

Unbreakable 2141

Chapter 2141

This place was meant for them.

They initially planned to purchase a home, but the villagers insisted it was destiny that brought them there, offering a house where a centenarian couple had lived and died together, claiming it brought good luck and blessings.

Nicole fell in love with the house right away. It had a main building with three rooms, a well, and a big courtyard adorned with a fragrant osmanthus tree blooming in the summer.

And so, they made it their home.

To show his gratitude, Roscoe began offering free medical check-ups and prescriptions to the village elders.

Given the village's remote location, over sixty miles from the nearest town, Roscoe acquired a motorcycle and a tricycle to facilitate travel.

He cleverly planned to use the motorcycle during the warmer months and the tricycle during the winter to accommodate Nicole's sensitivity to the cold.

Initially, to keep things low profile, they stayed within the village boundaries for three whole months.

Luckily, the village was a haven of self-sufficiency, with everything they needed, including fruits, vegetables, chicken, duck and fish.

After the first three months, Roscoe started weekly trips to the nearby town. He fetched necessities for the villagers and kept up with the latest happenings in Ardlens. He discovered that Jarrod was the subject of a legal investigation because of a scandal involving his abusive behavior, which had significantly damaged his reputation.

Amid Jarrod's challenges, the shareholders of the Schultz Group united to vote him out. Officially, they claimed Jarrod was on sick leave, but the consensus was clear. His career was all but finished.

But Jarrod wasn't one to give up easily. After staying out of the spotlight for two months, he regained support by proposing to Vicki and taking back control of the Schultz Group. He appeared to change his ways, often participating in charity events and openly showing his love for Vicki.

Jarrod continued his career quietly, acting unaffected by Nicole's disappearance.

However, his efforts to expand the business internationally hinted that Jarrod was still

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searching for Nicole, albeit more cautiously.

Fortunately, Jarrod centered the search for Nicole abroad, just as Nicole and Roscoe had predicted and desired. This was the reason they had kept Austin away and not brought him to the village. Austin was safe Living with the nanny.

Nicole made video calls every Wednesday to check on Austin, who spoke with Roscoe occasionally. Despite missing Austin terribly, Nicole limited her video calls with him.

Nicole and Roscoe would not risk bringing Austin to the village until they were certain it was safe. After six months of vigilant observation, they deemed the village secure and secluded enough for their needs.

They planned to bring Austin to the village in the spring. Given his delicate health, the harsh mountain winters were not suitable for him.

They envisioned spending the next few years with Austin, living in the village during spring, summer, and fall, and only moving him to a warmer location during winter.

With Austin in the nannys care, they felt at ease. Hopefully, in a few years, when Jarrod might lower his guard, they could all live together.

Financially, they were secure.

Nicoles investments, managed under Raegans name, sufficiently covered Austins medical bills.

Roscoe had secretly bought several properties. Now, all they needed to do was wait quietly in their secluded mountain retreat for a suitable match for Austin.

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Nicole and Roscoe only regretted missing Raegans wedding, though she sent them a live stream of the event.

Nicole had been cautious, waiting two months in the village before reaching out to Raegan, aware that Mitchel and Jarrod were acquaintances. She trusted Raegans discretion, which allowed her to trust Mitchel.

However, knowing Jarrods cunning nature, Nicole feared that Mitchel might inadvertently disclose something in Jarrods presence, so she advised Raegan to keep their situation confidential, even from Mitchel.

At Raegans wedding, which Jarrod couldnt attend because of his scandal, the ceremony was grand, and both Raegan and Mitchel Looked amazing.

Raegan shared generously, and Nicole was touched by Mitchels sincerity, thrilled that Raegan had found happiness.

Yet, to be cautious, Raegan and Nicole decided to limit their communication, opting to check in just once a year to ensure each others safety and well-being.

The fish thrashing in the basin abruptly pulled Nicole back to the present. She noticed Roscoe cleaning jujubes and stood up, offering, Let me take care of the fish.

Stay put. Dont bother, Roscoe insisted. Ive got this.

