

Unbreakable 2081

Chapter 2081

The babys first celebration in Ardlens was unlike any other. It took place on the 42nd day after birth. After marking the one-month-old, the baby would remain hidden for another 12 days before the celebration began.

The legend said it was to avoid the Demons Child, who loved to steal children. If they could safely get through those 12 days, their lives would be free from harm.

The celebration invitations had already been dispatched by Stefan, adhering to local customs. They simply had to wait for the right moment to implement their plans simultaneously on two fronts.

Reflecting on the conversation between Eloise and Bryce, Raegan hesitantly asked, How come I didnt see Eloise with you?

Seated in his wheelchair, Mitchel looked straight ahead as he responded, She has her own affairs to attend to. Theres no need for her to stay by my side.

Raegan paused and then suggested, You should still keep an eye on her. Shes in a strange place, and it would be unfortunate if she ran into trouble.

Isnt she always with Bryce? Mitchel remarked.

At the mention of Bryce, a pang of concern tightened Raegans chest.

She pressed on, But doesnt Bryce not really care for Eloise? It might be wise to watch over her a little more.

Mitchel took a moment before replying, Bryce may seem indifferent, but he wouldnt overlook Miss Benton if she were truly in danger.

Miss Benton? Raegan noted Mitchels formal way of referring to Eloise, which seemed overly distant. Yet, considering Mitchels typically reserved demeanor, she reasoned that such formality might not be out of character.

Raegan advised, Shes come here after you, after all. Should anything happen to her, it would impact you as well, wouldnt it Raegans concerns stemmed from Eloises flippant remarks about wanting to sleep with many men.

Although Raegan understood it as a joke, the possibility of Eloise actually visiting a bar troubled her. The security in Aurora was notably lax compared to Ardlens.

Mitchel scowled. Shes an adult capable of making her own decisions. Why should that concern me?

Surprised by his reaction, Raegan blurted out, Arent you two in a relationship?

This question made Mitchel halt. He lifted his gaze to meet Raegans, his dark eyes causing her cheeks to flush. He asked, Youve asked so many questions because you think Eloise and I are actually in a relationship?

Raegans heart skipped a beat at his words. Was it not what she had believed? Were they not in a relationship, after all?

I wasnt asking too much, Raegan responded. It just seemed Like you didnt care much about her.

Mitchel replied calmly, She has family, friends, and will eventually have men who care for her. Why should I concern myself with her? We dont have any special relationship.

With such a straightforward response, Raegan realized she would be foolish not to grasp his meaning. Suddenly, her thoughts were in turmoil. It turned out she had completely misinterpreted the situation between Eloise and Mitchel.

Mitchel then looked at her and said, If you want to know something, just ask me directly. No need to beat around the bush.

Raegan found herself speechless. She reviewed her earlier questions.

Had her curiosity been that transparent? Upon reflection, her inquiries had indeed been quite pointed. Her eagerness to understand the nature of Mitchel and Eloises relationship had led her to steer the conversation in that direction, without realizing it.

Recognizing this made Raegan feel suddenly numb. The reason for her intense curiosity. Could it be that..

Chapter 2082

Raegan hesitated, fearing that delving deeper might draw her into emotions she couldnt escape. A wave of panic washed over her. Her face clearly showed her distress. After all, she had chosen to keep her distance from Mitchel. What was she doing now? Her unconscious reaction made her realize she truly couldnt get close to Mitchel. At any moment, her deepest thoughts might be revealed.

I dont have anything I want to know, Raegan stubbornly insisted.

Then she told him, Ill turn the corner up ahead. You can head back. Im leaving first.

Having said that, she didnt give him a chance to respond and fled as if to escape. She feared that staying any longer would make her innermost feelings increasingly apparent. Especially just now, when he mentioned he and Eloise didnt share a special relationship, she felt her heartbeat accelerate. This was dangerous! She had only just recovered from a wave of self-reproach. She really didnt want to fall back into those feelings.

The next day, Raegan was ready to be discharged from the hospital and return to the villa.

