Unconscious 841

Chapter: 841 "He upset her," Theodore said simply.

There was a moment of silence as Horace processed this, understanding that Ariana must be involved. He knew Theodore wouldn't take action without a compelling reason.

The duo descended to the dimly lit basement level three via the elevator. The floor was filled with identical, unmarked doors, all secured by fingerprint locks.

Passing by one of the rooms, they heard the distressed cries and shouts of patients inside. Theodore stopped at a corner room, and alone, he unlocked it with his fingerprint and stepped inside.

As the door shut behind him, the beeping of medical equipment filled the room, and Helen lay on a hospital bed.

Helen shifted, her eyes fluttering open to the silhouette of a man next to her bed. Trying to prop herself up, she realized with a jolt that she was still locked in anesthesia's hold; all she could muster was a feeble whimper, aimed at Theodore.

Theodore cast a frosty gaze her way, his smile hinting at an underlying cunning as he asked, "How's the new heart?"

Her face twisted in pain, and tears began their journey down her cheeks. She willed words to spill from her mouth, but her voice remained stubbornly silent.

Unmoved by her evident distress, Theodore carried on, "You seemed dissatisfied with your perfectly fine heart. So | thought, why not a broken one? Let's see how you fight to survive now."

Gathering the remains of her strength, Helen's weak voice stumbled over two words, "Marley Please..."

But invoking Marley's name had lost its effect on Theodore; it was like a deflated balloon. His face hardened, his voice chilling as he retorted, "I'll uncover the truth about Marley's death and the messages she left behind. Your help isn't required anymore."

Theodore held her gaze, his words a stern admonishment, "Be a good girl and stop poking your nose where it doesn't belong. Remember, Ariana is a no-go zone. Consider this a final warning. Cross me again by hurting Ariana, and you'll experience true torment."

Without another word, he strode out, the booming echo of the iron door shutting behind him filling the room. A tremor shook Helen, her expression a mask of mingled agony and hatred.

The truth was, Helen had been free of her heart ailment for some time.

To keep Theodore tethered to her and get him to fulfill Marley's dying wish, she had started to source shady medication that induced shock.

Regular intake would mimic the symptoms of a heart condition: stabbing chest pains and skyrocketing heartbeat, maintaining the illusion that her heart was still a ticking time bomb.

Yet Helen couldn't predict that Theodore would expose the truth of her recovered heart. She was equally unprepared for his ruthless act of swapping her heart with a faulty one, even worse than the original.

Each inhale now was a stark reminder of her torment. Using her only able hand, Helen gripped the bed covers, her eyes ablaze with resentment.

This wasn't the Theodore she knew. Ariana's entrance into his life was to blame! That woman had no business carrying his children or standing beside him. It was all down to Ariana! She had Theodore under her spell, and it was that cursed woman who was responsible for her current plight.

Why was Ariana still alive?

As Helen lay there, her eyes filled with loathing, fixated on the ceiling. Just go ahead and die. Please, just go...

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Without warning, a week flew by. Ariana was innocently waiting for the minor procedure Theodore had mentioned. She started noticing changes in her body. Fatigue hit her more frequently, she found herself dozing off for longer than usual, and nosebleeds became a regular occurrence.

Ariana chalked it up to the medication Jasper had registered in her system and assumed things would stabilize after the procedure.

Drawing a silent breath, Ariana reached for her phone, only to be met with a piece of news that took her breath away.

Blinking, Ariana scanned the message on her phone once more. A myriad of emotions played across her face, from shock to amusement, as she realized Donna was frenziedly hunting for employment among their acquaintances.

Chapter: 842

Her group chat was abuzz, awash with a flood of messages. It seemed Betsy found the whole scenario uproariously funny, evidenced by her cascade of laughing emojis. The news was just too juicy to keep under wraps!

Sarah added her two cents, "Hey, you'll never guess what happened? A pile of resumes Landed at the studio today, and guess who they're from? The same folks who opposed us tooth and nail back in SJ Entertainment."

Betsy couldn't help herself, "The tables have turned, haven't they?

Those who reveled in making our lives miserable are now tasting their own medicine. It's deliciously ironic! They pranced around the company like they owned the place, thinking they were untouchable because they were in Jasper's good graces. Now they're running around like headless chickens trying to secure employment."