The mountain jujubes were pesticide-free. After washing them quickly with warm water, he handed them over, warning, Dont eat too many.

Theyre cooling.

He then took the fish to the well to wash them.

The sunlight was perfect, casting a radiant glow on Roscoes profile.

An old scar, a reminder of a long-ago injury and delayed medical attention marked his face. Still, it didnt diminish his attractiveness. He had a calm demeanor and kind nature, the scar adding a rugged charm to his looks.

Nicole crunched into a jujube, savoring its freshness and sweetness.

She thought about how actions lead to consequences. She wasnt the one to save Roscoe. She

was just a passing flower that caught his eye during her prime years. To her, he was her true savior. Without him, she might not have survived in this world.

Their days unfolded quietly. One day, after attending to the villagers health, Roscoe called for Nicole.

Before they went outside, he wrapped her carefully in a scarf, hat, and gloves. Then, leading her out, he pointed and said, Look.

What lay before them was a blanket of white, the trees glittering with icy crystals, a scene of pure enchantment.

This is our first snow since weve been here, Roscoe announced.

Would you like to make a wish?

It was said that wishes made on the first snowfall would come true.

Nicole smiled, nodded, and closed her eyes to make her wish.

Since their arrival, Nicole had smiled more often than in all her previous years combined. She found happiness in the small stuff, Like Wednesday video chats with Austin, Roscoes return with supplies, and Keiths playful antics. All these things made her truly value the beauty of life. This was something she never imagined in her previous life.

Nicole bowed her head with reverence and wished quietly, I hope every day forward is like today, simple yet joyful.

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Roscoe glanced at her, his eyelashes dusted with snowflakes, creating a stunning image.

As Nicole opened her eyes, she offered him a gentle smile. Wont you make a wish too?

With a serious expression, Roscoe responded, My wish is already right here, beside me.

Their eyes met, holding each others gaze in the quiet, snow-covered landscape.

The cold air had brought a rosy flush to Nicoles cheeks. She whispered, Roscoe, once we bring Austin here, lets make this place his home.

Roscoe was shocked, taking a while to gather his thoughts. Happiness caught him off guard, like the snowfall today.

Over the last six months, Roscoe had clung to Nicoles words, understanding that her emotional wounds were deep and might not heal quickly, so he had never pressed the issue.

He had thought that even if Nicole never fully healed, living out their days like this wouldnt be too bad. He was prepared to protect her and Austin for a lifetime. Whether as a family member, an uncle, or a brother, he was content with any role.

Everyone harbored desires. Ignoring them didnt make them vanish.

Nicole, this isnt a dream, is it? With a sharp slap, Roscoe hit himself, his cheek flushing red from the force.

Nicole flinched and reached to caress his cheek, asking softly, Why would you do that to yourself?

Grasping her hand firmly, Roscoe held it tight. Nicole, could you repeat that? It feels like Im dreaming.

Nicole could feel his hand shaking. She had pondered this decision for a long time. She had once tried to push Roscoe toward starting anew without her, but it hadnt taken root.

Austin needed a stable father figure, and Nicole needed someone who could help mend her brokenness. The thought that Roscoe might be that person breathed new life into her hopes.

Knowing she was alive and wanting to live fully, moving forward was exactly what she needed to do. After all, Roscoe had already made significant strides toward her.

Today, she needed to muster her courage and take this step as well.

Roscoe, I want to be with you. Would you Before Nicole could complete her thought, his lips gently pressed against her forehead.

It was a simple gesture, free of any intense desire, yet she clearly felt his tremor.

Roscoe felt that, for these words alone, risking his life a thousand times over would be worthwhile.

Nicole, my dear Nicole, I love you. Cupping her face in his hands, his voice shook as he said, I will love you and Austin all my life.

Nicole leaned her head against Roscoes chest, feeling his heart beat rapidly, yet to her, it was the most reassuring sound in the world.

By Roscoes side, Nicole felt a deep sense of security. He managed everything with such care and tenderness. At times, she almost believed he was older than her by several years.

