

Unbreakable 2251

Chapter 2251

The security guards unconsciously trembled. One of them said, You Youd better cooperate with us. Otherwise, we will be forced to call the police.

Jarrold had damaged the hospitals property and could be arrested and required to compensate.

Jarrold didnt say anything and disdained talking to these security guards.

Fortunately, Alec arrived in time. He immediately smoothened the situation. Im sorry. Its all a misunderstanding.

Alec pulled one security guard aside and said, This gentleman is in a bad mood because one of his family members is hospitalized. Please understand. But dont worry. We will compensate for everything.

The security guard shook his head. Its not about compensation. This persons behavior has frightened the medical staff and other patients. We need to take him away for interrogation. Then, we will assess if we need to call the police.

Alec took out a business card, handed it to the security guard, and said humbly, I have an idea. We will replace all the doors in the entire hospital building with better riot-proof doors. Please consult your superiors to see if its acceptable.

It would cost a substantial amount of money to replace all the doors in the entire building with riot-proof doors. The security guard thought Alec was just bragging. But he still had to consult his superiors, so he turned around and left.

Soon, the hospital management staff hurried over. They knew the company on the business card Alec had handed over, recognizing its strength. They immediately decided not to pursue the matter further.

They even saw Alec off downstairs happily.

Alec said to the management staff before departing, Everything was really just a misunderstanding. Please manage your staff and caution them against gossiping. Mr. Schultz simply lost control of his emotions because his family member was hospitalized. We are all ordinary people, and we sometimes find it hard to deal with our emotions. I bet its understandable, right?

The head of the management staff nodded repeatedly. Thats true. Its just a trivial matter.

To the management staff, although Jarrold smashed the restroom door, he didnt cause any substantial harm, let alone hurt anyone.

Regarding this incident, they had obtained a renovation fund for the hospital. It was definitely a gain for them.

Dont worry. I will make sure that all our people keep their mouths shut. No one will gossip about this matter, the head of the management staff promised.

Alec replied, Thank you. Ive already arranged for the money to be transferred to your account.

The head of the management staff smiled from ear to ear.

Alec was being cautious since Derek was seriously hurt by Jarrod, along with Nicoles previous allegations that Jarrod had a mental illness. If what happened today spread, he feared people would put it all together and think Jarrod was really sick, exposing the truth. If this series of events were linked, it could lead to more serious trouble.

Alec was on alert now, quickly extinguishing the fire before it could even start burning.

At this moment, Jarrod had already returned to the car. Alec had asked a doctor to come to the car to treat his injured hand.

After the treatment, Jarrod remained silent. He didnt even instruct Alec to drive. Alec didnt dare to recklessly bring up the topic, so he just quietly sat in the drivers seat.

Alec had never seen Jarrod with a bleak expression, looking hollow and devoid of everything.

I dont want to see that woman ever again, Jarrod suddenly said after a long silence.

Alec was stunned upon hearing this. Before he could ask a question, Jarrod added, If she does anything out of line again, dont bother considering anything. Deal with it as you see fit.

After saying this, Jarrod closed his eyes, his brows furrowed tightly.

It was as if the mere mention of Nicoles name disgusted him to the core.

Alecs chin dropped. This was his first time seeing Jarrod express such a strong aversion against Nicole. Despite his disbelief, he just replied, Understood, Mr. Schultz.

Alec reasoned that things would be much easier to deal with, should Jarrod really despise Nicole. But he didnt dare to confirm it. He could only take one step at a time and observe the situation. After all, Nicole was special in Jarrods heart. He doubted Jarrod could manage to never see Nicole again or stop caring about her. Moreover, there was Austin, who connected the two of them.

Alec drove the car back to the villa.

His mind clouded by his inner turmoil, Jarrod had instructed Alec to drive him to this place without him realizing. As he entered, he remembered Austin, Nicoles son, whom he had arranged to live here.

Right then, the maids responsible for serving Austin were making food downstairs. At the sight of Jarrod, they hurriedly stopped their work and greeted him respectfully.

Jarrod frowned slightly. Why are you here?

He instructed the two maids to always guard Austin and never leave his side. This was to prevent the nanny Nicole had hired from causing any trouble.

One of the maids hurriedly explained, Sir, its Miss Hamptons order.

Chapter 2252

Vicki is here? Jarrods gaze intensified.