Ariana felt a sense of satisfaction, reading her friends' unleashed feelings on the chat. She opted to keep her thoughts to herself, however.

In showbiz, choosing your allies wisely was crucial. Donna had backed the wrong contender, and those who had been in Jasper's inner circle were now reaping what they had sowed.

But that's the world for you — some rise, others fall.

Suddenly, Sarah steered the conversation towards Ariana. "By the way, the premiere of Tyler's movie is tomorrow. Fancy going together? Mr. Spears sent a handful of invites to the studio. Betsy and the rest of the gang are gearing up to attend."

Ariana was torn for a moment, her health issues and potential to be a nuisance weighing on her. Yet, her eagerness to witness the result of Jayson and Tyler's endeavors tipped the scales, and she decided to accompany them.

Sarah dropped another message into the chat, "We've kept a seat for Theodore at your end. Feel free to bring him along."

Ariana paused at this, considering Theodore's character. She doubted he would relish the event. With her uncertainties in mind, her answer was ambiguous, "I can't say for sure. We'll see."

When Lunch rolled around, Theodore showed up at Ariana's hospital room like clockwork.

As Ariana relished her meal, she nonchalantly proposed, "The premiere of The Missing Body is tomorrow. Sarah snagged us some tickets. Fancy joining me?"

Ariana was taken aback when Theodore agreed so readily to her invitation. "Sure," he responded casually.

"Really?" Ariana couldn't trust her own ears.

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Unruffled by her surprise, Theodore calmly added a juicy piece of meat to her bowl. He reasoned that since he had financially backed the film, it only made sense to view it-especially if it meant spending the time with Ariana.

After their meal, Theodore moved on to his usual routine of preparing a selection of fresh fruits for Ariana. He carried the fruit basket to the bathroom to rinse them while Ariana Lounged on the couch, leisurely leafing through a book.

As Ariana turned a page, a loud crash from the bathroom jolted her.

Ariana's heart skipped a beat, figuring Theodore must have dropped something. She called out in alarm, "Everything okay in there?"

No answer came from the bathroom. Feeling a knot of worry tighten in her chest, Ariana called out again, "Theodore?"

Yet, the silence remained. Ariana bolted toward the bathroom, swung the door wide open, and was met with the chilling sight of Theodore sprawled unconscious on the floor.

Fear gripped Ariana as she took in the sight of Theodore's unconscious form. She hurriedly ran to his aid and held him. "Theodore, can you hear me?" she whispered, her voice barely audible in the silence of the room, her hands trembling as she held him. "Don't scare me Like this."

As the gravity of the situation set in, Ariana hollered for Horace, who had been lingering outside the room. "Horace, help!" Her cry for assistance echoed through the ward.

Horace was quick to react to Ariana's distressed cry. As he dashed inside, the sight of an unconscious Theodore held by a frantic Ariana filled his eyes. The alarming scene jolted him, and without a moment's delay, he rushed out to fetch a doctor.

Awhirlwind of medical personnel descended upon the room, and Theodore was swiftly wheeled away for emergency treatment.

Chapter: 843

Ariana, powerless and afraid, followed the team until she reached the cold, unwelcoming entrance of the emergency room. She watched, heart pounding, as the heavy doors swallowed Theodore from her sight.

In the stark waiting area, she found herself seated, her mind a whirlwind of what-ifs and if-onlys. She berated herself for not paying closer attention to Theodore's health. Had he been taking that dangerous medication behind her back?

The memory of Mitchel's warnings about its harmful side effects sent a cold shiver down her spine. Fear gnawed at her, the thought of losing Theodore unbearable. Each time she'd tried to broach the subject of his health and the medication, he'd always sidestepped her questions, keeping her in the dark.

Back at the entrance to the emergency room, Horace maintained his calm.

He regarded Ariana, her face a picture of desolation, and suggested, "You should go get some rest. I'll stay here and keep you updated on his condition."

Ariana vigorously shook her head, her body numb with fear. "I can't leave." Tears welled up in her eyes as she stared at Horace. Her voice was a whisper carrying the weight of her distress. "What happened to him? Is it serious?"

Before Horace could reply, she pressed on, desperation lacing her words. "Why was he taking that medicine? You're hiding something from me, aren't you?"

