

## Wild Night 471

### Chapter 471 Bonding

Neither Aaron nor Candace said a word to each other, instead Jamal did all the talking while they both laughed occasionally whenever Jamal said something funny.

"You said something earlier. Did Tom really promise you a car if you leave Lucy alone?" Aaron asked, and Jamal grinned as he bobbed his head.

"He did."

"So what did you say? Did you promise to let her be?" Aaron asked, and Jamal shook his head.

"Lucy has a car too. So I can as well use her car, right?" Jamal asked making both Aaron and Candace to laugh out loud.

"You raised quite a smart young man," Aaron told Candace, and she smiled. An emotion he couldn't explain tugged on his heart as he watched her smile.

"I have no idea how he grew up to be so smart," Candace said, and Jamal grinned at them both.

"Miss Betty and aunt Andy says I'm a genius," Jamal said with a proud smile, and they both laughed.

"I bet they do. Perhaps I should call you that henceforth," Aaron said as he watched the kid whose presence was oddly making him feel better.

"I have to ease myself," Jamal said as he tried to get off the bed.

"Major or minor?" She asked as she helped him get down.

"Minor. Don't worry, I can take care of myself. You need to relax," Jamal said, and Candace smiled at his thoughtfulness as she ruffled his hair.

"Don't do that mom! I'm too grown for that now," he complained as he rearranged his hair and made his way to the restroom, while both Candace and Aaron smiled as they watched him.

"They grow fast, don't they?" Aaron asked with a sigh, and Candace bobbed her head.

"Too fast I'd say," she said, and Aaron smiled.

"By the way, are you a lawyer or a cop? The little genius earlier mentioned that you went to catch some bad guys with Jade," Aaron explained when Candace looked at him in confusion.

He had deduced that the lawyer lady Jamal had talked about was Jade seeing as both she and Jade were back at the same time, and she had left her son in the care of Jade's elder brother.

"Oh! It's complicated," she said, not sure she wanted to give him all that detail about her yet, but after a while she decided to just go right ahead and talk to him.

That way she would be able to tell from his reaction the kind of person he truly was and if he was going to be embarrassed to have a daughter like her when eventually he realized she was actually his daughter.

"Although, I'm studying law at the moment..."

"You want to be a lawyer? That's brilliant! It must not be easy raising your kid alone and returning to school to study such a course," Aaron said, looking at her with a proud smile even though Candace could still see the sadness lurking in his eyes.

"It's not like I'm returning to school. It's more like I'm only just going to college now," she said, feeling slightly embarrassed by the admission, but Aaron waved it away dismissively.

"It doesn't make any difference what age you go to college. All you have to do is know what you want in life," Aaron assured her when he noticed that she seemed embarrassed.

"So how do you cope?"

Candace shrugged, "I had my sister Andy with me. She and the babysitter looked after Jamal in my absence," Candace said with a wistful smile when she remembered Andy once again.

"Had? You no longer have her?" Aaron asked when he heard the sadness in her tone and she sighed.

"It's not like she's dead or anything. Hopefully not. We got involved with some bad people and she was abducted. Jade was the lawyer in charge of the case..."

"Was?" Aaron asked, and Candace's lips twitched in amusement at the way he seemed to listen and take note of the words she used.

"Which of the was are you asking about?" Candace asked, and Aaron smiled.

"Both. Has your sister been found yet? And is Jade still in charge of the case?" Aaron asked, and Candace glanced in the direction of the restroom.

"Give me a moment. I need to check on Jamal," Candace said as she stood up and went to the restroom.

She knocked on the door, "Jamal? Is everything okay in there?" She asked as she turned the knob.

"Yes. I decided to do major instead. Don't worry about me. Go keep him company so he doesn't go back to being sad," Jamal called back, and Candace smiled as she returned to join Aaron.

"Is he alright?" Aaron asked, and she gave him a nod.

"Yes, he is," Candace assured him.

"Andy has not been found yet. Not that we are searching for her. Cassidy, the guy who abducted her promised to reach out to me after they're settled," Candace explained, and Aaron looked at her with concerned eyes.

"Do you trust him?" He asked, and she shrugged.

"I sort of do. It's thanks to him that we will be able to close the case," she said, and Aaron looked at her with interest.

"Do you mind if I ask what the case is about?" Aaron asked, oddly interested in knowing more about her.

"If I tell you about the case, will you tell me why you look so sad?" Candace asked as she gazed into his amber eyes.

She was surprised that she was getting along with him and conversing with him this way already. Talking with him was just so easy.

Despite the pain and sadness in his eyes he exuded the sort of warmth that naturally drew people in and made a person feel safe in his company and want to trust him.

Aaron looked at her for a moment and then he smiled, "Are you saying I have to tell you about myself if I want to know about your case?" He asked, and Candace shrugged.

"We don't have to tell each other anything," Candace said, and Aaron chuckled.

"So what am I supposed to do about my curiosity which has been piqued?"

"You can make up a story that satisfies you. That's what I do some times when I'm curious about something but can't get answers," Candace suggested, and Aaron sighed.

"So what story are you going to come up with concerning the reason I'm sad?" Aaron asked, and Candace looked at him for some time without saying anything and then she sighed.

"Jamal already told me someone hurt you," she said, and Aaron gave her a nod.

"He has been in there for a while. Shouldn't you check on him?" Aaron asked, and Candace shook her head.

"He takes quite some time when he's doing the major," Candace explained, and Aaron smiled.

"I see. Like you I have a son who I had to raise singlehandedly. It wasn't an easy task," Aaron said, while Candace leaned forward in her seat as she watched him.

"Yeah. Harry. I've heard about him from Jade. You must have done a good job seeing how all I heard was how nice he is," Candace said, and Aaron smiled as she expected him to, but she didn't expect the tears that gathered in his eyes.

"He's such a good son. I wish I was a better father to him," he cried, and Candace felt tears gather in her own eyes.