The maid hastily responded, Yes, Miss Hampton is upstairs, keeping Austin company. I descended to prepare some pumpkin porridge for him.

Jarrod scowled. Since Austins arrival, Vicki hadnt been brought here again.

Despite Vicki expressing her desire to visit Austin, Jarrod seemed unaccountably unwilling.

Who permitted her entry? Jarrods displeasure was evident.

The maid was startled. Wasnt Vicki his fiance? Why did Jarrod deny her entry?

Alec promptly clarified, Mr. Schultz, I escorted Miss Hampton here. She mentioned having left behind an earring in the villa, and upon her arrival, a particular circumstance arose. Austins usual nanny fell suddenly ill. I arranged for the nanny to be taken to the hospital, and Miss Hampton volunteered to care for him.

Despite Alecs lengthy explanation, Jarrods furrowed brow remained unrelieved.

In haste, Alec uttered, I was unaware that Miss Hampton hadnt departed yet

Before he could conclude, Jarrod had already ascended the stairs toward Austins room.

The door flung open with force.

Just as Jarrod poised to speak, he beheld Vicki reclining beside Austins bed, her eyes narrowed as if

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succumbing to slumber from exhaustion. A basin of water and a cloth lay nearby, while another cloth adorned Austins forehead.

The maid who trailed behind hastened to clarify, Last night, Austin inexplicably developed a fever. Miss Hampton tended to him throughout the night, adamantly refusing medication, citing Austins frail constitution. She opted for physical cooling instead. Despite our entreaties for her to rest, her concern for Austin prevailed, compelling her to remain by his side

Jarrods demeanor softened upon hearing this.

Vicki appeared to be roused by the commotion. She opened her eyes drowsily and beheld Jarrod, her countenance brightening. Jarrod, youve returned.

Jarrod nodded before suggesting, If youre tired, grab some rest in the guest room.

Vicki said, Im not tired. She then deftly checked Austins temperature with her hand, demonstrating the proficiency seemingly acquired from last nights extensive monitoring.

A long sigh of relief escaped her, accompanied by a joyful proclamation, His fever has finally subsided. I was so scared.

Vicki's concern appeared genuine. Jarrod said, You should rest now.

Just then, Austin stirred awake and caught sight of Jarrod, promptly inquiring, Mr. Schultz, where is my mother?

The way Austin addressed Jarrod struck a chord in Jarrod, instantly contorting his expression into one of intense displeasure.

Vicki urgently grasped Austin's arm and said gently, Austin, he's your father. You can't address him as Mr. Schultz.

Austin gazed at Jarrod, yet refrained from addressing him as dad.

Ultimately, he bypassed formalities and queried directly, Where's my mother?

Chapter 2253

Jarrod, on the brink of turning away, halted at the sound, delivering a cold declaration, Your custody now belongs to me. Henceforth, Vicki assumes the role of your mother. Keep that in mind.

Upon hearing this, Vicki's heart soared with joy. Her efforts hadn't been futile, after all.

Inducing illness in Austin and then seemingly tending to him throughout the night had proven advantageous, earning her favor.

No! I don't want that! Austin shouted. I have my own mother. I don't want anyone else to replace her. You're a wicked person!

Austin abruptly leaped from the bed and sprinted toward Jarrod, pummeling Jarrod with his small fists as he exclaimed, You cruel man, give me back my mother! Give her back

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Jarrod silently departed.

Alec, compelled by necessity, urged, Austin, speaking to your father in such a manner is unacceptable.

He isn't! Austin vehemently exclaimed. He's not! In my heart, Roscoe is my father!

Jarrod halted, his gaze piercing, as he uttered, What did you just say?

I said Roscoe is my father, my only father.

Jarrod seized Austin's collar, his eyes ablaze with fury. Silence! I am your damn father, and I will remain so for the entirety of your life!

As a mere child, how could Austin endure Jarrod's wrathful demeanor?

Tears streamed down his face instantly. Nevertheless, he persisted, No You're not

Jarrod seized Austin's collar from behind and swiftly elevated him to a considerable height.

Austin, gripped by a fear of heights and a sense of suffocation, quickly began to turn purple in the face.

Jarro! Vickis outcry reverberated, jolting Jarrod back to his senses.