Horace opened his mouth to respond, but the words seemed to elude him. However, before the silence stretched too thin, the doctor emerged from the emergency room.

Ariana rushed up to him, her voice trembling with barely restrained emotion. "Doctor, how is he?" Her heart pounded in her chest as she steeled herself for the answer.

In an unexpected turn of events, the doctor merely waved his hand dismissively. "It's nothing serious. He's just severely fatigued. He needs to rest for a few days, and he'll be fine."

Caught off guard, Ariana stared at the doctor, her mind racing to process the words. "He's... He's okay?" she asked, her voice a mere echo of disbelief.

The doctor simply nodded.

Realizing that Theodore was indeed okay left Ariana suspended between relief and incredulity. The doctor then said, "There is some paperwork to be completed."

"| can do it!" Ariana volunteered, already preparing to leave. But Horace gently stopped her.

"Go rest, Mrs. Anderson. I'll handle the paperwork."

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Trusting that Horace was more experienced in such matters and sensing her own exhaustion, Ariana nodded, then headed back to her hospital room.

After Ariana's departure, Horace and the doctor moved to the examination room where Aldus was already waiting. Having heard the earlier commotion, Aldus had rushed over and requested the doctor to assure Ariana that Theodore was fine.

With only the three of them present now, the doctor's face adopted a grave expression. Turning to Aldus, he said, "Mr. Fredrick, given the patient's current state, an urgent surgery is necessary. If we don't act soon, his life will be in danger."

Not long after, Theodore woke up from his fainting spell. As soon as he opened his eyes, there sat Aldus, looking serious, right in front of him.

Before he could even express his surprise at Aldus waking up from his heart attack, Aldus greeted him with concern, "Do you know how dangerous your current condition is?"

Theodore fell silent, trying to remember the events leading up to his blackout and loss of consciousness.

With a heavy sigh, Aldus continued, "The doctors said that if we don't perform the surgery for your condition, | might be preparing your funeral soon."

Chapter: 844

Observing Aldus's haggard appearance and white hair, Theodore paused for a moment before finally nodding, "Alright, I'll do it." As Aldus was surprised by his sudden consent, Theodore spoke up again.

"But my surgery has to be scheduled after Ariana's surgery. | want to see her through the procedure before | can rest assured."

Hearing this, Aldus let out another sigh. He was already aware of Ariana's situation and the difficult decision Theodore had to make between her and the unborn children.

Thinking of the unborn great-grandchildren, Aldus couldn't contain his sadness. "Isn't there any way we can save your children?" he asked, a glimmer of hope in his eyes.

Theodore fell silent, memories of the moment he felt Ariana's belly, sending tremors through his heart. Though it pained him, he firmly responded, "I'm sorry, but Ariana means everything to me."

Observing Theodore's unwavering resolve, Aldus comprehended the weight of his decision and chose not to press further. He understood, feeling empathy for Theodore's predicament.

surgery date is the ultimatum. If you don't show up in the operating room, don't blame me for using force."
Theodore nodded in acknowledgment.
Meanwhile, in her hospital room, Ariana couldn't find peace.
Theodore hadn't visited, and Horace hadn't provided any updates either.
The restlessness gnawed at her.
As she waited, her anxiety grew, and she decided to go and check on Theodore's condition.
Just as she reached the door to open it, she coincidentally bumped into him; he was pushing it open from the outside.
Looking at Theodore standing in front of her, a mix of anxiety and anger surged within her. She couldn't help but say, "You just came out of the emergency room. How can you run around?!"
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Quickly, she guided Theodore to the bed, urging him to Lie down. With a serious expression, she scolded, "No wandering around! Rest properly."
Theodore complied, allowing her to press him down on the bed. He fixed his gaze on her, a faint smile gracing his lips. "I'm fine, he reassured,

Rolling her eyes in disbelief, Ariana retorted, "Just stay in bed! No getting up."

Attempting to distract herself, she sat by his side, pretending to read a book. But her mind couldn't focus; she hesitated before finally asking, "| heard you're taking some medicine. Does it have any side effects?"

Theodore had anticipated this question.

When he had previously answered Ariana's queries about the medicine, using the alias Holden, he had suspected she might know something.

Meeting Ariana's gaze, Theodore pursed his Lips and nodded awkwardly. "That medicine... is indeed for the treatment of a certain medical condition."