"I guess it's natural for parents to doubt themselves in this manner. I do so myself most times. But one thing I believe is that Harry loves you the way you are," Candace said as she reached a hand to him and squeezed his hand softly.

Aaron gave her a wobbly smile as he tried to wear his tears, "I can't believe I'm crying in front of a pretty lady like you. I've been so emotional lately, crying like a pregnant woman over everything. Not that I've ever been pregnant though," he joked, and Candace laughed.

She was relieved to see that Jade was right about Aaron. This man here was not only loveable but adorable too.

"By the way, Jamal told me he doesn't know where his father is," Aaron said, and Candace tried not to cuss Jamal's loudmouth inwardly as she looked behind her to make sure Jamal wasn't coming out yet.

"He died this morning," Candace said, and Aaron's brows pulled together.

"I'm so sorry..."

"Don't be. I'm not sorry. I would have killed him myself if I could," Candace said, not knowing why she was admitting such a thing to a man who was going to realize soon that she was his daughter.

"Oh, I'm not sorry then," Aaron said with a slight frown, and she smiled.

"You're not going to ask me any questions about him?" Candace asked, and Aaron shook his head.

"Why? So you can ask me to tell you something else?" Aaron asked, eyeing her with suspicious eyes that made Candace smile.

They both turned to the door when it opened and both Tom and Lucy entered carrying a takeout. Their gaze moved between Aaron and Candace before they asked in unison, "Where is Jamal?"

"He's in the restroom. I should probably check on him," Candace said as she stood to check on him, but Lucy waved her off.

"You can remain seated. I will check on him myself," Lucy said as she walked over to the door and knocked on it.

"Jamal?" Lucy called softly.

"Lucy?" Jamal called back as he opened the door and peered at Lucy.

"What are you doing in there?" She asked when she noticed how he looked behind her as though wanting to confirm if she was alone.

"I was doing all the talking so I got tired and needed a break. Don't tell them I said that," Jamal said, and Lucy giggled.

"You can come out now. Your ice cream is here," she said as she pushed the door open, and waited for Jamal to flush the toilet and wash his hand before leading him into the room to join the others.

"Harry called while we were away," Tom was telling Aaron as Lucy joined them.

"I guess he's awake now," Aaron said, and Jamal gave him a funny look as he received the chocolate ice cream which Tom passed to him.

"There is no way he could have sleep called them," Jamal said, and when Candace sent him a warning look, he quick turned to Tom and Lucy, "Thank you."

"You're right, Einstein," Aaron said, and Jamal looked at him curiously as he ate from his ice cream.

"What's the meaning of eyestan?" Jamal asked after swallowing.

"It's another name for genius," Aaron said before shifting his gaze from Jamal to Lucy who was holding her phone to her ear.

"She's calling Harry back. He wants to speak with you," Tom explained.

## Chapter 472 Screw Bad Timing

Jade's mouth went dry and she gulped nervously when Harry's now darkened brandy brown eyes slowly returned to her face.

His gaze skittered across her face and then he met her eyes briefly before his gaze wandered to her lips where it stayed with deliberate intent.

She was not over the shock that Harry had been checking out her boobs so openly and unashamedly a moment ago, now he was doing this?

Although his eyes had met hers only briefly, she wasn't too naive or slow as not to recognize the subtle change in the way he gazed at her, or the sexual tension that was now hanging in the air between them.

What exactly was his intention? Why was he doing this? To unsettle her? Was it to arouse her? Or to distract her? Because he was doing a fine job of succeeding at all three, and some how seeing Harry this way surprised and excited her.

Her heart seemed to be working overtime now as it pounded heavily in her chest. She was feeling very hot and oddly breathless.

Her blood sizzled in her veins as she stared at him speechlessly, not sure she could remember the last word he had said to her. Who was this man before her that was oozing of sexual appeal?

While her heart was working tirelessly, it seemed like her brain wasn't functioning anymore. It had suddenly become lax, and she was staring at Harry like a horny moron.

"You are keeping me waiting, Esquire," Harry reminded her in a husky drawl, that made the spot between her legs pulse to life even as her toes curled.

Oh, Jesus! What was happening to her? Jade mused as she tried once again to recall what his question had been.

She grappled with her brain to maintain composure and keep a firm rein on both her emotions and her facial expression.

She was here to offer Harry emotional support and to be a friend not act like some horny hormone driven teenager who was seeing an attractive man for the first time, she reminded herself.

Ah, yes! They had been talking about Aurora and his t-shirt. The t-shirt she was wearing. He had asked her why she lied, she remembered thankfully.

Jade took a deep breath and cleared her throat, "Uhm... I just didn't want to hand it to her," Jade said and Harry's brow arched as he gazed at her.

"And why is that?"

"Maybe because I didn't like that she sounded like things were going so smoothly between you two," Jade said, and felt her face flush in embarrassment at the confession.

"Why not? You wanted this to happen, didn't you? Wasn't that why you set me up with her?" Harry asked, and Jade tried not to scowl.

"Well, yes. But that was before I realize..." She let the rest of her words trail off, and she bit her lower lip as she tried to make up her mind if she was going to go with Candace's suggestion or Tom's.

Pour out her heart to him and tell him how she felt about him or not tell him? Heaven knows she was tired of the games already. She wanted to get it all out in the open and fall into his arms, if he would be willing to catch her... But this was not the time. It wasn't about what she wanted, it was about the timing. She couldn't be selfish right now.

"Before you realized what?" Harry asked as his gaze returned to her lips which were distracting him.

She had said she kissed him on purpose the last time while pretending to be drunk, hadn't she? What would it be like to kiss her without any pretense between them?

"I planned on returning the shirt to you myself. That's why I brought it," Jade said with a bright smile, changing the subject.

"Did you now?" He asked as he returned his gaze to her face and looked directly into her beautiful blue eyes.

He knew she was skirting around whatever it was she wanted to say, and that was okay by him. They were eventually going to get to it. He was going to make her say it or make her flee. It was going to have to be one of the two.