She couldnt pinpoint exactly when he had won her heart. Maybe it was his refusal to swear on her name, or perhaps it was the night they escaped together, or maybe it was their first night in the mountain village by the bonfire, leaning on his reassuring presence

And every day, from sunrise to sunset, whenever he came back smiling

Each moment made her heart skip a beat.

Chapter 2145

Roscoe, being quite resourceful, had fitted the tricycle with winter tires and powerful LED headlights, perfect for mountain driving.

Though it appeared simple, this tricycle was as costly as a mid-range car and was fully equipped for safety.

Roscoe had chosen this modest tricycle for their mountain journeys.

Today, however, luck was not on their side. Even the best vehicles could have problems, and their tricycle broke down halfway home.

Stepping out to inspect it, Roscoe found the battery had likely frozen due to the cold.

With no choice, he helped Nicole out, and they started to walk home.

It was many miles from their house, much too far for Nicole to walk.

Though Roscoe had taken good care of her, her body wasnt up for such a long journey.

Roscoe stooped down and said, Nicole, climb on. Ill carry you.

Realizing the distance still ahead, Nicole refused, Its okay. I can walk for a bit. Ill let you know when I cant continue.

No, its too slippery with the snow. Just hop on. Roscoe stayed low, waiting. Turning to Nicole, he challenged, What, dont you think I can handle it? I am a man, after all.

He spoke playfully, his eyes twinkling with youthful mischief.

Roscoe was well-mannered and handsome, and at times, his youthful side showed through. Nicole surmised had he been from a simple family, he might have been living a content life with a wife and parents.

Sadly, he belonged to the Watts family, and unluckily, he had come across her

Without warning, Roscoe straightened up and lifted Nicole into his arms, causing her to instinctively cling to him, exclaiming, Hey! What are you doing? Put me down.

Since you wont let me carry you on my back, Ill hold you in my arms all the way home, my princess, Roscoe playfully teased with a smile, his handsome face glowing in the snowy scenery.

Nicoles cheeks warmed. Though younger, Roscoes flirtations often caught her off guard. She didnt feel much Like the older sister in these moments. It seemed she had truly found the right person

Clinging to him, she whispered, If you get tired, Ill get down.

I wont get tired! Roscoe spoke with a voice full of strength and clarity, showing no signs of weariness. Nicky, Im overjoyed. Youre here with me, and well soon live with Austin. Thank you for making my dreams come true

Nicole felt a warmth in her heart. Roscoes actions and words had constantly reassured her that she was not a burden to him. In his view, she was his dream, his future, his everything

For someone often shadowed by pessimism, meeting someone as bright and hopeful as Roscoe felt like finding a life raft in a frozen abyss. One would be determined to hold on tightly.

As Nicole rested her head on his shoulder, the tears that fell from her eyes were still warm. Meeting Roscoe was the most fortunate event of her life.

Nicky, can you promise me something? Roscoe suddenly asked.

What is it?

Chapter 2146

Whatever happens in the future, never lose hope. Remember, you have me and Austin. We are men, and its our duty to protect you for a lifetime!

Nicole was silent for a moment. Since moving to this small mountain village, she hadnt thought about death anymore. She saw every new day as a gift of hope and often prayed for more time to spend with Austin and Roscoe

She couldnt even think about what might happen if she werent around.

The mere idea ripped at her heart, filling her with fear and sorrow, making her cling to life even more desperately and dread the thought of death.

She understood why Roscoe would pray occasionally. Sometimes, the only thing one could do was pray for divine mercy.

Nicole whispered, I promise you, no matter what, Ill keep going.

Roscoe was finally relieved. His main concern had always been Nicoles mental state, fearing that any unexpected event might break her spirit.

Nicoles cheek rested against his shoulder, feeling his warmth Like a small sun. She spoke. Please promise me to take care of yourself. Dont be reckless, and learn when to bow your head, okay?

Remembering past experiences caused her heart to tremble. A kind soul Like Roscoe shouldnt be destroyed by his own stubbornness.

I promise. Well both make the most of our lives, watch Austin grow, see him get married and have kids.

Good.

The snow-covered landscape stretched endlessly ahead, and a crack formed in the otherwise clear sky above.