She swiftly snatched Austin away, enfolding him tightly against her bosom, lamenting, Jarrod, the child is innocent. Restrain your anger, and refrain from such actions, lest he be haunted by nightmares.

Austins coughing persisted as he remained ensconced in Vickis embrace.

Jarro belatedly comprehended the runaway nature of his emotions.

This incident occurred in the presence of his own son. Observing Austins fearful gaze, he realized the extent to which his anger had terrified him.

The phrase Im sorry lingered on Jarrods tongue countless times, yet he couldnt bring himself to utter it. His fury still simmered from Austins claim about Roscoe being his father.

You look after him, Jarrod directed Vicki. He dreaded the resurgence of his emotional turmoil. The mere mention of Roscoe by either of Austin and Nicole threatened to unravel him entirely.

Plus, Vickis earlier maternal instinct had stirred something within Jarrod. In comparison, Vicki seemed infinitely more dependable.

Leaving Austin in her capable hands, with Vickis intelligence and her commitment to his happiness, she surely possessed the ability to provide excellent care for Austin. Besides, it was only temporary.

Chapter 2254

Once Austins dedicate nanny recovered and returned, Vicki would be relieved of the burden.

Vickis happiness radiated as she softly assured, Jarrod, rest assured, Ill care for Austin as if he were my own.

With a nod, Jarrod departed.

Vicki gently smiled. However, it swiftly vanished.

Glancing at Austin, Vicki admonished sternly, See? I warned you not to address your father like that, but you refused to listen. Your father wont permit you to visit your mother.

Austin remained visibly frightened, his voice strained. Then, when can I see my mother and Roscoe?

Vickis mood lifted. This child could be of use to her. As long as Austin continued to mention Nicole and Roscoe in Jarrods presence, it would likely deepen Jarrods disdain for Austin and Nicole. And all she managed to do was exacerbate the situation.

Vicki reverted to her gentle manner, smiling as she continued, If you wish to see them, only I can facilitate it, but you must promise to obey me.

Austin nodded in a daze.

Meanwhile, in the hospital ward, Nicole roused from sleep, her mind swirling with too many thoughts, rendering slumber unattainable.

She lay there with her eyes wide open until the afternoon when an unexpected visitor made a sudden appearance in her ward.

Vicki strolled into Nicoles ward uninvited and settled herself beside Nicoles hospital bed with a casual grin. Hey Nicole, here again? Hows everything?

Nicole eyed Vicki warily, her voice flat. Im okay. But what brings you here, Miss Hampton?

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I dropped by to see you, Vicki said, her smile faltering just a bit.

Nicole sighed, her patience thinning. Were hardly friends. If youve got something to say, just get to the point.

Vickis tone shifted, a note of sincerity creeping in. Why are you always so cold to me? What have I actually done to you?

Nicole nearly chuckled at Vickis act. She remembered everything from their last encounter outside the courthouse, especially Vickis manipulative threat involving her son, Austin. That was a line she could never forgive.

Nicoles instincts as a mother were fierce. If anyone threatened her son, shed fight tooth and nail to protect him.

Vicki, you know exactly what this is about, Nicole stated plainly.

Honestly, Nicole, I dont. Help me understand, Vicki replied, keeping up her charade.

Tired and wanting to end the conversation, Nicole closed her eyes.

Vicki, youve said your hello. If theres nothing else, I think its best you leave now. Were done here.

Vickis expression darkened briefly before she looked at Nicole again.

Despite the pallor of illness, Nicoles presence was still striking, her vulnerability only adding layers to her already compelling allure.

Chapter 2255

It was clear why men found her irresistible, and even the stoic Jarrod couldnt help but be drawn to her.

Vicki clenched her jaw and snapped, Youre just letting me walk away, Miss Lawrence? I thought youd want an update about your son.

Nicoles eyes snapped open, and she bolted upright. What about Austin?

Didnt you say you wanted to be left alone? Vicki retorted, standing up and feigning a departure. I wont bother you anymore. It seems youre not that concerned about your son.

Stop! Nicoles voice cracked as she reached out, grabbing Vickis wrist to stop her. Explain yourself. Whats going on with Austin?

Vicki grimaced, surprised by Nicoles strength. Youre hurting me, she complained.

Nicole released her grip immediately and persisted, Tell me. Whats happened to Austin?

Rubbing her wrist, Vicki muttered, Hes just got a minor fever, nothing serious.