"Huh?" Jade asked in confusion, not sure what he meant by that.

"If you planned on returning it to me yourself, why are you still wearing it?" Harry asked, tilting his head in her direction.

Jade let out an awkward laugh, "Do you want me to take it off right now?" Jade asked jokingly, and her lips almost dropped open in surprise when Harry gave her a nod and stretched out a hand.

"I see no reason why you're wearing it when you came to return it. Hand it over," Harry said, surprising himself even more than she was surprised.

"I..."

"What? You can't? Or you don't want to?" He asked in a taunting tone.

What was he saying? What was he doing? Harry mused as he watched Jade look down at herself and then back to him with a flustered expression.

He had started this meaning to unsettle her and make her uncomfortable so she wouldn't keep assuming he was such a gentleman. The whole idea was for her to open up to him or run away from him and put some distance between them, but now it seemed like he was doing a good job of unsettling himself too in the process.

"I can't possibly give it to you this way. I have to wash..."

"I don't mind. I love it just the way it is," Harry said, and Jade looked at him, not sure if he was still talking about the shirt or something else.

"Alright. I will quickly clear this up and then give it to you," Jade said and rose from her seat abruptly and began to stack the dishes, while Harry merely remained in his seat as he followed her movement with predatory eyes while she avoided making eye contact.

As much as she would have loved to tease Harry and seduce him to the point that he would have no choice than to open up to her about how he felt and even make love to her, she knew this was not the right time for it.

He was hurt and emotionally vulnerable at the moment, and she didn't want to add this to his plate.

"Are you trying to chicken out, Esquire? I thought you loved to play games?" Harry asked, making Jade pause to look at him.

"I don't understand wha--at you are talking about" Jade said, trying her best not to stutter as Harry pushed his chair away from the table.

"You don't understand?" Harry asked as he rose to his full height and took a step towards her.

"I don't," Jade said in a voice that oddly sounded like it was from someone else.

"The drunken kiss?" Harry asked, making Jade swallow as she took a step away from him.

God! This man was tempting her. She could feel the flame of lust he had ignited within her grow.

"Teasing me over the phone by telling me what you were wearing?" Harry asked as he continued towards her.

If this man knew how horny his action was making her feel, he would run in the opposite direction, Jade mused as she continued backwards.

"That dream you claimed to have about us?" Harry asked as he kept moving in like a predator.

God, save me from this man, and save this man from me, Jade prayed quietly.

"That whole talk about living rent-free in my head? You don't remember your games?" Harry asked, and Jade licked her lips which were dry now.

Her heart was doing that crazy pitter-patter thing again. What had come over levelheaded Harry? Although, she liked this part of him, but if he didn't stop soon she was going to jump him. Years of pent-up sexual frustration was going to blow up in his fine face if he didn't stop tempting her so.

"Harry..."

"Is it no longer uncle Harry?" Harry asked with a smirk as he continued to approach her while she backed away from him.

"What are you doing?" Jade asked weakly even though she was beginning to feel like this was some sort of mating dance between them.

"Do you not get it yet? I'm playing your game with you. I'm playing one of those silly games you so love to play," Harry said, and Jade cocked a brow.

"Why? Did you think I was avoiding you merely because I can't play dirty?" Harry asked with a wicked smile, and before she had enough time to wonder why he was smiling, she got her answer when her back hit the wall.

There was no more room for escape now, not that she really wanted to escape. She had to stand and face him. It wasn't like she was scared of Harry anyway. She had only been doing him a favor by avoiding him.

"What do you want, Harry?" Jade asked trying not to sound as breathless as she felt.

"I should be asking you that, Jady. What do you want from me? Why do you keep messing with my head, Esquire?" Harry asked as he stopped in front of her and placed both hands on the wall at her sides.

"I'm not messing with you," Jade said in a low and breathless voice as Harry lowered his head.

He lowered his lips to her chin and she drew in a sharp breath when he grazed her chin with his teeth. Before she could jolt from the shock of that, his lips was fixed warmly on hers.

The kiss was long and slow. It made her go weak at the knees and her head reeled once. Her hands found their way to his shoulder and she held on to him to steady herself even as one of his arms went around her waist and he pulled her against him.

"You sure you're not messing with me, Esquire?" Harry asked against her lips as he nibbled on them while he let his other hand move to her hair. He had always wanted to do this from the first time he caught her on that staircase.

Kiss her and touch her hair. Although her hair was no longer as long as it had been then, he was glad he could do both now.

"I'm not. I promise," Jade whispered breathlessly, certain that the flame of lust which had now been fanned by his kiss into a volcano was going to erupt in a moment.

Just as quickly as the kiss had started, Harry pulled back from her and looked into her clouded eyes, "Good. You had better not," Harry said as he watched her struggle to focus her kiss muddled brain on him.

"Although, I'm not a fan of such games, I can assure you that I can be very competitive. I will beat you at your own games," Harry promised as he stepped away from her, and her hands fell to her sides weakly.

Jade swallowed as she stared at him not knowing what to say to him. He seemed like a man in perfect control of his emotions even though she could swear he had been affected by the kiss almost as much as she had been. This side of him was entirely unexpected but sexy as fuck.

"Are you interested in Aurora?" Jade blurted out unexpectedly, and Harry arched a brow not sure where that question was coming from.

Before he could respond, his phone started ringing, "Do you want me to be interested in her?" He asked, ignoring the phone call.

"No," Jade said, not minding the fact that she was speaking like a spoilt brat who was asking her friend not to play with another friend.

"Alright," Harry said as he turned to leave, but Jade grabbed his hand to stop him.

"Alright what?"

"Alright, I heard you," Harry said, and she stared at him for a moment.

"What about your date with her?" Jade asked, and Harry looked at her with practiced patience.

"What about my date with her?"

"Are you still going to take her to the anniversary with you? Will you go out on a date with her?" Jade asked, and he gave her a nod.

