sighed deeply. His heart ached so much because it was difficult to find Aurora's whereabouts.

"So, how long do I have to wait?"

"Until everything is settled and back to normal. Until Aurora feels ready and believes it's time to come back."

Alden wanted to protest. But, considering that this was for Aurora's good, whether he liked it or not, he had to be patient and gracefully accept his girlfriend's decision.

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"Doctor Alden."
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From behind, someone called out while gently patting Alden's back. Turning around, he saw Regina smiling at him.

"Have you had lunch? Let's eat together, shall we? I'm alone and don't have any company."

Regina tried to invite politely and friendly. Knowing that Aurora was on leave from the hospital for an uncertain period, Regina saw this as a golden opportunity to get closer to Alden.

"No, thank you," Alden replied briefly. He then entered the room and sat down at his desk.

Regina certainly didn't give up immediately. She pursued and approached Alden until she stood in front of his desk.

"You haven't had lunch, have you? How will you avoid catching a cold? Or shall we have lunch with the others too? I'll treat you."

Alden looked up, glaring at Regina with disapproval in his eyes.

"You heard me clearly, right? I'm not hungry, and I don't want to have lunch with you."

"Why?" Regina immediately asked, although she knew exactly why he was rejecting her. "Is it because I'm not Dr. Aurora? What's so special about her anyway? Enough for Dr. Alden to defend her like this."

Alden sighed, giving Regina a sharp look.

"You're asking what's special about Aurora? Well, she has everything that you don't."

"But she's a widow. There's a big difference between us. In terms of looks, I'm even prettier than Dr. Aurora."

Regina looked displeased, annoyed that Alden always defended Aurora and didn't consider her at all.

"So, if you're still single and prettier, do you feel better than her? Don't be ridiculous, Regina. Besides, I'm sure you're not suffering from amnesia. Since when, I've made it clear no matter how hard you try, I'll always consider you just a friend. So, please don't waste your time trying to get close to me. Even if it's until doomsday, my choice won't change, and Aurora will remain my only partner."

Alden then stood up. He grabbed Regina's wrist and pulled her out of his office.

"And from now on, don't ever come into my office without permission. Don't act familiar, especially if it's not work-related."

Alden immediately closed the door to his office. He didn't care if Regina was angry or offended outside.

"Dr. Regina..."

Upon hearing her name being called, Regina, still annoyed, turned around. Before she could respond, Asher spoke again.

"I hope from now on, you can respect other people's privacy."

Regina was taken aback. She was surprised that Asher knew everything, including her friendship with Nicole.

"Just so you know, Nicole is my cousin, and she has no boundaries. And you should also know that your friend is the one who destroyed Aurora's marriage. So, if in the future you follow Nicole's advice to ruin the relationship between Aurora and Alden, I assure you, your life won't be peaceful. And if necessary, I will end your career as a doctor at this hospital without respect. So, please watch your behavior and think carefully whether your actions in the future will benefit or threaten your own career."

Believing that Regina heard all the warnings he gave, Asher decided to leave. He left Regina bewildered and confused about what to do next.

Unpredictable Betrayal : A Sweet of Revenge

Ultimately, Alden had to admit Dilan's words were true, that holding back longing was indeed very difficult. It had only been three days since he hadn't met or communicated with Aurora, yet it felt so agonizing.

Even though he knew Aurora would never reply, almost every day Alden still tried to send messages. He told her about his activities, hoping that perhaps her phone would suddenly become active and then Aurora would read what he sent, stirring her heart to respond.

Admittedly, the likelihood of that was very slim, especially since Asher had repeatedly confirmed that Aurora needed time to be alone.

"Doc, don't look so gloomy and sad."

Velia intervened. At that moment, she saw Alden sitting in the hospital cafeteria lost in thought. She approached him and offered a box of cakes and snacks she had just bought from the market.

"Eat first. To boost your spirits. Otherwise, we might find Doctor Alden fainting in the operating room."