Upon hearing his response, Ariana's heart skipped a beat, and a wave of nervousness washed over her. She couldn't contain her sadness, looking at him with caution as she asked, "What is it?"

Taking a deep breath, Theodore mustered up the courage to share his truth. "The medication is used to treat hair loss," he managed to say, the words tumbling out in a rush.

Chapter: 845 Ariana stilled, her eyes wide in surprise. "What? Hair loss?" she echoed, unable to wrap her head around his statement.

Theodore's gaze fell on her confused face. With a sigh, he gently ran his fingers over her hair. "It all started after the accident," he admitted, a flush of embarrassment coloring his cheeks. "I've been dealing with sleepless nights. The insomnia, it's... causing my hair to thin."

His words hung heavily in the air, his voice wavering with discomfort.

Clearing his throat, he added, "So, the medication I've been taking, it's supposed to help with the sleeplessness and slow down the hair loss."

Ariana remembered something about this. Holden had mentioned the medicine was for treating insomnia too. But still, something didn't sit right with her. If the medication was only for insomnia and

hair loss, why had Horace sternly warned him against it? Plus, the idea of it being addictive didn't add up.

Brow furrowed in suspicion, she reached out, running her fingers through Theodore's hair. It felt healthy, thick, showing no evidence of thinning.

Glancing at her hand, she found it devoid of any stray strands. "That's not true! Your hair is even thicker than mine! I find more hair in my comb in the morning than you've apparently lost!"

Theodore stammered, "The... the hair Loss is sporadic."

"Sporadic, you say?" Ariana shot back, her patience thinning. "So, you want me to believe your hair grows back faster than it's falling out?

What are you doing? Downing hair growth tonics on the sly?" Her voice laced with frustration as she attempted to make sense of the perplexing situation.

With a Lump in his throat, Theodore admitted, his voice barely above a whisper, "I... | got a secret hair transplant."

Ariana held back her chuckles, finding the situation a blend of amusing and mildly frustrating. She eyed Theodore seriously before responding, "Alright, for now, I'1l choose to believe you."

However, before Theodore could let out a sigh of relief, she promptly added, "But if | find out you've been fibbing, what happens then?"

Caught off guard, Theodore stuttered, failing to piece together a coherent response.

Ariana Looked at him sternly, her voice ringing with conviction, "If | discover you've been lying, that's it. No more talks, no more us. You won't see me around anymore."

Theodore froze at her words, a sharp pang of dread shooting through him. Nonetheless, he managed to plaster a smile on his face, chuckling weakly at her ultimatum.

The next day, Ariana and Theodore were dressed casually, their heads adorned with twinning caps and their eyes concealed behind matching sunglasses. They were on their way to the unveiling of the film "The Missing Body".

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Ariana had originally intended to venture solo, imploring Theodore to remain at the hospital and recuperate. But Theodore wasn't one to sit on the sidelines. The moment Ariana hinted at her plans, he put on a show of frustration and pathos, adamantly declaring his role as her self-determined protector.

Ariana found herself in a whirl of bemusement and slight irritation, yet, seeing his determination, she gave in and accepted his company. Upon reaching the venue, they spotted Sarah along with a few others already there.

When he noticed Ariana, Tyler's face Lit up like a Lightbulb. He made his way to her at a brisk pace, a look of concern etched on his face.

"How've you been holding up? Any better? Anything troubling you?" Ariana offered him a warm smile. "I'm on the mend. No worries; | just need to rest up a bit."

At her words, Tyler seemed to Let go of some tension, about to engage further, when Theodore expertly intervened. Grasping Ariana's hand tightly, he suggested with a cool countenance, "Let's check out that spot over there."

Before Ariana could even manage a goodbye to Tyler, Theodore was already leading her away. Casting a sideways glance at him, she couldn't shake off the feeling of both amusement and annoyance. Yes, Theodore was undeniably one with a streak of jealousy.

Chapter: 846

A buzz of excitement filled the air at the event's kickoff. A sea of artists, media folks, and enthusiasts came, and the crowd became alive even before the main show started.

Stuck in the Limelight because of the recent family scandal, Ariana and Theodore chose to find some privacy. Ariana roped in Sarah to score them a spot tucked away in a corner.