"Yes, I will. I do not go back on my words," Harry said, and Jade's brows pulled together.



"She is going to keep thinking she stands a chance with you if you honor your date," Jade said, and Harry sighed as he glanced at his phone which had stopped ringing. He had a feeling it was Lucy or Tom calling.

For a moment there he had completely forgotten about everything else and had been so engrossed in the game he had been playing with Jade. Jade was indeed a distraction.

"Can you get to the point, Esquire?" Harry asked as he watched her.

Fuck Tom's advice, and screw bad timing. She was going to grab this opportunity now, "I don't want you to go out with her or be interested in her. I want you to be interested in me."

Chapter 473 Not Done

Harry watched Jade with a guarded expression as she spoke, careful not to reveal anything even though he was actually very surprised that she had finally come around to stating what she wanted.

This was interesting. At least now they could stop playing games and act like two sensible mature adults.

"You should say something," Jade urged him with a slight frown when he merely kept staring at her.

"I'm not sure I understand what you mean Esquire," Harry said as he stepped closer to her and tucked a short strand of hair behind her ear.

The brush of his finger against her skin made her heart flop in her chest like a landed trout, and she swallowed as she tried to focus on him. On their conversation.

"I want you to have eyes only for me," Jade said, and Harry nodded thoughtfully.

"Now I'm wondering why you would want me to have eyes only for you, Esquire. Pray tell," Harry said as he gazed into Jade's eager eyes.

"Because I'm interested in you, Harry. I like you," Jade said, and Harry smirked.

"Took you long enough to get to that, didn't it?" Harry muttered and Jade arched a brow.

"So?" Jade asked, awaiting his response.

She had swallowed her pride and thrown caution to the wind by doing this. It had to be worth it. She deserved some accolades for making an effort at the very least.

"Being interested in you has never been an issue for me, Esquire," Harry said as his gaze shifted to her lips once again and he brushed her lips with his thumb sensually, making Jade want to wet her lips with her tongue.

"I've only had eyes for you since I set eyes on you," Harry said as he drew her close against him gradually and wrapped his arms around her, slowly.

"You've managed to hold my interest for over four years even without being physically present," Harry said, and Jade's eyes lit up at that and her lips curved in a happy smile.

His eyes stayed on hers for three seconds, and then his lips brushed hers, retreated, "However, I'm not sure I'm kind enough or willing to make this so easy for you," Harry said, and the smile on Jade's face faltered.

"What do you mean?" Jade asked with a slight frown, but the sound of his ringing phone interrupted them once again.

"Hold that thought, Esquire," Harry said with an easy grin as he let go of her and walked away from her to pick up his phone which was on the table.

Jade pressed a hand to her lower abdomen and took a deep breath to calm herself as she watched him move languidly across the room to the table to receive his call.

Not knowing what else to do at that moment, Jade returned to the table too and began to clear it up while Harry's eyes followed her.

"I take it you're with my dad now. I'm sorry I missed your call earlier," Harry said immediately after he received Lucy's call.

"I only just got here. I haven't called since our last conversation," Lucy said, making Harry realize that he had wrongly assumed the last phone call had been from Lucy.

"Oh, I see. Can you please put him on the line now?" Harry asked as he headed for his bedroom where he could speak comfortably without Jade watching him or listening to him.

"Harry is on the line," Lucy said to Aaron as she passed the phone to him, while Candace watched him with interest.

"Harry..."

"You gave me quite a scare, dad," Harry said immediately he heard his father's voice.

"I'm sorry about that," Aaron said, relieved to hear Harry's voice.

"How do you feel now?" Harry asked in concern.

"I feel better knowing that you've gotten some rest. Did you have something to eat yet? Some of the dinner from last night is in the refrigerator..."

"Jade fixed us dinner already. Focus on getting better and stop worrying about me," Harry scolded as he walked into his bedroom and shut the door behind him.

"That's not something I think I can do," Aaron said sadly, and Lucy and Tom exchanged a look.

"We will be outside," Tom said before leading Lucy outside wanting to give Aaron his privacy.

"I think we should excuse him too, what do you think?" Candace whispered to Jamal and when he gave her a nod they both stood up and went to join Tom and Lucy outside.

Once he was alone, Aaron sighed, "What should I do now? How do we live now?" Aaron asked, and Harry rubbed the bridge of his nose.

"Nothing has changed between us, dad. Nothing has to. I don't want you to let this whole thing bother you anymore. You've done enough already, so leave the rest to me, okay? I will handle it," Harry promised.

"How do you feel about everything?"

"I don't know. I'm not sure how to feel about it yet. It still sounds surreal to me," Harry confessed as he sat on the edge of his bed.

"I'm sorry I lied to you and kept everything from you," Aaron said apologetically.

"If you are sorry then get well soon and take proper care of your health going forward," Harry said, and Aaron nodded.

"I will. I promise, I will."

"Good. Don't worry about anything else," Harry said once again.

"I'm worried about you making Jade too comfortable around you though," Aaron said, and Harry raised a brow.

"Are they not in there with you?" He asked, curious to know if his father was saying all of this in front of Tom and the others.

"No, they're not. They all excused me to speak with you," Aaron assured him.

"Oh, alright. What do you mean?" Harry asked, relaxed now.

"She obviously likes you..."

"I thought you were pressuring me to get involved with someone because you were scared I wouldn't want to after I learn about Sara?"

"That doesn't mean I don't want you to see you in a happy relationship," Aaron said, and Harry tried not to roll his eyes.

"Forget what I said about things staying the same between us. I'm mad at you. Until I stop being mad at you, you're not to talk to me about any relationship," Harry said, and Aaron chuckled.

"You already said you are not mad. You can't take that back, else I might have another heart attack," Aaron joked, and Harry scowled.

"Don't threaten me with that, dad. It's not funny," Harry said, and Aaron sighed.