When leaving, she avoided saying goodbye to Mitchel. She consoled herself that avoiding him would help suppress the budding thoughts in her heart.

She told herself she was so easily moved because of his condition.

His disability somehow amplified his melancholic aura. That was why she couldn't control her emotions, feeling either sympathy or pity.

In any case, Raegan sensed this was a troubling sign.

Back at the villa, rather than finding peace, the image of Mitchel trying to rise from the wheelchair haunted her. This scene had become deeply ingrained in her mind. She finally realized how much she had wanted to be there, to encourage him to stand up.

The weather in Aurora was always unpredictable. Just like now, a heavy snow had begun to fall suddenly outside.

As Raegan looked at the snowfall through the window, she felt a chill, even though she was inside a warm room. It was just a psychological effect, yet she still wasn't quite accustomed to Aurora's weather.

Watching the snow, she thought about how difficult it must be for Mitchel, given his old injury.

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The vivid image of him, alone in this foreign land and enduring the pain, kept surfacing in her mind. This mental picture deeply affected her once again.

Raegan recalled a little trick her grandmother had taught her to ward off the cold and soothe old injuries.

Without hesitation, she quickly grabbed her phone, typed out detailed instructions, and sent them to a familiar number.

After sending the message, her restlessness grew as she clutched the phone, waiting for Mitchel's response.

Anxiously, 6 seconds later, his reply came. Tried it. Works well. Thank you.

That simple, impersonal thank you after such a brief wait crushed all her emotions. What had she been expecting?

Muting her phone, Raegan set down the phone and lay on the bed, feeling foolish about her actions. Especially recalling his words from the other day. If you want to know something, just ask me directly. No need to beat around the bush.

She slapped her forehead in frustration. What was she even doing? It really did feel like she was trying to lure him in. How embarrassing!

Raegan's insomnia the previous night caused her to wake up later than usual in the morning.

When she finally got out of bed, Erick summoned her to discuss the upcoming celebration for the babies.

Initially, Erick had not wanted Raegan involved in something so perilous. However, he knew that the cunning Davey would likely suspect something if Raegan were absent. That could be disastrous.

They needed to keep their plans hidden from Davey, at least until they found their mother.

This step was crucial and required Raegans presence to ensure everything appeared normal.

After outlining the general plan, Erick noticed Raegans drooping eyelids and lackluster energy. Didnt sleep well last night? he asked.

Raegan nodded. A bit of insomnia.

Erick, assuming she was anxious about the operation, tried to reassure her. Dont worry too much. Ill make sure youre safe.

Im not worried, Raegan replied.

But Erick Do you know about Mitchels leg injury? She hesitated before asking, How serious is it?

Erick paused and then replied, Im not too clear on the details. Its best you ask him directly.

After all, Mitchel had instructed Erick to keep it confidential. If Mitchel preferred not to share that information with Raegan, it wouldnt be right for Erick to disclose it.

Moreover, Erick feared that if Raegan knew the whole truth, she might blame herself for Mitchels worsened condition, leading her to sadness once more.

If Raegan asked Mitchel directly and Mitchel chose to tell her the full story, that would be a different matter altogether.

Erick was confident that Mitchel would do whatever it took to comfort Raegan.

Raegan gently bit her lip and confessed, Erick, Im always afraid Im afraid that my presence brings him misfortune.

Erick observed her. Though not adept with emotions, he recognized Raegans tangled worries stemmed from her inability to let go of Mitchel. These two

Erick shook his head inwardly and spoke slowly. Raegan, sometimes you need to understand that the opposite of misfortune might actually be fortune. Everyone makes different choices. If it were up to you, would you prefer to live devoid of feelings, or cherish every precious moment with someone you love? So, dont confine yourself to one-sided views. If its weighing on your heart, you should resolve this issue until you can fully let it go.

Ericks advice seemed to clear Raegans mind. She realized she had been swayed by Katies misleading words, thinking she was the cause of Mitchels troubles. Yet, even in her absence, Mitchels leg condition had deteriorated. Who was to blame then?