Yet, those wrapped in warmth and joy noticed none of this, unaware of the impending shift in the weather.

In the town, a black SUV sat parked by the roadside, shuddering continuously, occasionally emitting sounds like a woman in pain.

After some time, the cars shaking finally stopped.

A fat, unkempt man opened the door, frowning deeply. Now, get out.

Sir, you promised to buy me a necklace The woman, wearing a restaurant uniform, was likely a waitress.

The man threw a handful of hundred-dollar bills at the womans face, cursing, Get lost! With your looks, count yourself lucky I didnt vomit on you. And a necklace? I see you as nothing more than a living necklace, you skinny wretch

The waitress wasnt going to accept this quietly. She felt nearly abused to death, and this little amount of money was the mans dismissive gesture. Sir, how can you do this? You promised me a necklace, and thats why I got into your car. Youre not keeping your word

Slap! The man slapped the waitress, knocking her to the ground.

Dont beg favors from me, you disgusting woman! Now, get lost!

However, the waitress wasnt one to back down. She began to cry loudly. I might as well let the passersby judge whether youd mistreated me. Im not afraid. Anyway, Ive got nothing to lose. If you dont give me the necklace, I wont let you off the hook!

The old man, Deniz, had made out with plenty of women on his journey.

He hadnt anticipated such a spirited response from this waitress.

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He signaled to his driver with a wink. The driver quickly grasped the situation, stuffing more money into the woman's hand and saying, Sweetheart, just buy a little necklace and we have a deal. You can't really argue with this, can you?

The driver, experienced at handling such shady situations, was particularly persuasive. He leaned in and whispered to the woman, Look, this gentleman has influential connections in Ardlen. He's not someone to mess with. I suggest you take the money and leave. Don't complicate things, alright?

The driver's words were chosen, the sincerity questionable.

Far from a decent soul, the waitress realized she couldn't gain much from Deniz and quit arguing. Standing up and dusting off her trousers, she scoffed. Who are you kidding? I know this car. It's a junker. Not worth much. One with influential connections wouldn't be driving this trash.

Deniz's quick temper ignited at the mockery, ready to attack.

The waitress, frightened, retreated, declaring, Forget it. I'll just treat this as a run-in with a swine.

Then, she walked away confidently, swaying her hips.

Damn it! Deniz kicked the car door in a huff. He cursed, What a disgrace, to be humiliated by some nobody!

The driver quickly lit a cigarette, handing it to Deniz. Sir, calm down. Women from these small places tend to be unruly and rough.

Deniz put the cigarette between his lips, muttering angrily, If not for that damn Jarrod, would I be in this mess? Damn it!

Deniz continued to swear.

Previously, over an issue regarding Nicole, Jarrod disregarded the reputation of the Hampton family and had Deniz imprisoned for a year.

The point was that Deniz hadn't even laid a finger on Nicole. He simply drugged her in an

attempt to rape her, yet he ended up imprisoned for a year, which he felt he was unjustly treated.

Upon Deniz's release, his previous cooperation with the Hampton family naturally fell through.

Deniz's wife pleaded with her sister, who was married to a director of the Hampton family, but the latter was too afraid to advocate for Deniz. Consequently, Deniz was banished to this forsaken place. They claimed it was to help him reflect and mature before he could return to Ardlen.

Although their claim was nicely put, Deniz felt by the time he was allowed back, everything would be gone.

Thinking it through, Deniz wrongly blamed Nicole and Jarrod for his current suffering in this deserted place. If it weren't for Jarrod's recent connections to the Hampton family, he would be seeking an outlet for his rage.

Damn it! That hideous woman, so disgusting! Deniz couldn't stop cursing.

The driver grasped Deniz's foul mood might make the next few days difficult for him as Deniz vented his anger.

But there wasn't much the driver could do with it since he needed this job to earn a living.

Attempting to change the subject, the driver said, Sir, you wouldn't believe it, but I met a stunning woman at the hot pot restaurant, truly elegant, a real beauty even by Ardlen's standards.

Deniz scoffed. With your taste, how would you recognize true beauty?