"Sorry. Just make sure you don't be too much of a gentleman with her. This is your chance to get her."

"I will try not to disappoint you," Harry said dryly, and Aaron chuckled making Harry smile.

"How do you feel now, dad? Tell me honestly how you feel about everything."

"I feel relieved that I've finally been able to tell you the truth. And at the same time I feel guilty, sad, and heartbroken that your twin sister has been alive this whole time and I lived mourning her like she was dead. I can't say I regret meeting Sara or marrying her. That would mean I regret having you, and I don't. I'm grateful everyday that she gave me you. I can only hope that life has been good to your twin sister where she is, and that she is alive and fine," Aaron said, and Harry drew a deep breath.

"I can't say I understand how you feel, but I can promise not to let you carry the burden alone anymore," Harry said, and Aaron smiled.

"Is that why you asked the little boy to hold my hand? He held my hand for such a long time it's a wonder his doesn't feel cramped," Aaron said, and Harry smiled.

"Jamal did?"

"Yes, he did. I woke up to see him lying beside me holding my hand. He reminds me of when you were a little boy," Aaron said with a sigh.

"He's something, isn't he?"

"He sure is. He is a very wise and thoughtful kid. It's not difficult to see where he got all that from. His mom is a pretty decent person," Aaron said, and Harry's heart skipped a beat.

"Did you speak with her?" Harry asked, wondering if his father saw any resemblance between her and Sara like Jade had seen.

"A bit. She doesn't seem like the type to talk a lot but you can tell from her eyes that she has experienced too much for her young age. Have you met her before?" Aaron asked curiously.

"I've never met her. Although, I've heard a couple of things about her," Harry said, and Aaron sighed.

"I'm sure you have. From Jade I suppose?"

"Yeah. From Jade. And also from Tom and Lucy."

"I see. I know it's probably too soon to ask you this, but do you think maybe there's a way we can find your twin sister? I think we should start searching for her before Sara..."

"It's not too soon to ask me for anything, dad. Besides, We found her already so you don't have to worry your head about that," Harry said, and Aaron's brows pulled together even as his heart skipped a beat.

"You found her already? How? When?" Aaron asked, and even as the questions left his lips he remembered the conversation he had with Jade over the phone the previous day.

He remembered Jade's questions about Harry's mom and if she had any living relatives. And then he remembered his conversation with Lucy.

"I will tell you about it when I get to the hospital, alright?" Harry said as he stood from the bed and picked up his car key from his dressing table.

Jade, Lucy, Candace, and Jamal. Somehow he was beginning to get a clear picture of everything. Did that mean-- Did that mean Candace was the one? His daughter? Harry's twin sister? Aaron mused without listening to anything Harry was saying.

"Dad? Are you there?" Harry called when it seemed like his father was not hearing anything he was saying.

Was that possible? Although he had thought she looked a lot like Sara and that Jamal somehow reminded him of Harry at that age, but was it possible? Aaron wondered.

"Dad?" Harry called once again as he walked out of his bedroom.

"Is she the one?" Aaron asked in a low tone.

"Is who the one?" Harry asked in confusion as he paused by the passageway.

"Is it Candace? Is she your twin sister?" Aaron asked and Harry sighed.

There was no point hiding it from him. It was best he knew so his mind would be at ease and he wouldn't have to worry about anything other than recovering fast and getting out of the hospital.

"Yes, dad. She's the one. Candace is your daughter, and Jamal is your grandson," Harry said, and Jade who had been seated on the couch waiting for Harry in the living room rose from her seat and stood up to look at Harry.

Even as Harry said the words, tears fell from Aaron's eyes as he gazed at the door where he knew his daughter was standing now with his grandson.

His daughter had been seated right there next to him and he didn't know it. He could have seen her somewhere else and would never have known that she was his daughter or that the delightful young boy was his grandson.

He not only had a daughter, but a grandson? His grandson had held his hand for hours and kept him company telling him endless funny stories most of which were made up just to cheer him up and he hadn't known the kid was his grandson.

"Oh, Harry!" Aaron cried as he broke into a sob.

"I will be right there, dad. I'm coming over now," Harry promised as he hung up the call.

"I'm going to the hospital," he informed Jade who was staring at him, and she gave him a nod.

She didn't need to be told that their conversation was suspended until further notice. Now he had to face more pressing and urgent family issues. She could wait. She would wait.

"Give me a minute to change out of this," she said, and Harry gave her a once over before giving her a nod.

As she walked past him, Harry grabbed her arm and pulled her back, and before she could express her surprise he crushed his lips against hers.

"We are not done with our conversation, Esquire. Not by a long shot," Harry breathed against her lips.

Jade swallowed as she blinked back her surprise and tried to calm the fluttering of butterflies in her stomach, "I didn't think we were."

"Good. I just thought to remind you," Harry said as he let go of her hands, and Jade gave him a nod as she walked past him to the guest bedroom.

Once she left, Harry decided to check who had called him the first time, and he raised a brow when he saw that the call had been from the person he asked to keep an eye on the hospital he had been born.

He dialed the number, and almost immediately the call connected, "Do you have any news for me?" Harry asked curiously.

"Yes, sir. There was a fire accident in the medical record room of the hospital an hour ago. The doctor who was there at the time of your birth passed on five years ago," the man informed Harry.

"Look into the cause of the fire accident and make sure the culprit is caught," Harry ordered before hanging up.

He wasn't the least bit disappointed. He had expected her to make a move like this, and he was ready to find every single one of her crimes and expose her, biological mother or not.

#### Chapter 474 Outside Aaron's Room

As Tom and Lucy strolled down the hospital hallway in silence, Lucy turned to Tom when she remembered something Jamal had said earlier, "By the way, did you really offer Jamal a car in exchange for him to leave me alone?" Lucy asked curiously, and Tom chuckled.

"That wasn't what happened. He asked me for a car, and I agreed to give him one. But he became greedy and also wanted you too. What did you expect me to say?" Tom asked, and Lucy giggled.