At first, she was a bit anxious. Would they even see anything from there? But it turned out to be exactly what Theodore was Looking for.

He just wanted to be somewhere quiet, away from the hustle and bustle, where he could enjoy a peaceful moment with her.

As the movie rolled, Ariana got lost in it right away. She wanted to voice her admiration out loud. No wonder everyone talked about Jayson being a genius when it came to cinematography. The way he played with light and shadow, even the color scheme and where the characters were placed, it was all like watching pieces of art coming to life.

Tyler's performance was a standout. Compared to his earlier work, he'd really stepped it up. It was Like he had become a whole new person, outgrowing his youthful vibes to truly bring to Life the melancholy and somber feelings of his character, Jaxen.

While Ariana was all eyes for the movie, Theodore was more into making sure she was comfortable, feeding her strawberries and milk tea, so she didn't have to move a muscle. Without even looking, she bit off a piece of the strawberry and passed the rest to him.

Just as she was getting lost in the movie, some guy in front of her started making a phone call. He tried to keep his voice down, but it was still pretty annoying for everyone around him. She could tell by the way people were shooting annoyed glances his way.

Ariana didn't like it one bit, this guy taking a call right in the middle of the movie, but she didn't want to make a scene and ruin it for everyone else, so she just sucked it up.

But what really surprised her was that the guy kept at it until the movie was over. Even though she tried to ignore his voice, it still bothered her.

When the movie ended and it was time for a Q&A with the cast and crew, the guy pulled out his phone again and started taking selfies, posing this way and that, even with the flash on.

His bulk blocked her view, and she couldn't see a thing on the stage. Ariana was ticked off. To her, there was just one word for the guy's behavior, rude. But she was at a premiere, and making a scene was not on her to-do list. So, she just had to sit there and take it.

While she was keeping her cool, the woman sitting next to the guy had had enough. She snapped at him, "You've been on your phone all through the movie. Can you stop it now? And quit leaning into our space to take your photos!"

But the guy just ignored her and kept on clicking.

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That's when the woman reached out and pulled the guy back, and he fell onto his chair. His hat slipped off, revealing a pair of striking green eyes.

That's when it clicked for Ariana. The guy was Cole.

The woman recognized Cole and called out, "Cole The commotion caught everyone's attention, and people swiftly pulled out their phones to capture the unexpected encounter. Whispers spread through the air as they recognized Cole.

"| never thought Cole would be here to see Tyler too."

"But talking on the phone in the cinema disturbs other people and it is just not cool."

The host, always eager to seize the moment, brought up the relationship between Tyler and Cole.

Hearing this, Tyler furrowed his brows. But before he could intervene, the host added deliberately, "Mr. Brewer and Mr. Dixon seem to have a fantastic relationship. Mr. Dixon even attended Mr. Brewer's premiere, and he did it so discreetly."

Annoyance brewed inside Tyler, and he couldn't stop the situation from unfolding. To his surprise, the host invited Cole to join them on stage.

The audience's excitement erupted, drowning out all other noise. While many fans supported Tyler exclusively, their voices were overpowered by the screams.

Chapter: 847

Cole, feeling a bit embarrassed, knew Tyler was unaware of his presence. He maintained a low-profile, standing up to offer a few words of blessing.

Tyler responded with a cold and aloof "Thank you".

Deep inside, Tyler cursed Cole. He had no idea how Cole got an invitation, but he was convinced Cole was intentionally causing trouble. Lately, Cole seemed to appear everywhere he went, stirring up rumors unexpectedly even after The Sky with Romance finished airing. It was truly exasperating.

Despite Tyler's obvious signs of refusal and indifference, fans shipping the two found it even sweeter, adding fuel to the fire. They relished in the perceived sweetness, intensifying the atmosphere in the venue, leaving Ariana bewildered.

Ariana couldn't believe that Cole had followed them to this place. Tyler's reaction showed genuine annoyance, not some sweet gesture. A premonition washed over Ariana, telling her that this incident would soon cause a stir.

Glancing at her phone, she confirmed her suspicion; the internet was exploding with reactions. The once deserted fan forum was now flooded with posts from shippers, sharing the picture of Tyler and Cole together at the premiere.

Sighing, Ariana couldn't help but think that Cole was becoming quite clingy towards Tyler.