Raegan was a woman of action. If she was unsure about something, she would investigate it

herself. Concerned about Mitchels leg, she decided to see the situation for herself. She dialed Matteo and inquired, Matteo, is Mitchel still in the hospital?

No, Mr. Dixon is currently at the Aurora Conference Center, engaged in talks about the project.

Raegan was shocked. Hes back at work? How is his leg holding up?

Matteo glanced at Mitchel, who was completely absorbed in his work, and felt a pang of bitterness. Miss Foster, Mr. Dixon wont Listen to me. Hes skipped both breakfast and lunch.

Torn between his duties and concern, Matteo added reluctantly, If you get the chance, I hope you can persuade him to take better care of himself. After ending the call, Raegan looked at the chat log on her phone.

The conversation with Mitchel was unchanged from the night before.

His simple thank you hung there. She hadnt responded, and he hadnt added anything else.

Interacting through the detached medium of the phone made everything feel more distant and cold.

Raegan put on her coat, got in her car, and set out, determined to visit Mitchel.

Chapter 2084

Raegan soon arrived at the Conference Center, where Mitchel diligently immersed himself in work.

Having expected Raegans arrival, Matteo had already been patiently waiting outside.

Upon their meeting, Raegan wasted no time and directly addressed Matteo, Matteo, our history spans many years. May I request honesty from you?

Matteo paused, contemplating whether Raegan had become aware of Mitchells significant blood donation for her.

Matteo hesitated, mindful of the repercussions from the previous occasion where he revealed more than he should have to Raegan, for which he was sent overseas by Mitchel to oversee mining operations in Tanzania for nearly six months.

Despite the unchanged salary and benefits, the prospect of enduring a dilapidated environment and the absence of individuals of his nationality left Matteo with no desire to return to that place.

The primary concern revolved around the women in that location, who found him, a rare face among the locals, attractive and boldly made attempts to get intimate with him. There were nights when several women trying to get cozy with him within hours.

Alarmed, Matteo swiftly constructed a brick house as a defense against these advances. His preference wasnt rooted in a dislike for those women. Rather, he simply favored those of the same skin tone with whom he could communicate comfortably in his native language.

Matteos brow furrowed deeply as he recalled those painful days. Yet, he still answered, Miss Foster, please, go ahead and ask.

I want to know the true situation with Mitchels leg, Raegan stated.

Matteo paused for seconds, realizing Raegans unawareness of the cause of Mitchells worsened condition meant she was still oblivious to Mitchells significant blood transfusion for her. With that in mind, he felt he could share the truth.

With a solemn expression, Matteo revealed, The experts in Aurora have determined that Mr. Dixons condition is incurable. For the rest of his life, chances are that he will be dependent on crutches and a wheelchair.

Incurable? Raegan repeated, her disbelief evident.

Matteo nodded gravely.

Raegan couldnt comprehend it. How could this be? Wasnt it said that as long as Mitchel underwent surgery, his leg would gradually recover?

And she distinctly remembered seeing him standing before the childbirth.

Anxiously gripping Matteos arm, Raegan pressed, That very night you all just arrived and came to see my brother, he was able to stand, wasnt he?

Raegans memory was crystal clear. That particular night, Mitchel had indeed stood for a while. Moreover, he hadnt been accompanied by crutches or any wheelchair-related items.

Matteo recollected the incident Raegan mentioned, explaining, That night, the bottom of Mitchels crutch was a bit oily, so I went to replace it. He was able to stand for a while before,

but couldnt walk much.

Following that night, Raegan had witnessed Mitchel using the crutch regularly.

Hearing this revelation, Raegan felt as if the world was crumbling around her. The reality seemed too harsh to accept. Mitchels potential dependency on crutches for the entirety of his life weighed heavily on her mind. He was such a proud man. How could he possibly come to terms with relying on a crutch for the rest of his days?

Her mind a mess and her feelings mixed, she walked forward and managed to locate Mitchel. In a daze, she couldnt recall if she had even knocked before pushing the door open.

By the time she found Mitchel, he was crouched on the floor, appearing to have stumbled while gathering scattered documents from his desk.

Beside his office chair sat the customized black wheelchair.