"So it had to be me or the car. Which did he choose?" Lucy asked, and Tom grinned.

"Which do you think he chose?"

"Me?" Lucy asked with a grin of her own.

"Well, he did choose you. But that was only after he enquired if you had a car and when I said yes. He figured you could both use your car," Tom said with a chuckle, and Lucy giggled.

"No, he didn't say that!" Lucy said, laughing.

"That's not all. He also said he wouldn't get upset or yell at you," Tom said with a grin, and Lucy laughed even more.

"Aww. He's just too sweet," Lucy said with a hand placed on her chest.

"And too smart. A lot of girls are going to be in trouble when he grows up. I'm glad he is Harry's nephew and your cousin. I can relax knowing that my nieces will be safe from him," Tom joked, and Lucy looked at him with a small smile.

She didn't miss how he said nieces but said nothing about daughters of his own. Her heart ached when she remembered what Jade had said the previous night about Tom loving kids.

"We shouldn't go too far," Lucy said when she noticed they had covered quite some distance, and they turned around to return in the direction they had come from.

"I'm glad it's weekend. We don't have to worry about work tomorrow," Lucy said with a sigh.

"Yeah. I can't say I'm not glad Aaron told Harry everything today. If he had waited until next week as he planned to, things would have been crazy considering that next week is going to be very busy due to the anniversary celebration," Tom said, and Lucy looked at him.

In the craziness of the last twenty-four hours, she had forgotten all about that. She had also forgotten about her contract signing the next day and Tom's plan.

"I almost forgot about my plans for the weekend. I guess we won't be able to go out on the dinner date as planned, right?" Lucy asked, and Tom raised a brow.

"Why not? Are you canceling all your plans for tomorrow? Including the contract signing?" Tom asked, and Lucy shook her head.

"Of course not. I can't possibly do that," Lucy said, and Tom stopped walking.

"So why are you canceling ours?" Tom asked, and Lucy turned around when she realized that Tom had stopped walking.

Lucy sighed inwardly when she realized where Tom was driving at, "I wasn't canceling anything. I just thought you wouldn't want to go out anymore, considering the situation with Harry. You planned on spending the day with Harry, remember?"

"Some part of the day, Jewel. Not the entire day, and definitely not the night either,"

"That's fine. There is no reason to get worked up over it," Tom said, and instead of arguing with him, Lucy stepped closer to him and placed both arms around his neck.

"We need to have some time to ourselves regardless of all the craziness going on around us, or else we will never get to it. I want some time alone with you," Tom said, and Lucy smiled.

"Me too," Lucy said as she kissed the tip of his nose, making him smile.

They both turned when they heard Jamal's voice, "I want mine too," Jamal said as he hurried towards them, while Candace flashed them an apologetic smile.

"That's easy," Lucy said as she crouched in front of him and kissed the tip of his nose while Tom rolled his eyes.

"You've got some ice cream on your face," Lucy said as she took out her handkerchief and wiped his chin.

"You can't even clean up after yourself, yet you want a girlfriend," Tom said tauntingly, and Jamal scowled at him.

"You are just jealous," Jamal said to Tom, making both Candace and Lucy giggle.

"Yeah. Right. I'm jealous of the kid who wants everything I own. You know I can have you thrown out of this place, right?" Tom threatened.

"No, you can't. You don't own this hospital," Jamal said, and Tom raised a brow.

"Don't be too sure about that," Tom said, and Jamal looked at Lucy.

"Does he own this place?"

Lucy bobbed her head, "He owns a hotel, a pharmaceutical company, an automobile company, and an airline, too," Lucy said, and Jamal looked at Tom with awe-filled eyes.

"Can I see all of them?" Jamal asked hopefully.

"Only if you promise to be a good boy," Tom said, and Jamal crossed both arms in front of his chest.

"I promise."

"Come with me then. Let's start with the hospital," Tom said as he took Jamal's hand.

"We will join you soon," Tom said to Lucy and Candace before walking away with Jamal.

Alone with Candace now and not gifted with the skill to talk much or begin conversations with people she wasn't very closely attached to, Lucy racked her brain for something to say to Candace as they both returned to Aaron's room.

What would Sonia say if she were here? She mused, then shook her head after some time. Sonia would probably say something silly like, "How about another striptease class?" Or "You want to hear how I put the lapdance lesson into practice?" Lucy thought in amusement.

Nah. She wasn't as crazy as Sonia, so she wasn't going to tow Sonia's path. Who else could she emulate?

Desmond. Yeah. What would that wise man have said to Candace if he were here? Lucy mused.

After thinking about it for some time, she looked at Candace, "Aaron is in so much pain right now. It hurts so much to see him this way. He's usually a very cheerful, funny, and easygoing person," Lucy said after they had stood there in silence for some time, and Candace gave her a noncommittal grunt.

"I know you hurt as much as Aaron. Possibly even more. I can't imagine the magnitude of pain and heartache you'd be feeling yourself, considering everything you've learned today," Lucy said, and this time Candace stopped walking and looked at her.

"I'm no stranger to heartache or pain," Candace said, trying to sound brave, but Lucy didn't miss the slight tremor in her voice.

"Aaron would never forgive himself if he heard this," Lucy said sadly and stepped forward to embrace Candace.

"You can cry if you want to. You are with family now. You don't have to be so strong on your own anymore," Lucy murmured when she sensed how Candace had stiffened in her arms.

"Nah. I've used up my crying quota for the day," Candace said in an easy tone that was meant to amuse Lucy, and Lucy found herself giggling as she pulled away to look into Candace's face.

"What does that even mean?"

Candace shrugged, "I've cried enough for one day. I'm emotionally exhausted. All I desire right now is a warm bath and a solid mattress. I need to get some sleep, and then maybe I can face the rest of the drama tomorrow," Candace said weakly, and Lucy nodded.

