

### Chapter 1563

"Has His Majesty grown suspicious of you again?" asked Carissa, startled to see the pill.


Rafael shook his head. "Not at all. In fact, he trusts me more now. Many of the reports go through me and Mr. Murray before they reach him."

"Then, why?" Carissa asked, confused.

"There are three reasons," Rafael replied, putting the pill down and holding her hand. "First, His Majesty trusts me now because he's been through so much. Also, his health has stabilized, which has eased his suspicions. But if his health falters again, and I have too much power and even children at the time, he might see me as a threat."

Carissa nodded in understanding. "We can wait a few more years before having children, right? Wasn't the medicine you took previously supposed to last for five years? Since that time has passed, could you take another pill to buy us five more years?"

Rafael squeezed her hand tightly. "This is the same pill. The first time, it lasts for five years. But if I take it again, it will prevent us from having children forever. Rowan warned me that if I don't take it, you'll have to drink a tonic to prevent pregnancy. The problem with that is it's harmful to your health, and it's not even guaranteed that you won't get pregnant."

"What about the second and third reasons?" Carissa asked, leaning her head on her husband's shoulder. 

Rafael paused before answering, "The second reason is the pain of childbirth. I don't want you to go through that. Medical records show that about 20 to 30 percent of women experience complications during labor,

and even those who don't often face other health issues. It's a lifetime of suffering."

Carissa held his hand tighter, her heart full of emotion. "Being a woman is hard."


Rafael took a deep breath before continuing, "The third reason is I don't know how to be a good father. I'm afraid of having a weakness, of being hindered in everything I do. And I worry that a child might hold you back too, preventing you from being an official."


He kissed her forehead softly, his eyes filled with tenderness. "Of course, if you want a child, I will do everything I can to be a good father and protect you both from all the hardships out there."

In fact, Carissa had thought about whether to have children.

The difficulties of pregnancy and childbirth wasn't her fear. What worried her was that she had already experienced the pain of losing her family. Both she and Rafael held important positions. If war came, they would have to fight for the kingdom. They wouldn't know when, or if, they would return, as those decisions weren't in their control.

A child without parents would suffer too much. It was a cruel fate.

Carissa had thought about it many times. But when it came time to make a decision, she couldn't just say the words that she didn't want to have children. 

She looked up at her husband. "Forget all the concerns for a moment. Do you want a child of your own? Or can you truly accept not having an heir to carry on the family name? Without children, your family line will end." 

Rafael's three reasons were all about Salvador's fears and Carissa's

suffering, with no mention of his own feelings on the issue. In the capital, the wealthy and powerful all hoped for many children. What if Rafael didn't care now, but longed for the joy of having grandchildren later in life? 2

Rafael had clearly thought about it, so he answered without hesitation, saying, "Having you in my life is already the greatest blessing. Nothing else matters. If you want children, I'll be happy. If you don't, I'll be happy with that too. I've already spoken to my mother, and she said it's up to us."

Carissa leaned into his arms, gazing up at the orchids that were just starting to bloom.

Not having children might make her an exception. People often said that a woman needed to marry and have children to be complete, but what did that even mean? No one should define her life but her. 1

There might be regrets, but life was full of both big and small ones. There were many ways to live—the most important thing was choosing the life that felt right for her.

With that thought, Carissa made up her mind and looked at Rafael. "If you are to take this medicine, you must do it in front of His Majesty." 1

"Alright." Rafael pulled her close, burying his face in her hair. "That's what we've decided, then."

He added, "Rowan said the pill isn't foolproof. There's one person who took it and his wife still became pregnant. However, that was the only case. The chance of it happening is very low."

Carissa smiled. "That's alright. If it happens despite there only being the

smallest chance, then we'll just have children." 4

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