Chapter 2085

In an instant, Raegan felt a rush of blood to her head, as if she had turned into a stone statue, her mind in a turmoil.

Mitchel briefly met her gaze with calm, dark eyes.

Raegan could no longer contain her emotions. She rushed over, extending her hand to help him.

But before she could touch him, Mitchel gently withdrew, softly stating, I can manage.

Raegans hand froze midair, her demeanor stiffening.

Mitchel lowered his gaze and braced his elbow on the floor. With practiced ease, he used his other hand to hook the chair leg, leveraging himself up to sit back in the chair. The entire process was executed with practiced precision, indicating that he had performed this maneuver countless times before.

Despite his swift movements, Raegan couldnt help but notice that one of his legs hung limply, a glaring indication of his condition.

Raegans nose stung, leaving her at a loss for words.

Observing her reaction, Mitchels brow furrowed slightly. Did Matteo say something he shouldnt have?

In response, Raegan shook her head vaguely. No, he didnt say anything. I simply observed Mitchel remained unconvinced. Ever since his condition had worsened, Matteos recent reaction to his orders, especially those he had specially warned against revealing to Raegan, had displayed a growing level of cunning. Matteo appeared to outwardly acknowledge and understand directives, yet whether he had stuck to the directives remained questionable. Judging from Raegans current demeanor, it was evident that Matteo had indeed divulged something to her once more.

Mitchel signed silently. It appeared that Matteos time in Tanzania hadnt instilled the restraint he had hoped for. It seemed further discipline would be necessary.

Since Raegan didnt admit to being informed by Matteo, Mitchel chose not to directly call her out. Instead, he casually remarked, My leg is fine, not as serious as it seems.

Upon hearing this, Raegan discerned that Mitchel was merely composedly concealing the truth.

Suddenly, a hint of self-loathing engulfed her. It dawned on her that he must have invested considerable time coming to terms with his inability to walk unaided.

For this typically excellent and proud man to come to terms with his disability, the agony and struggle of rebuilding his self-esteem must have been monumental And he had weathered all of these trials in solitude.

Contemplating how, while she had been avoiding him, pushing him away with her fear of her bringing misfortune on him, he had been enduring his suffering alone, Raegans heart felt as though it were being wrenchingly torn by an intangible force.

Suddenly, heedless of all else, Raegan enveloped Mitchel in an embrace, her tears drenching his suit. In a hushed tone, she queried, Mitchel, does it hurt?

Only the two of them understood that this does it hurt referred to his emotional anguish, not the physical pain of his injury.

Regarding physical pain, Mitchel had endured far worse than this, countless times over.

It was solely the anguish in Mitchels heart that Raegan had genuinely felt herself, and recognized as so challenging to mend.

Mitchel lowered his gaze to her and gently reassured, No, it doesnt hurt anymore. That pain subsided long ago.

However frequently he repeated these words, Raegans heart only grew heavier with each utterance. It was as though her heart had been forcibly wrenched apart, leaving her feeling exposed and vulnerable.

She had long held the belief that Mitchel was an indomitable figure worthy of admiration, yet she never entertained the notion that he, too, could succumb to imperfection.

Chapter 2086

She enveloped him in a tight embrace, summoning a strength she never knew she possessed.

At this moment, she came to a profound realization. Her love for him ran deeper than she ever imagined. All her attempts to distance herself from him crumbled effortlessly. The mere thought of him enduring the scrutiny of others in solitude shattered her heart.

She buried her face into his chest, tears streaming down her cheeks as she yearned to express her feelings to him. She felt like telling him that her love for him endured.

Mitchel she choked out.

At that moment, the door was gently pushed open.

Raegan hadnt closed the door properly upon entering, so it yielded easily to a light knock.

It was the conference halls secretary who addressed Mitchel, The meeting is about to commence

The scene before the secretary rendered her speechless. Was this truly the aloof, cold-faced man she knew? The downward gaze directed at the woman in his embrace was undeniably affectionate! It appeared that beneath his stoic exterior, he harbored depths of warmth and affection.

The secretary lingered at the doorway, torn between entering or quietly slipping away.