"When Aaron is done speaking with Harry, I will find out what Harry's plan is, and then I will ask Tom to take you and Jamal home while I stay back here with Aaron," Lucy said, and Candace raised a brow.

"You seem very close to them," Candace observed, and Lucy smiled.

"It's funny that I've barely known Aaron for a couple of days, and although Harry has always been my boss like Tom, we've only just started relating as friends, and now we've found out we are cousins," Lucy said, and surprise flickered in Candace's eyes at her words.

"Cousins?" She asked, wondering what Lucy was talking about. She was not only related to Harry and Aaron but also Lucy?

"Oh, I'm sorry I let it slip this way," Lucy said, pressing her lips together. For a moment, she had forgotten that Candace was Harry's twin sister and her cousin too.

"Does that mean you are related to Aaron?" Candace asked, and Lucy shook her head.



"Not Aaron. Sara. She is my mom's estranged twin sister," Lucy said with a wince, and as expected, Candace's mouth fell open.

She could never get used to referring to Sara as her mom's twin sister. She couldn't even bring herself to refer to Sara as her aunt.

"Your mom? You mean Janet?" Candace asked in disbelief, unable to reconcile the fact that Janet was Sara's twin sister.

Janet was too warm and kindhearted to be related to someone like Sara.

Lucy sighed as she gave her a nod, "I only just found out about it yesterday, and I told them about it today," Lucy said, and Candace shook her head in disbelief.

Janet was her aunt? Janet, who had loved and pampered Jamal, was actually Jamal's grandaunt? And Lucy was her cousin? What manner of coincidence was this?

"I still can't wrap my head around any of this. I feel like I might wake up the next minute and realize that I have been sleeping and it has all been a long dream," Candace said, and Lucy looked into her honey-colored eyes.

"Would you call it a good dream or a nightmare?" Lucy asked, and Candace shook her head.

"I don't know. I woke up this morning an orphan, having no family apart from Andy and Jamal. And now, I'm learning that both my parents are alive; I have a twin brother, an aunt, and even two cousins. Does it sound real to you? Especially considering the fact that I briefly lived under the same roof with both my cousins and my aunt, and my host just happened to be my twin brother's best friend? Just two nights ago, I was trying to convince Jade about seducing Harry and confessing her feelings to him, and now I'm learning that he's my twin brother. A couple of hours ago, I was telling Jade how strange it was that your twin brother coincidentally happened to have been in a relationship with the girl whose father dumped me at the orphanage, and now I'm learning he's my cousin. None of this makes sense. This is the type of shit that only goes down in movies and Webnovels," Candace said, and just as Lucy was nodding her head in agreement, she paused when Candace's words hit her.

"Wait, what? What do you mean by my twin brother is in a relationship with the girl whose father dumped you at the orphanage?" Lucy asked in confusion.

"Jade said your brother was engaged to her..."

"Rachel?" Lucy asked in surprise, and Candace gave her a nod.

"Yes. That's her name," Candace said, and when Lucy enquired further, she told her about her first adoption and relationship with Rachel's dad and how he had taken over everything and dumped her at the orphanage after the death of her adoptive parents.

"How long have you known about this?" Lucy asked curiously while filing away the new piece of information in one of her spare brain compartments, reserving it for later when she could think about it and discuss it with Tom.

"I found out just today. Thanks to the package Jamal's dad had someone deliver to me after his death, we were able to connect the dots faster. Else Jade would probably have handed me over to Sara," Candace said in a lighter tone than Lucy would have expected.

"Jamal's dad is dead?" Lucy asked in surprise.

"Yeah. He died this morning," Candace said, and Lucy's brows drew together.

"I'm sorry about that. It seems like you had a pretty tough day," Lucy said, but Candace shook her head.

"Yeah, I've had a very tough day, but don't be sorry about his death. It's probably the best thing that happened to me today. I only wish the other revelations could have waited for at least a day or two before coming up so I could bask in the joy of being free from Jero and the cartel," Candace said, and then Lucy recalled the episode in the car that morning.

"Speaking about Jamal's dad, I'm sorry to ask this question right now, but was he abusive? I mean, did he ever hit Jamal?" Lucy asked, and Candace looked at her in surprise.

"Why..."

"Something happened in the car this morning, and Jamal's reaction seemed weird," Lucy said, and Candace sighed after Lucy explained what had transpired between her and Tom in the car.

"I thought he had outgrown since it's been a while since he last had such a reaction," Candace said sadly while Lucy looked at her.

"Jero never hit me because he claimed he loved me too much to hurt me, but he never hesitated to hit Andy and Jamal at the slightest annoyance. Whenever he hits Andy and Jamal cries, he hits Jamal too. And whenever he's mad and raises his voice at me, Jamal gets frightened, and when he cries, Jero hits him to shut him up," Candace explained without meeting Lucy's gaze. She felt too ashamed and guilty to do so.

"None of that was your fault," Lucy said, sensing that she was feeling guilty.

"It was. I'm the one who got involved with such a violent man. I dragged Andy into that with me and had Jamal for such a man," Candace said, and Lucy shook her head.

"You don't regret having Jamal, do you?" She asked, and Candace looked at her like she was crazy.

"What? Never. Jamal is the best part of my life. He's like the only thing I've done right. I could never regret having him," Candace said fiercely.

"Then you shouldn't blame yourself for anything. Put the blame on Jamal's father. He did all that, not you. And thanks to you, Jamal will grow up to be a charming young man with all the right male influence around him," Lucy said, and Candace smiled weakly.

"I have to say; I'm glad you are Jamal's first crush. He couldn't have done better," Candace said, and Lucy giggled.

"You have no idea how honored I am to be crushed on by such a precious boy," Lucy said, and Candace grinned as she leaned forward and embraced Lucy this time.

"Thank you, Lucy," Candace said, and Lucy raised a brow.

"What for?"

Candace shrugged, "I don't know. I feel light and grateful all of a sudden," Candace said, and Lucy smiled.