Sir, trust me, I'm not kidding. I even secretly took a picture to show it to you. It's just the earlier commotion made me almost forget about it.

The driver pulled out his phone, opened the gallery, and displayed a photo of Nicole dining, her charm evident even as she looked down at her meat.

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This is her at the hot pot restaurant where I took the photo. Later, she ran into me on her way to the restroom. Her figure was so curvy. She's genuinely gorgeous up close, no exaggeration. Unfortunately, she's already with someone

Where did you see her? Deniz demanded, grabbing the driver's collar.

At the hot pot restaurant. The driver was caught off guard by Deniz's sudden enthusiasm. He advised, Sir, perhaps we should avoid making problems. She's involved with someone else, and meddling could lead to big troubles

The depths of Deniz's thoughts were a mystery to the driver.

Deniz's gaze sharpened as he instructed, Hand me the photo and delete it from your phone.

The driver was puzzled by the request. He often secretly photographed attractive women to admire later. However, he complied with Deniz's orders without question.

Deniz scrutinized the photo, his eyes intense, and then said to the driver, You're coming back to Ardlen's with me. I can offer you a better life.

Deniz was determined to shake things up this time. He vowed to hold on to his assets, and he wasn't about to let anyone else claim what was rightfully his.

Oasis Apartment.

In the huge floor-to-ceiling window, a man with a striking, attractive face was mirrored. With a full wine glass in hand, he took a sip, the red liquid leaving a mark on his lips.

The day Nicole disappeared, her name appeared on a flight passenger list, but Jarrod knew it was fake to distract him after the investigation. She must have left by other means, detesting him and Ardlen's so much that she was likely hiding out abroad.

From initial panic to a calmer state now, Jarrod had never ceased the covert search. Despite deploying numerous people for a global search, no trace of her had been found.

Gazing at the twinkling neon lights outside, Jarrod reminisced about the times he and Nicole had spent together in this apartment.

His temper flared, and in a huff, he threw the wine glass against the opposite wall, his expression tense. Such a rebellious escapee, but he was resolute in his intent to find her.

Just then, his phone on the cabinet began to vibrate. He answered on speaker, a flirtatious female voice filling the room. Jarrod, Ive had too much to drink. My head is spinning. Come get me

Where are you? Jarrod asked.

Vickis words were slightly softened by her drunkenness. At At Cloud Hotel.

Okay, wait for me. He ended the call and told Alec to ready the car.

Shortly, the car pulled up at the destination.

The car window rolled down to reveal Vicki dressed in a red tweed suit, her eyes twinkling with joy, her arms outstretched, beckoning to Jarrod. Jarrod, hold me

Jarrod exited the car but didnt approach Vicki. Instead, he leaned against the car, a smirk forming on his handsome face as he lit a cigarette and nodded at Vicki.

Vicki initially frowned because he hadnt approached her, but his smile quickly melted her irritation.

Jarrod was undeniably attractive. Since he had tempered his wilder ways, he now exuded a more refined aura, though still retaining a hint of mischief.

Any woman who caught sight of him struggled to remain unfazed.

Chapter 2149

Vicki staggered to Jarrod and threw herself into his arms, wrapping her arms around his slim waist. She murmured, Jarrod, you didnt even call me. Arent you worried I might find someone else while Im out having fun?

Jarrod raised an eyebrow and challenged, Would you?

Blushing, Vicki responded flirtatiously, You know who I am, dont you?

Jarrod reassured her with a smile, I have faith in Mrs. Schultz.

Their wedding date was set for three months from now.

The mention of Mrs. Schultz made Vickis legs weak. She held onto him tightly, fitting snugly against him. Jarrod, you really are

Jarrod gave a faint smile. You dont like it? Should I stop calling you that?

No! Vicki playfully hit him and said, Of course I love it, you rascal.

Get in the car. Jarrod courteously opened the car door for Vicki.

The Hampton family paved the way for Jarrod's regained control over the Schultz Group.

Initially, Vicki's father had been adamant about severing ties with the Schultz Group and Jarrod, but Vicki wouldn't hear of it. She cried, made scenes, and even threatened to take her own life.