Raegan dared not lift her gaze, her discomfort now palpable. With a shudder, she belatedly realized the awkwardness of the situation.

Mitchels brow furrowed slightly as his gaze fixed on the figure by the door, the warmth draining from his eyes. Ill be there on time.

The secretary swiftly departed, ensuring the door clicked shut behind her.

Raegan attempted to disentangle herself from Mitchel, but he held her waist steadfastly.

With nerves palpable in her voice, Raegan ventured, Shouldnt you attend the meeting?

Mitchel said, I have a spare moment.

Traces of tears lingered in Raegans eyes, her cheeks flushed.

Startled by the abrupt interruption, her words came out hesitantly.

You should attend the meeting first. We can discuss this later.

Yet, Mitchel refused to release her, his firm grip on her waist unwavering. Raegan, do you pity me?

Raegan stood frozen, her soul struck silent as if by a sudden blow.

Was it pity that stirred within her? Could that truly be the case?

In the heavy silence that followed, Mitchels dark eyes dulled gradually.

I dont need your pity, Mitchel asserted. He refused to shackle her by his side with her compassion. Matters of the heart demanded more than fleeting emotions or sympathetic gestures. If her feelings were merely born out of pity, he would rather endure a lifetime of suffering than confine her to such a fate.

Mitchel gently steadied Raegan on her feet before firmly instructing, Go back, please.

Chapter 2087

With a press of a switch, the wheelchair began its steady retreat from Raegan.

Raegan remained rooted in place, grappling with her thoughts for an eternity, yet unable to grasp why she couldnt deny that it was anything but pity.

Although she knew deep down that her feelings werent rooted in pity, the words eluded her. Admitting her love for him felt like opening a floodgate of unbearable pain. Her affection for him felt like a regression to times of self-doubt. Her psychological barriers seemed to have resurfaced, imprisoning her in a familiar sense of confinement.

Raegan sank to the ground, embracing herself as tremors wracked her body, seemingly beyond her control.

Summoning her courage, she dialed the psychologist in Swynborough.

Mae, Im so scared. It feels like Im caught in that same vicious cycle again.

Upon grasping the full extent of Raegans turmoil, the psychologist responded with gentle reassurance, But do you recall the gestures of love hes shown you?

As Mae recounted those tender moments, Raegans mind flooded with cherished memories they had shared.

Maes voice retained its soothing cadence, enveloping Raegan in a sense of tranquility. As Mae recounted those cherished memories, they seemed to acquire a mystical allure, casting a spell of solace over Raegans troubled heart.

Raegans heart swelled with the realization of the multitude of sweet and heartwarming moments she and Mitchel had shared. Mae was right.

Despite the trials they had faced, how could they discount the depth of their connection over mere misunderstandings?

Mae added, From what you've described, it appears that Mr. Dixon hasn't abandoned hope either. However, he's concerned about your future happiness and wants assurance that your feelings are genuine. If you've come to understand your emotions, express firmly that your love for him is sincere, not rooted in pity, and offer him the reassurance he seeks. Raegan, do you recall what I've mentioned previously? Love has the power to heal all wounds. You will both find solace and growth through it.

Mae's serene and gentle voice infused Raegan with the strength to persevere.

With newfound determination, Raegan replied, I understand. Thank you, Mae.

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As Raegan hung up the phone, memories of their shared moments flooded her mind—the tranquil mornings, the serene sunsets, and the warmth of their embraces. How precious and beautiful they truly were!

In those perilous moments, Mitchell's steadfast presence had consistently served as a protective shield, enduring numerous injuries on her behalf. The scars engraved upon his body served as a powerful testament to his enduring love. His actions spoke volumes of his love, why did she still harbor hesitation?

Finally, clarity dawned in Raegan's heart. It wasn't pity, not in the slightest. She desired to be with him because she loved him!

Those sleepless nights and endless nightmares had been communicating with her all along. She couldn't endure losing Mitchell. The agony of his loss was insufferable. She cherished him, longing for their family to remain united, never to be separated again.