What? Nicoles voice rose in alarm. A fever? Austins health is fragile. Are you telling me hes not being taken care of?

Nicoles anger simmered beneath the surface. Jarrod had taken Austin away from her care, and this was the care Austin was receiving?

Every bout of illness for Austin was perilous.

This mans negligence is appalling. He cant even look after his own son properly! Nicole fumed internally.

Why are you blaming me? His getting sick is your fault! Vicki shot back, her tone accusatory.

Excuse me? Nicole was confused by Vickis words.

Vickis voice held a hint of accusation. If Jarrod hadnt been here with you, neglecting Austin, Austin wouldnt be sick right now.

Nicole fell silent, realizing the implications. It seemed Vicki had engineered this situation.

Vickis mask slipped further, her voice cold as she continued, I hear Austin has a serious heart condition. Even a mild cold could be dangerous for him

Nonsense! Nicole snapped, anger flaring within her. Though Austin was delicate, the nanny usually kept him well.

Yet, under Jarrods watch and Vickis care, Austin had fallen ill.

How could Jarrod entrust his son to a woman so clearly infatuated with him? Was he out of his mind?

The thought of Vicki harming Austin wasnt far-fetched in Nicoles overwhelmed mind.

These troubling thoughts swirled in Nicoles head, her anxiety mounting. She struggled to regain her composure and demanded, Vicki, just tell me what you want.

Emboldened, Vicki veiled her smirk with her hand, her voice soft but cutting. I heard you were quite the hostess, helping Jarrod entertain his guests by drinking with them. You were quite good at it, weren't you?

Nicole, bewildered by the change in topic, shook her head in denial.

Chapter 2256

No, that wasn't me.

Humph, that's a pity. Since you're not willing to talk, I suppose I'll leave then, Vicki announced, her tone dismissive as she prepared to exit.

Nicole quickly reached out and grasped Vicki's arm, her voice urgent.

Wait, don't leave. Just give me a moment to think

Nicole reflected on the past and suddenly it clicked. There had been one instance. Jarrod had behaved oddly that day, insisting she dress provocatively and accompany him to the Kingbel Club to mingle with high-profile guests. It was a singular, demeaning experience, meant only to belittle her. The memory of that night still stung.

Nicole admitted reluctantly, Yes, there was that one time at Kingbel Club, but it was just that once, and I wasn't really mingling with the guests.

Vicki's displeasure was evident upon hearing this. It seemed Jarrod harbored special feelings for Nicole, tolerating a family feud to keep Nicole close. Vicki deduced that Jarrod's decision to have Nicole at the event was driven by anger.

Jealousy curdled in Vicki's heart. Dropping all pretense, she said sharply, Since you've done it before, that's perfect. My uncle owns Kingbel Club, and they're short-staffed. I could get you a job there.

Nicole was shocked, her mind reeling. What are you suggesting?

I mean for you to work as a hostess. You'll entertain guests and have conversations. It's straightforward, and it pays, Vicki clarified.

The term hostess in that context was a polite way of saying prostitute. While it stopped short of sleeping with clients, all other interactions were expected, and for the right price, even more could be negotiated.

Nicole turned pale. I can't handle alcohol, and I won't work in such a place.

Vicki laughed, covering her mouth with her hand. You don't think I'm begging you to accept the job, do you?

Nicole knew better. Vicki's true aim was to degrade her. Yet, how could she agree to such a demand?

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he responded firmly, Miss Hampton, I cant accept that. If you have other terms, we can discuss them.

And if I dont? Vickis tone turned cold.

If you want Austin to stay healthy, youd better take the job today. Otherwise, I cant assure his well-being Vicki threatened openly.

Fury surged through Nicole, her fists clenching as she trembled.

Miss Hampton, remember who Austin is. He is Jarrods son.

Nicole questioned Vicki, Do you really think Jarrod will tolerate your actions?

Regardless, Jarrod was Austins father. Nicole couldnt believe he would be so cruel as to disregard the life of his own son. To ignore the well-being of his child seemed unimaginable. Even if Jarrod was using Austin merely as a bargaining chip to intimidate her, he ought to realize that any harm to Austin would drive her to fight him relentlessly.

Ha-ha. Hearing her words, Vickis laughter grew louder and more dramatic. Miss Lawrence, youre quite naive. Your son is frail. A mere fever or the wrong meal could end his life. Would I really need to intervene physically?