Alden looked up. Despite trying to smile, his expression still conveyed sadness, worry, and distress.

"Thanks for the offer, Doctor Velia. I'll taste them later."

Velia smiled, urging him further by pushing the box of cakes closer to him on the table. Then she insisted that Alden eat. From Velia's perspective, she believed her colleague must have skipped breakfast this morning.

"Come on, Doc. Try one. It's seriously delicious and quite filling. If Aurora were here, she would be the first to eat it. It's her favorite snack." Hearing Aurora's name mentioned, Alden's focus immediately shifted. He glanced at the box of cakes and then looked back at Velia.

"She likes savory snacks? Since when?"

Velia chuckled softly. Her bait had successfully diverted Alden's attention.

"Since she became friends with me, Doc. Yeah, I know. At first, I knew Aurora really liked sweet foods."

Alden nodded in agreement.

"That's right. She likes treats like red velvet cake, cheesecake, brownies, or croissants. So I was a bit surprised when Aurora was said to like savory snacks."

"She didn't like them before," Velia explained. "But I convinced her to try risoles, fritters, Sumedang tofu, Solo sausages. And it turns out she ended up liking risoles and chicken dim sum. Anyway, whenever she craves them, she always asks me to buy her two or three boxes. And funny thing is, as much as that, Aurora eats and finishes them alone while working on patient reports."

Alden nodded in understanding. From Velia, he finally got some new information.

"Usually, if it's eaten repeatedly and that much, it must be really tasty."

"It's seriously tasty, Doc," Velia assured. "Come on, give it a try. So you'll know how it tastes. Next time Aurora returns, you can buy her this food."

Alden agreed. He sampled and tasted various cakes that Velia had offered him.

"Does Doctor Alden really miss Aurora so much?"

Velia deliberately asked. Although she could guess the answer, she just wanted to hear Alden's response directly.

"Absolutely. If I'm being honest, I feel like going crazy. And this moment, it's exactly like what I experienced a few years ago when I broke up with Aurora."

"Oh, really?"

"Yeah," Alden nodded, convinced. "Honestly, back then, my heart felt shattered. I couldn't accept it because suddenly Aurora married someone else. I even prayed badly to God hoping that Aurora's marriage would end and she would return to me soon."

Velia burst into laughter. Especially seeing Alden's serious face while telling the story.

"And it seems like God really sided with Doctor Alden."

Alden nodded.

"That's why I'm afraid of losing her for the second time."

"Be patient, Doc. Aurora is just gone for a while. She promised to come back as soon as everything is settled and back to normal."

At the same time, when his heart condition slightly improved, Alden received a call from Asher. The man asked him to come to his room immediately.

"What's up, Ash?"

After knocking on the door, Alden chose to enter directly. Likewise, Asher gestured for him to sit down.

"I want to ask about yesterday," the man said, shrugging his shoulders, appearing more relaxed.

"Do you mean about the schedule for the social gathering?"

Asher nodded.

"Yes. So, when does your mother have another meeting or gathering with her socialite friends?"

"I didn't ask directly. Because we had some arguments before. But, I confirmed with Auntie Fatima, she said they have a meeting this afternoon." Alden informed him, providing the information Asher needed, though unsure of its purpose. Because for days now, the man had been asking and seeking certainty.

"Do you know where the event is located?"

Alden nodded.

"I know. I've been informed. Let me forward the address to your phone."

Seconds later, Asher's phone rang. One notification message and he was sure the message was from Alden. So Asher immediately checked it.

"Holicow Meet and Grill. Okay," nodded Asher, then smiled. "Thank you very much for your help."

"What's this for? Are you joining the gathering?" Alden guessed.

Asher laughed. He immediately denied Alden's guess. After all, there was no way he would join a gathering like that.

"No, it's not for that. There's something I need to take care of. You don't have any plans for this evening, right?"

"Not really," Alden shook his head.

"In that case, just be on standby. If I say 'follow', you have to follow immediately, alright?"