The commotion in the venue escalated even further, overshadowing the movie premiere itself. Observing the chaotic atmosphere, Theodore coldly commented, "It's really noisy."

Playfully teasing him, Ariana said, "You insisted on coming along, so you'll have to bear with the noise." Theodore looked at Ariana, his eyes holding a hint of grievance.

After all, he had come here to be with her.

Unable to resist his pitiful expression, Ariana softly covered his ear with her hand and leaned in to give him a gentle kiss. She comforted him in a soothing voice, "It's okay, we'll leave soon. Just endure a little longer."

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Theodore concealed his emotions behind a faint smile as he nodded in agreement.

Soon after, the Q&A session with fans and media commenced.

A daring journalist Lifted his microphone and inquired, "Mr. Spears, this film seems to bear striking resemblances to 'Deep Burial'. Many scenes, plotlines, and character setups appear quite similar. Are these resemblances merely coincidental?"

The unexpected question took everyone by surprise, and subtle shifts in their expressions could be seen. The journalist's

question implied an accusation of plagiarism.

When faced with the accusation, Jayson responded coolly, "It's clear that 'Deep Burial' is a love story at heart, while 'The Missing Body' hinges on its suspenseful narrative. They're different at their core."

Despite his explanation, the journalist pressed on, "But the suspense elements in both are strikingly similar."

With a tinge of sarcasm, Jayson retorted, "Perhaps that's a question better posed to the 'Deep Burial' team. They may have premiered earlier, but our production kicked off first. It'd be interesting to know why their suspenseful story aligns so closely with ours."

His response hinted at plagiarism on 'Deep Burial's' part, but it wasn't convincing enough to change minds, especially considering 'The Missing Body' was released much later.

Emboldened by the initial question, other journalists jumped in, their doubts echoing through the hall. "Then why did 'Deep Burial' debut first?"

"Considering the Limited interaction between the two production teams, how did such resemblances occur?"

Chapter: 848

As the questions grew in intensity, the atmosphere turned sour. Fans in attendance were far from pleased. They'd come to cheer on their idols, not to witness a barrage of accusations. Some fans Lashed out, hurling sarcastic comments at the media. The tension in the room was palpable.

At some point, restraint was thrown to the wind, and a chaotic brawl broke out. "You started it!" "No, you did!"

As the blame game intensified, the scene turned into mayhem. Theodore shielded Ariana instinctively as the situation spiraled out of control.

Ariana spotted several people with injuries. Tyler attempted to step in, only to be struck on the head with a camera. Security eventually intervened, separating the battling parties and restoring a semblance of order. The venue, however, was beyond salvageable, and the premiere had to be abandoned. With a clear understanding of the situation, the host organized the crew's exit before dispersing the crowd.

Once the crowd thinned, Ariana and Theodore retreated backstage. They found Tyler nursing a bruised forehead, which stoked Ariana's fury.

"Those goons had the audacity to throw punches and wield cameras as weapons! What if they'd hit your eye? Could they live with the consequences?" she vented.

Tyler, surprisingly calm, tried to comfort her. "Easy there, it's not as bad as it looks. | can handle it."

"We need to treat this quickly," Ariana insisted, concerned about the swelling on his forehead. After all, an actor's face is his fortune.

Theodore, feeling a hint of displeasure as he watched Ariana and Tyler interact, stepped forward. He took a cotton swab and some antiseptic and began attending to Tyler's wound.

Ariana was taken aback by Theodore's sudden display of care, leading her to wonder when he'd grown so considerate. Tyler, caught off guard, stuttered a thank you and took the cotton swab and antiseptic from Theodore.

Once most of the immediate issues were addressed, they pondered the sudden turn of events. It seemed Like the journalists' aggressive Line of questioning and instigation was part of a calculated move.

Suddenly, Betsy blurted out, "Quick, check the trending topics!" Ariana pulled out her phone, finding The Missing Body plagiarism accusations leading the trending List. A flurry of premiere event videos found their way to the top of the trending list, some of which contained scenes from the movie.

Sharp-eyed netizens found striking similarities between the two films, leading to a compilation video that amplified the plagiarism accusations.