Vicki intended to crush Nicoles naivety with her words. Smiling, she added, Do you honestly believe Jarrod would confront me over something so trivial?

Vickis implications were crystal clear. She had numerous ways to hurt Austin. Even if Jarrod didnt entrust Austin to her directly, having Austin near Jarrod was opportunity enough for her. She was correct. Austins health was fragile and couldnt endure any stress. Minimal interference could prove fatal.

Chapter 2257

Confronted with the potential threats to Austin, Nicoles complexion turned ashen.

I heard your son is on the transplant waiting list. It would be a pity if he couldnt make it until then, wouldnt it? Vicki sighed and continued, Hes just a kid. He hasnt even had the chance to see the world yet. Would it not be tragic if he died just Like that?

How dare you! Nicole clenched her fist tighter, her voice thick with anger. If anything happens to Austin, Ill fcking kill you both.

Nicole mentioned you both because she thought Jarrod had entrusted Austin to Vicki, showing his negligence as a father. He was no better than a beast. If anything were to happen to Austin, she would go to any lengths to make them pay, to avenge her son.

With your current state, how do you suppose you could do anything to me? Vicki scoffed.

In my eyes, youre just an ant. And as for that son of yours, if Im feeling irritable, just a flick of my fingers could end his life.

Vicki leaned close to Nicoles ear and whispered these harsh words, like a sharp needle driving straight into Nicoles brain, the pain sharp.

You, you lunatic! Nicoles entire body shook with fury. Vickis true nature was now completely exposed. Vicki seemed gracious on the surface, yet harbored such dark intentions.

Vicki was unfazed by Nicole calling her crazy. In fact, embracing madness seemed even more liberating. Tucking a stray hair behind her ear nonchalantly, she suggested, Perhaps you should just accept the job Ive arranged for you. Itll keep you too busy to seduce Jarrod, which really would be best for everyone, wouldnt it? Her voice stayed soft and gentle, belying the venom underneath.

I Nicole struggled to voice her objection, her words stuck in her throat. She dared not gamble with Austins life.

Confident of her Leverage, Vicki pulled out her phone and played a video for Nicole.

Look at your son, his fever has turned his ears red. Quite the sight, isnt it? Vickis tone was deceptively sweet as she cruelly taunted Nicole about Austins illness.

Nicole trembled, utterly helpless. Austins well-being was controlled by Vicki. At this point, even reaching out to Jarrod seemed futile.

After all, Jarrod was set to wed Vicki, and Nicole knew Jarrods character well. Though he could not truly love her, as a businessman, he always prioritized his self-interest and reputation.

The Hampton family had supported the Schultz Group during its toughest times. Consequently, driven by both sentiment and logic, Jarrod was obligated to marry Vicki to honor the Hampton familys generosity and solidify his reputation in the business community.

After all, nobody respected those who exploited others and failed to keep their promises.

For Jarrod, marrying Vicki was essential to secure the Schultz Groups standing in Ardlens. Therefore, Jarrod would not punish Vicki for Austins sake. The transaction simply did not justify it. Indeed, to Jarrod, everything could be seen as a transaction.

Miss Lawrence, this is an excellent chance for you. If you agree now, it could spare Austin further distress. Wouldnt you agree?

Vicki pressed. Her words left Nicole without a response, her options seemingly evaporated. Austin was Nicoles vulnerability. Nicole could not and would not overlook this.

Okay, Ill go. Nicole consented almost instantly. What other choice did she have? Submission seemed to be her only option.

Pleased, Vicki commented, Miss Lawrence, your decision is wise. You will go tonight. Ive arranged for someone I know to meet you. Please ensure you treat him with respect. Do not upset my guest, understood?

Nicole felt a foreboding chill, asking, Who have you set up for me?

Vicki laughed ominously. Miss Lawrence, no need to worry about that. You'll find out soon enough when you arrive.

Her laughter sounded strange and unsettling. Nicole sensed trouble waiting for her. Yet, she had no other options but to comply with Vicki's plans.

Chapter 2258

I'll follow your instructions, but stay away from my child, or I'll make you regret it, Nicole warned.

Vicki just laughed again. She completely dismissed Nicole's threat.