Raegan awaited Mitchell in his office, eager to express the sentiments weighing on her heart. But as night descended, he remained absent, failing to return.

Raegan enveloped herself in the chair he had occupied, noticing the dark blanket nearby, likely the one he used to warm his legs.

She enveloped herself in it, enveloped in his distinctive, entrancing fragrance.

Enveloped in this alluring aroma, Raegan drifted into a gentle sleep.

After wrapping up the meeting, Mitchell refrained from returning to his office. Nevertheless, he inquired of the secretary, Is anyone still in my office?

Having assumed Raegan had left with Mitchell and spotted nobody enter his office since then, the secretary responded with a shake of her head, Your office is vacant.

Chapter 2088

Mitchell's countenance visibly dimmed. So, Raegan had departed. Though Raegan's kindness knew no bounds, he resolved to exploit it for his gratification.

It was often preferable to endure a swift ache than a prolonged torment. The fleeting companionship, swiftly succeeded by departure, would be far more agonizing.

Should he be forceful, it would only lead them both to suffer. May his suffering remain his sole burden.

Raegan awoke in Mitchels office, her body shivering as she felt the chill in the air.

During the night, Aurora resembled an ice cellar in its coldness.

Without the underfloor heating, even the most youthful and robust individual would be at risk of freezing to death!

The moment she rose, she found herself unable to suppress her incessant sneezing. Her skin was adorned with goosebumps, and her hair bristled with the cold.

The surroundings were enveloped in pitch darkness.

Raegan tightly enveloped herself in the blanket, her hands frantically scouring for the light switch. Upon finally locating it, she pressed it repeatedly, but the lights obstinately refused to illuminate.

She recalled Erick mentioning that Aurora had begun implementing power-saving measures in response to energy concerns.

In locations such as the conference center, where no one remained after hours, security would routinely deactivate the power, resulting in the shutdown of all equipment.

Raegan hastened back to the desk, intent on locating her phone.

However, amidst the enveloping darkness, her efforts to find it proved futile after an extended search.

There was a telephone on the desk, though.

Raegan picked it up, yet it failed to establish a connection.

Following the power outage, the network remained offline, leaving her unable to connect.

Raegan set the telephone down with a heavy heart, realizing her own cell phone was her last remaining lifeline.

She persisted in searching the floor, despite the scant warmth offered by the thin carpet. The carpet was frigid, sending shivers coursing through her body.

Eventually, her fingers brushed against something solid, and to her relief, it was her phone.

Her excitement turned to disappointment as she grabbed it, only to discover that it had run out of battery.

As the temperature continued to plummet, the wall thermometer ominously displayed an indoor temperature of -0.4 degrees Fahrenheit!

Despair suddenly overwhelmed Raegan.

The darknesss chilly air morphed into a menacing presence, as if it were lurking around Raegan, ready to pounce at any moment.

Wrapped tightly in the only blanket she had, Raegan shivered, unable to gather her thoughts. Mitchel was her sole beacon of hope. She hoped that if it was noticed she was missing, he would think to check his office.

Chapter 2089

Luckily, Erick, always diligent despite his busy schedule, made it a routine to call Raegan each night to confirm her safety.

This particular night, as work stretched late, Erick contemplated calling Raegan but hesitated, fearing she might already be asleep.

Choosing instead to send a text, Erick texted Raegan and resumed his tasks.

His focus returned to the upcoming celebration for the babies, mere days ahead.

To either delay Davey or capture him if needed, extensive planning and coordination were necessary at the event venue.

Erick revisited the design plans that he had scrutinized repeatedly, looking for any missed details. By the time he set the plans aside, it was close to midnight. He checked his phone again, yet he received no response from Raegan. Assuming she was sleeping, he went to freshen up.

After his shower, a persistent unease nagged at him. Erick decided to make a call to Raegans villa.

The phone rang repeatedly before someone finally picked up.

Victor and Judd were tasked with escorting Raegans babies to Ardlens, leaving only a few servants and bodyguards concealed in vehicles outside and at the villa.

Hello, who is this? a drowsy servant inquired through the phone.