Adding to the turmoil, influential bloggers threw their weight behind the accusation, stoking the fires of public disdain for "The Missing Body." Some sensible internet users tried to calm the storm, arguing that it was premature to judge the film before watching it in its entirety. Still, the growing wave of negativity targeting the film and its cast was difficult to contain.

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Jayson promptly took to the Internet, unveiling the script's creative journey, the timeline for BRD Group's investment approval, and an early sneak peek into the film's onset. All these events occurred before "Deep Burial" even got off the ground. Despite his efforts, many remained unconvinced. They staunchly believed that "Deep Burial," having been released first, had garnered the upper hand and won the hearts of the public.

With the recent unfortunate demise of Brielle, the public seemed more sympathetic and forgiving towards "Deep Burial" and its cast. To make matters worse, invisible hands behind the scenes were fueling the controversy, causing a twist in public sentiment that made Jayson's damage control attempts futile. Trolls also began invading the social media pages of the actors, discrediting the evidence presented and insinuating it was forged.

Then Edgar released a statement, expressing his disappointment at his work being plagiarized. He insisted the truth would soon come out and announced his intention to take the matter to court.

"How shameless of Edgar!" Sarah blurted out, after reading Edgar's statement. "We're used to their cheap tricks," Ariana agreed, glancing at Jayson.

Jayson simply shook his head. "We anticipated this. I'm sorry for what happened today."

Chapter: 849 "Mr. Spears, don't beat yourself up. They're simply shameless," Tyler chimed in, attempting to comfort him. As the night drew closer with no resolution in sight, they decided to call it a day.

On the way back, Ariana was engrossed in her phone, tracking the unfolding online debate. Absorbed in her phone, she clung to Theodore's arm as she moved forward.

The Internet was a battleground. One faction defended "The Missing Body," arguing that "Deep Burial" was simply not up to par. They were captivated by the clip from "The Missing Body" and were unsure of the identity of the real plagiarist. The opposing side was of the opinion that "The Missing Body" was using its quality to hide the plagiarism.

They likened it to dressing up spoiled rice; no matter what the garnish was, the rice was still spoiled.

In the midst of the deadlock, a post related to the BRD Group caught Ariana's attention. Intrigued, she found that Adrian had posted an audio file. She played the audio, and Jasper's voice rang out.

"Jayson is treating his script Like it's some priceless artifact. He really thinks too highly of himself." "Why don't we make our own version?" The voice of Edgar could be heard suggest ing.

"Sounds like a plan. I've skimmed his script. We'll do the same, and release it ahead of them. Then they'll be seen as the copycats."

The moment the audio made its way to the Internet, it set off a firestorm. As Ariana listened to the audio, she settled into Theodore's car, preparing to head home.

Initially, she had intended to ponder an alternative solution once she returned, but little did she expect that Adrian's audio would swiftly resolve the problem.

The news from BRD Group had always been trustworthy, and the leaked audio provided indisputable evidence of Deep Burial's plagiarism.

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Moreover, Adrian promptly released the copyright registration records, clearly displaying The Missing Body's registration three years prior.

With such concrete proof, there was no doubt as to who the plagiarist was.

Public opinion shifted rapidly, even though Edgar stubbornly insisted that the audio was fabricated. Such claims only drew ridicule, as the esteemed BRD Group had no reason to falsify evidence.

"Adrian is indeed a timely help," Ariana murmured.

She couldn't help but wonder why Adrian had come to help. Considering their few previous encounters, he hadn't struck her as the type to intervene over trivial matters.

Perhaps it was merely because BRD Group had invested in the film. They likely wanted to protect their investment from flopping. Still, Ariana couldn't help but be impressed that Adrian had access to such confidential audio from Jasper's office.

Little did she know that the true orchestrator was sitting right next to her, Theodore.

As Theodore drove, he overheard Ariana mentioning Adrian's name and couldn't resist glancing at her. He watched as she put down her phone and stretched lazily, seemingly lost in her thoughts.

Suddenly, Ariana's eyes sparkled with excitement as they passed a shopping mall that was hosting an event. She pointed at the mall and said to Theodore with enthusiasm, "We've never been shopping together. Let's go in now!"

"Sure," Theodore replied, his heart warmed by her enthusiasm. He parked the car as Ariana had suggested and gently held her hand as they strolled into the mall together.