What could Nicole really do in such a state? Austin seemed even more delicate. With a mere word, she could order their elimination if she chose to. Just like now, despite her internal resistance, Nicole had to comply.

Vicki savored the control, reveling in the power it gave her. It felt exhilarating. She declared, As long as you behave, I won't harm him. Honestly, I'm not interested in your child. My focus is on you, Miss Lawrence. Perform well when you arrive, and if you impress me, I might even show some kindness to your son. How does that sound?

Fine, just keep your promise. Nicole glared at Vicki and warned, If you dare harm Austin, I'll make sure the entire Hampton family pays dearly.

The whole Hampton family was a rotten bunch. Vicki, Lowe, and Wayne

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None of them had any regard for human life.

But Vicki was utterly unmoved by Nicole's words. She deemed Nicole's defiant stance ridiculous even already in a pitiful state. With a casual toss of her hair, Vicki remarked, I won't disturb you any longer. 6:30 PM, Kingbel Club. Don't be late.

Vicki turned and walked away, her high heels tapping audibly with each step.

Once Vicki was gone, Nicole could no longer maintain her composure and crumpled to the floor next to the bed. The floor was cold, yet her heart felt even colder.

Tonight marked the beginning of a new, uncertain chapter. She was certain that more challenges lay ahead. She wasn't sure if she could withstand this next onslaught. But for Austin's sake, she had to remain strong.

Nicole ignored the doctor's advice and insisted on leaving the hospital.

Reluctantly, the doctor agreed to let her go. Once the discharge paperwork was finished, Nicole was surprised to see an unexpected amount of money in her bank account.

It seemed Alec had deposited the money. Nicole quickly transferred the amount equivalent to her hospital bills to the Schultz Group's company account. She had no desire to keep the money or to be indebted to Jarrod. Right now, she was keen on cutting all ties with him and focusing solely on getting Austin back in her arms.

This morning, she had looked for medical records of Derek at this hospital and checked with nearby hospitals, but no one had heard of him. No one knew where Derek was, and there was a good chance he was no longer alive. It was probably impossible to contact Leighton.

Leighton has been exposed, and Alec would definitely take the necessary actions to deal with the situation completely.

Nicole understood that Alec was the kind of person who, once he acted, wouldnt leave a single clue behind.

After two weeks of following leads, her efforts had come to a disappointing end. Feeling desperate was unavoidable.

However, Nicole couldnt waste time pitying herself. There were more crucial tasks at hand.

Nicole went back to her room to gather her things.

Meanwhile, Roscoe waited in the corridor upstairs, unsure of what he was waiting for. Then, he caught sight of a slim figure downstairs.

That unmistakable sense of recognition hit him. It was her again

Nicole seemed utterly defeated, walking aimlessly, almost floating through space.

Roscoe couldnt shake the sympathy for Nicole, once again his hand rested on his heart. What was happening? Why was his heart always out of control whenever he saw her

Chapter 2259

Roscoe. a cheerful voice called from behind.

Doreen noticed Roscoe was distracted and asked, What are you looking at?

Without mentioning Nicole, Roscoe turned and replied, Nothing.

Doreen doubted him. She had just witnessed him lost in deep thought, staring intensely. She glanced downstairs where Roscoe had been looking, but saw nothing there.

Nicole had already disappeared around the corner, so naturally, Doreen saw nothing there.

Relieved that Roscoe wasnt hiding anything, Doreen happily waved her medical report, exclaiming, Look, the doctor says Im in great shape, perfect for having a baby!

Roscoe barely glanced at the medical report, merely grunting in response.

Doreen gazed at Roscoes handsome face, her cheeks flushing as she suggested, Roscoe, we You dont need to wait for the wedding We could start trying for a baby now.

Their families had already discussed the engagement and wedding, with both parents eager for the events to happen soon.

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Doreen was especially impatient, wishing her wedding day was tomorrow.

She and Roscoe hadn't been together very long, only about a month.

So far, their intimacy had only progressed to her linking arms with him. They hadn't even held hands.

No matter how subtly Doreen hinted, Roscoe did not respond, never initiating anything, which left her feeling anxious and frustrated.

After all, being a woman, it wasn't proper for her to be too forward.

Yet, Roscoe was unresponsive as if he were made of stone.

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Doreen had even arranged for people to test Roscoe, sending both seductive and innocent women his way, but Roscoe showed no interest, giving no one any opportunity.