Jarrod had never made such extreme demands himself, but Vicki went as far as to slit her wrists to force her father to save Jarrod. She was hopelessly in love with Jarrod.

However, Jarrod's position at the Schultz Group was still precarious, with many shareholders opposing him. So, he intended to use their upcoming marriage as a strategy to manage some dissenting shareholders.

In Ardlen, many socialites aspired to marry Jarrod, but Vicki was the most manageable and naive.

After climbing into the car, Vicki unabashedly wrapped herself around Jarrod like an octopus,

snuggling deeply into his embrace, all in full view of the driver. Jarrod, I miss you so much.

Jarrod laughed. We just saw each other at noon.

I miss you every minute we're apart, uncontrollably so. Vicki seemed to have had too much to drink, as she was exceptionally talkative tonight, each word saturated with affection.

Jarrod reclined in his seat, silent, leaving it unclear whether he was truly listening.

The ride was too comfortable. Claiming fatigue, Vicki fell asleep.

Feeling her steady breathing against him, Jarrod emotionlessly shifted her aside, his face settling into a mask of cold detachment.

It was such a stark contrast from his manner just a moment ago.

Even in her sleep, Vicki continued to murmur, Jarrod, I love you.

They soon reached their destination.

Alec parked the car smoothly, and Jarrod lifted the still-sleeping Vicki out of the car.

Chapter 2150

Half-awake, Vicki looked at him through blurry eyes and whispered, Jarrod, don't go tonight. Stay with me.

Jarrod's expression softened, and he smiled. I'll stay with you.

Vicki snuggled contentedly into his embrace.

Jarrold carried Vicki inside. Shortly afterward, the elevator doors opened again, revealing only Jarrold as he stepped out alone.

Jarrold sat back in his car, his face serious as he rubbed his forehead and asked, Got any updates?

Alec responded, Not yet.

Jarrold remained silent. He had expected this answer.

Alec glanced at Vicki's villa and then added, Mr. Schultz, I think the child might either be gone or didn't survive.

It had been a month since Nicole vanished. One day, Jarrold suddenly instructed Alec to go overseas to check if Nicole had any children.

The landlady overseas hadn't spotted Nicole with any kids but did share a helpful detail, claiming having witnessed a man with Nicole guiding a young boy along. But the very one glimpse of the young boy couldn't confirm if the boy was his son or just a friend's child.

To Alec, this information seemed insignificant. He found it hard to believe that Nicole could have managed childbirth, considering the strain it would have put on her health.

However, when Jarrold learned this, he became fixated on locating the child, as if driven by something beyond reason.

Where should Alec even start? After searching for so long, he half-joked to himself about wishing he could just produce a child to satisfy Jarrold's demands.

Alec attempted to reason with Jarrold. Mr. Schultz, if you want a child, why not consider having one with Miss Hampton? It would solidify your alliance with the Hampton family and secure your position within the Schultz Group.

Alec thought it was a straightforward solution. Having a child with Vicki seemed to offer more benefits.

Forget the child Jarrold thought might exist. Even if such a child were real, bringing it into the open could upset the Hamptons and jeopardize using Vicki as leverage, potentially causing the senior leaders at the Schultz Group to challenge Jarrold.

In essence, Alec hoped, for Jarrold's sake, that Nicole's child didn't actually exist.

Jarrold gave Alec a cold look. Not a bad idea. Why don't you go have a child with Miss Hampton?

Alec shivered. Mr. Schultz, please, that was out of line. I won't overstep again. He understood that Jarrold was telling him to keep his opinions to himself.

Jarrold waved him off, rubbing his temples. Let Shay handle the search for the child. You focus on the company.

Alec bit his lip, regretting his earlier words. He was well aware of Nicole's special place in Jarrold's heart, and any child of hers would undoubtedly be crucial to him.

The car window was half-open when suddenly, a white bird flew in and perched on Jarrod's shoulder.

Stunned, Alec quickly recognized it. Isn't this Miss Hampton's pet bird?

Jarrod also recognized it.