Ericks brow furrowed, noting the servants deep sleep. Its Erick. Is Raegan asleep?

Typically, Erick only needed to announce his name, as all at the villa recognized him as Raegans brother.

Wiping sleep from her eyes, the servant responded, Im not sure. Miss hasnt been seen much today.

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Not seen? Ericks anxiety mounted. With the babies no longer there, Raegan had no reason to remain secluded in her room all day. Check on her right now and report back immediately, he instructed sharply, his tone stern.

Jolted by his urgency, the servant quickly replied, Right away, sir!

As the servant started to hang up, Erick interjected firmly, Dont hang up. Ill wait.

Okay. Setting the phone aside, the servant hastened away to Raegans room.

Minutes later, the servants rapid footsteps returned to the phone.

Ericks anxiety escalated with each passing second.

Catching her breath, the servant reported, Mr. Foster, I knocked on Misss room, but there was no reply.

Ericks concern deepened. Raegans bedroom was typically restricted to keep the babies departure confidential. But normally, she would respond to a knock. The absence of a reply confirmed Raegan was not there. Where had she gone?

As worry overtook him, Erick ended the call and sped toward Raegans villa, driven by a growing sense of alarm.

After Raegans previous fainting spell, she had left a spare key with Erick for emergencies.

Upon unlocking the door, Erick found the room desolate, the perfectly made bed signaling that Raegan had not come back.

Chapter 2090

Instantly, his face drained of color. Exiting, he encountered a servant who had just woken up and, in his frustration, lashed out physically. Raegan was still absent, yet the servant had already fallen asleep. Erick was infuriated by such negligence.

In truth, the servants neglect stemmed from Stefans prolonged absence, which led them to presume Raegan was disfavored. Not even motherhood had secured her standing in the household.

This perception caused the servants to neglect their duties, becoming deceitful and disobedient, disregarding Raegan.

Raegan herself, quiet and unassuming, rarely dealt with the servants directly and largely ignored their negligence.

Her mildness only emboldened the servants further. They probably wouldnt notice even if Raegan vanished for a few days.

Erick observed the servants, who were defiantly avoiding proper submission. Their disrespectful stance spoke volumes. They underestimated Raegan, assuming she had lost her status.

Enraged, Erick commanded the bodyguards, Bind them and have them kneel outside all night. Ensure they do not sleep!

The servants loudly voiced their objections to this punishment, Mr. Foster, why are you punishing us? Miss Foster is an adult. We cant monitor her constantly!

The servant who had been kicked by Erick was the first to object with raised head.

Why? Ericks expression chilled. You think youre beyond discipline because Stefan isnt here, right?

The servants straightened their backs defiantly and declared, Only Mr. Clifford has the right to punish us!

Erick retorted, Oh, you think I cant take action against you?

He immediately made a speakerphone call in their presence. Upon hearing the situation, Stefan became incensed and ordered the defiant servants to be taken outside and stripped of their outer garments to endure the cold.

Hearing Stefans commanding voice left the servants dumbfounded.

Wasnt Stefan indifferent toward Raegan? Why, then, such severe punishment? Perhaps they had misjudged the situation

Erick wasted no time. He rallied everyone in the villa to search for any clues about Raegans disappearance. Yet, Raegans whereabouts were unknown to all.

In his fury, Erick shattered a large vase.

Every servant was responsible for attending to Raegan, yet none had any information about her

current location, and she hadnt been seen since the morning. Their negligence was apparent.

Erick commanded all the servants to kneel outside, hoping it would clear their mind. Amidst them, a middle-aged man nervously claimed to have a lead.

Speak, Erick urged him.

Im the night shift driver. The day shift driver is missing, the middle-aged man disclosed, providing a crucial piece of information.

Relieved from immediate punishment due to his helpfulness, the night shift driver was spared as Erick then focused on locating the day shift driver and alerted local authorities to aid in searching for Raegan.

After a lengthy search, they discovered that the day shift driver was merely at his home.

Erick arrived in haste, and the trembling day shift driver explained that after dropping Raegan at the conference center and waiting for about thirty minutes, he had an emergency that forced him to leave early.