Inside, Ariana's eyes were immediately captivated by a massive 5-foot-tall stuffed doll. Its undeniable cuteness overwhelmed her, and she playfully clung to Theodore, hoping to persuade him to get it for her.

Chapter: 850 "| want it," she said, pointing at the doll, giving Theodore a hopeful look.

Theodore glanced at a nearby plastic toy gun, deeming it a bit childish. Then he decided to tease her a bit and gently told her not to play such a boring thing.

Despite his initial refusal, Ariana's spirits remained high. She picked up the toy gun and attempted to hit some targets.

However, her shooting skills were far from perfect, and with a little meddling from the store manager, she couldn't manage to hit a single target out of ten. Her initial excitement slowly waned.

Observing Ariana's disappointment, Theodore couldn't help but smile. He affectionately ruffled her hair, took the toy gun from her, and showed her how to use it.

Aiming at the balloons, he popped them one by one, and Ariana's eyes lit up with delight. Once he finished, she pointed to the doll on display.

In no time, the doll was cradled in Ariana's arms, and she hugged it happily, unable to contain her joy. Spontaneously, she planted a grateful kiss on Theodore's cheek, expressing her appreciation.

Their adventure through the mall continued, with each passing moment strengthening their bond and adding to their shared delight. They savored each other's company, basked in the joy of the moment, and couldn't help but indulge in various treats that tempted them along the way.

Theodore found himself genuinely happy in Ariana's presence, and he felt the weight that had burdened him for the past few days steadily lift from his shoulders.

However, their tranquil time together was momentarily interrupted by the ringing of Theodore's phone. He excused himself and stepped aside to answer the call, not wanting to spoil their special outing.

The doctor's solemn voice came through the line, "Mr. Anderson, your wife's pre-op results are in."

As Theodore took the call, Ariana found herself growing a little bored waiting for him. Her attention was soon drawn to a mother and baby store nearby, and her curiosity got the better of her. Deciding to explore the store while Theodore was occupied, she stepped inside.

Rows of adorable baby clothes and tiny shoes greeted Ariana's eyes, and she couldn't resist running her fingers over the soft fabrics and delicate designs. Her heart filled with excitement and anticipation as she imagined the possibility of one day needing these precious items.

Just as Ariana was engrossed in admiring the baby items, Theodore returned to find her brimming with joy. She happily Linked her arm with his, eager to share her discoveries. "Look at these clothes, which one do you think is cuter?"

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Theodore tenderly caressed her head and smiled affectionately. "They are all cute. If you Like them, why not get them all?"

Ariana hesitated for a moment, touched by his generous offer. In that instant, she couldn't help but draw a parallel between Theodore and the dashing CEOs she had read about in romance novels — Lavishly spending to please their loved ones.

However, reality soon grounded her thoughts. The Anderson family had experienced financial setbacks, and despite Theodore being well-off, it couldn't compare to their previous opulence.

Concern creased Ariana's forehead, and she decided to inquire cautiously, "How is our financial situation now? Perhaps we should be a Little more prudent."

With a lighthearted grin, Theodore couldn't resist chuckling at Ariana's earnest expression, and playfully, he pinched her cheek with tenderness. "Don't worry, my dear," he reassured her, reaching for baby essentials as a heartfelt sign of his unwavering commitment. "I can take care of my wife and our future."

Ariana felt her worries dissolve like morning mist as she beheld Theodore's loving gesture. Together, they continued their delightful shopping spree.

Stepping out of the bustling mall, Ariana stood by the roadside, patiently waiting for Theodore to fetch the car. As she watched the passing pedestrians, her heart swelled at the sight of families strolling together, young children gripping colorful balloons and snacks, their exuberance palpable as they frolicked around their parents. Tenderly, she placed her hand on her small belly, her mind drifting into daydreams of the blissful future that awaited them with their own children.

The prospect of creating a nurturing and loving home had always been her cherished dream, and now, it felt within reach, like a shimmering star beckoning her onward.

Unbeknownst to her, however, Theodore's heart was brimming with anguish beneath his composed exterior.

The doctor's recent revelation weighed heavily on him, revealing that Ariana's health condition was more severe than they had initially believed. As a result, they had to postpone the surgery for a week or so.

To compound Theodore's distress, the babies had reached a critical stage where the procedure could potentially harm Ariana's body, jeopardizing her chances of conceiving in the future.