While this reassured Doreen, she couldn't shake the fear that perhaps Roscoe wasn't interested in women at all. Maybe he had some unusual preferences.

This thought haunted Doreen, especially since she noticed that Roscoe seemed unusually attentive to Nicole. It was more than just attention.

The usually reserved Roscoe had actually initiated a conversation with Nicole.

Every glance they shared made Doreen uneasy because Roscoe never looked at her that way. In fact, he barely looked at her at all.

Worrying about this, Doreen grew more anxious, pulling on Roscoe's arm as she continued, Roscoe if I get pregnant now, it won't show at the wedding. That would be perfect, right?

Roscoe furrowed his brows slightly, keeping his hands tucked in his pockets. He was not fond of Doreen's touch. Even her touching his clothes was uncomfortable for him.

At times, Roscoe doubted the rumors that he and Doreen had ever been a couple. If they truly had been a couple, why would her touch irritate him so much? Even her sleeve brushing against him was unbearable. The idea of having a child with her seemed even more intolerable.

Roscoe answered evasively, Well talk about it later.

Chapter 2260

Doreen failed to detect the evasion in his voice. Seeing Roscoe not agreeing to her proposal, she boldly suggested, How about I come over to your place tonight? We could

Roscoe, unable to contain himself any longer, shook her off as he walked, responding coldly, That's not very convenient. This was his kindest way of saying no.

Miguel had been constantly reminding Roscoe that it was crucial he treated Doreen nicely. The alliance of their families was based on merging interests. Roscoe couldn't speak freely, and he was expected to tolerate Doreen's tantrums at all times.

Miguel had advised Roscoe that girls were delicate and reserved and that he needed to spoil Doreen.

Indeed, Doreen was the epitome of delicacy. She would complain about her feet and legs hurting after just a short walk, and even dining was fraught with complications. Her delicacy was frustrating.

As for Doreen's supposedly reservedness, Roscoe couldn't see it. He understood her overtly flirtatious hints. He simply chose not to respond. They even repulsed him.

What's wrong? Are you busy tonight? Doreen persisted in asking.

Yes, I have some matters to discuss.

Doreen was upset by his rejection but didn't give up. Okay, then maybe tomorrow night or the night after

I'm sorry. I'll be busy for a while, and I don't believe in premarital relations. I hope you can understand that.

Roscoe's response was nearly blunt, leaving Doreen feeling humiliated.

Doreen's cheeks turned a deep red. After all, she was a wealthy young woman, accustomed to popularity, but Roscoe always treated her coldly.

Roscoe, how dare you! Doreen's anger finally erupted. Her voice was arrogant as she declared, You're nothing but a lowly bastard, yet you act superior in front of me. Marrying me would be your lucky break. You should be thanking me. Yet you dare show such an attitude! Who do you think you are!

Roscoe appeared to have anticipated her outburst. Doreen had never been one to keep her temper, yet she posed as fragile and weak around him, which he found utterly disgusting. He responded indifferently, I apologize for that, but you really shouldn't degrade yourself.

Hearing this, Doreen's expression shifted, and she quickly asked, What do you mean?

In a burst of frustration, Doreen let the words slip. The charade was wearing on her, yet beneath it all, she still cared deeply for Roscoe. The thought of him wanting to end their engagement filled her with dread.

Roscoe's voice was measured as he spoke. If you believe I'm unworthy, don't settle. Maybe you should find someone who meets your standards.

How dare you! The words escaped Doreen before she could catch them.

Roscoe's suggestion that she look elsewhere ignited a fury in her, rendering her momentarily speechless.

Oh, this really hurts Doreen whispered, clumsily trying to steer away from the tense subject. Publicly switching grooms after announcing the wedding date would be a scandal, not to mention humiliating.

Plus, her heart was set on Roscoe. If only he could show her a little more tenderness, her anger might have been quelled. A slight compromise on his part could smooth everything over. But his aloofness persisted.

With a calm detachment, Roscoe stated, Perhaps its time to reconsider our engagement.

Doreen was startled. She hadnt expected him to continue discussing breaking up. Wasnt this the moment for him to offer reassurances?

Roscoe, it wasnt always Like this between us. You used to love me deeply. Doreens voice broke as she feigned vulnerability, reminiscing about a past that had never been.