Alden agreed. Although he didn't know what he would be asked to follow up on, he agreed with Asher's request.

Having finished all his work at the hospital, Asher decided to go home early. Besides, there was an important task he had to complete right away.

Checking his phone, Asher reread the short message containing an address sent by Rayyen. Squinting as he thought, he speculated on the location indicated on his phone.

As he approached the elevator, Asher's steps momentarily halted. From the corner of his eye, he caught sight of a woman who was very familiar to him.

"Nicole!"This content © Nôv/elDr(a)m/a.Org.

The firm voice called out immediately. Staring straight ahead, he observed Nicole, who had just stepped out of the elevator.

"We need to talk for a moment."

Nicole seemed puzzled. Maintaining her composure, she tried to remain calm.

"What do you want to talk about? I have no business with you."

Asher chuckled dismissively. He gestured for Nicole to move to a corner not far from the elevator.

"You indeed have no business with me. But your behavior has clearly been disturbing me and my extended family."

Nicole rolled her eyes. She seemed reluctant to deal with Asher's seemingly arrogant speech. She had always known that Asher was a dominant figure in their extended family and held the most influence. No one dared to confront him.

"Enough, Asher. Don't beat around the bush. What do you actually want to say? Just get to the point." "I know you're friends with Doctor Regina. Here, I just want to warn you not to instigate, let alone teach Doctor Regina to join in your misbehavior!"

Nicole narrowed her eyes. Besides being surprised that Asher knew she was friends with Regina, she also felt uncomfortable with her cousin accusing her of being deviant. After all, Nicole had never joined any forbidden sect or deviant group.

"What do you mean instigate? Don't you dare accuse me!"

"Accuse me of slander?" Asher laughed. "It's actually you who have been slandering Aurora. Why are you provoking Doctor Regina to ruin Aurora's relationship with Doctor Alden?"

Nicole laughed now.

"Why are you blaming me? Just so you know, whether or not I provoke, Regina has liked Doctor Alden for a long time. Besides, they knew each other well before Doctor Alden met Aurora."

"Yeah, but you don't need to instigate. Do you want me to tear your mouth apart or what?"

Asher approached. He closed the distance between him and Nicole.

"After the disrespectful act you did with Alex, you should be grateful you're still walking around out there. Aren't you concerned about your mother who begged so that you wouldn't be punished and followed up?" Asher stared intently into Nicole's eyes. He didn't let her escape from his grasp. "But, if you're tired of living freely, just say the word. I'd gladly send you to jail or a mental hospital."

Nicole swallowed her saliva. From Asher's eyes, it seemed he was serious.

"Don't mess around," Nicole hastily replied. Her voice sounded panicked after hearing Asher's warning.

"Do you think I'm joking? I've been patient enough. But apparently, the longer your behavior goes on, the less tolerable it becomes. And I think you need to be taught a lesson to realize or even repent if necessary."

"Asher, please don't talk like that." Nicole suddenly panicked. Afraid Asher would realize what he said to her. "I didn't mean—"

"If you don't want me to drag you to jail, please listen carefully to what I'm about to say. Feel free to do whatever you want out there, but beware if you continue to disturb or intentionally harm Aurora. It won't just be you, but Mom and your siblings will also face the consequences."

Nicole nodded obediently. Out of words, she left before Asher could give her another ultimatum.

Meanwhile, Asher seemed to continue what he had to do. He quickly drove his black Jeep Rubicon to one of the houses he had never visited before.

When the black car was neatly parked, Asher hurriedly got out. He made sure once again that the house he visited matched the address Rayyen had given him.

Taking large strides, Asher quickly headed to the door. He knocked repeatedly until someone answered from inside. Then, shortly after, the sound of the door opening was heard.

"Yes, looking for-"

"Good afternoon, Mrs. Savana," Asher greeted with a smile. While the woman in front of him looked surprised. "It's nice to meet you in such good health like this."