"I'm happy you feel that way," Lucy said, and they both turned when they heard Aaron's door open.

"Aaron, why did you get out of bed?" Lucy asked in alarm as she hurried to his side when she noticed the way he was panting and leaning against the door, but his teary eyes were fixed on Candace.

Lucy stopped by his side when she noticed the way he was weeping silently and staring at Candace.

Neither Candace nor Lucy needed to be told that Harry had told Aaron about her being his missing daughter.

Candace could see the pain, the regret, and the apology in Aaron's eyes even though he didn't say a word to her.

Maybe it was because of all the lovely things she had heard about him from Jade and Lucy which she now believed, or perhaps it was because of the way he had made her feel during their brief interaction a moment ago, or maybe it was because she was a parent, she understood his pain and empathized with him.

Without saying a word, she stepped forward and hugged him. Hoping that he would draw comfort from her embrace and not be too hard on himself anymore.

#### Chapter 475 Forget I Said Anything

Harry gave Jade a once over when she joined him in the living room some minutes later, dressed casually in a long-sleeved floral top and a pair of black trousers.

"Ready?" He asked, and she gave him a nod.

"Yeah," Jade said quietly. Perhaps it was because of Harry's unexpected behavior in the last couple of minutes, the mere sight of him now not only made butterflies flutter in her belly his voice also made her heart jump.

"Let's go," Harry said as he led her to the door and held it open for her.

How he had managed to switch from sexy Harry back to gentlemanly Harry in a couple of minutes was something she needed to study. She hoped that wouldn't be the last time she would experience that Harry.

When they got to the car he held open the passenger door for her to get in but Jade hesitated, "I think you should let me drive," Jade said, but Harry's expression did not change.

"Get in. I don't have all night," he said with forced patience.

"I don't think you are in the state of mind to drive," Jade insisted, and Harry raised a brow.

"Did I seem distracted when I kissed you a short while ago?" He asked, and color rose on Jade's face as she quickly got into the passenger seat without arguing further.

Once Harry shut the door he went around the car and got into the driver's seat while Jade turned her face to the window as he started the car and drove off.

"What are you thinking about? Why are you so silent?" Harry asked, turning to spare her a glance when she had remained quiet for some minutes after he had been driving.

"Will you tell me how you feel if I ask?" Jade asked as she turned to face him.

"How I feel about you, you mean?" He drawled, and Jade stifled the urge to giggle, knowing that he was deliberately trying to be obtuse.

"I'm being serious here. Quit trying to be funny," Jade scolded, and Harry scoffed.

"Why? A boring guy like me is not supposed to be funny?" Harry asked, and she grinned this time.

"You are still not over that yet? Don't let it bother you anymore. You've succeeded in clearing my doubts. I don't think anything is boring about you anymore," Jade said, and Harry arched a brow.

"Why? Because I kissed you?" He asked, making Jade look at him with a surprised expression. She hadn't expected him to refer to that.

"Wow! You keep outdoing yourself in surprising me today," Jade murmured, and Harry chuckled.

"What have I done that is so out of the ordinary, Esquire?" Harry asked, and Jade looked at him as she tried to put her thoughts into words.

She cleared her throat when Harry turned to spare her a glance, "Well, you've always been so gentlemanly and I didn't expect this..." She raised her hands helplessly as she tried to find the right word.

"This part of you. If I didn't know better I would think you were a Casanova," Jade said as she let both hands fall on her thighs.

Harry smirked, "You would have known I've always been this way if you didn't choose to avoid me after that night," Harry said, and Jade looked at him with interest.

"Were you interested in me back then?" She asked, still unable to believe it even though he had mentioned it earlier.

"Did I look or sound uninterested when we spoke that night?" Harry asked as he turned to spare her a glance and Jade shrugged.

"Well, you didn't exactly say or do anything to make me know you were interested in me," Jade said, and Harry arched a brow.

"Did you expect me to behave inappropriately towards you when I knew you had a boyfriend and he was there with you?" Harry asked, and Jade shook her head.

"No. Let's not talk about that. It's all in the past now. Back to the point..."

"What point?" Harry cut in.

"Well, I was trying to say I didn't expect you to be this way. I mean for someone who has never been with a lady..."

Harry raised a brow, "I had no idea that being celibate meant I had to be timid and naive," Harry said dryly, and Jade rolled her eyes.

"That's not what I meant. Your behavior earlier and now doesn't seem like it's the first time you're doing something like this."

"Why? Are you jealous that I might have been this way with someone else?" Harry asked, and Jade eyed him with annoyance when she noticed that he was deliberately evading her question.

"Forget I said anything," Jade muttered under her breath.

"Should I also forget that you said you are interested in me?" Harry asked, and Jade scowled at him.

"Yes. You can forget that too!" She snapped at him, and Harry chuckled.

"Then you don't mind me having eyes for Aurora or other ladies, do you?" He asked sweetly, turning in time to see Jade glaring at him.

"Are you trying to piss me off?" She hissed at him, and he grinned at her.

"Why are you always so short-tempered?" Harry murmured as he returned his attention to the road.

Jade studied his side profile, and she didn't know what to make of his carefree attitude. She had thought he would be broken by the news and everything so why did he act like he was perfectly okay? She mused as she kept looking at him.

"Why are you staring at me so intently?" Harry asked without turning to look at her.

"I'm wondering if you are okay. It's not that I expect you to be fine considering everything, but you keep acting as if nothing happened. How do you truly feel?" Jade asked looking at him with concerned eyes.

"Are you bipolar? One minute you are staring at me like you want to gouge out my eyes, and the next you are worried about me," Harry observed in amusement.

"Don't try to change the subject, Harry. Are you okay?" Jade asked in a serious tone.

"I'm fine. You can stop worrying about me," Harry said, but Jade continued to look at him doubtfully as she waited for him to tell her how he was really feeling.

"I'm waiting," Jade said, and Harry sighed.

"If the situation was reversed and you were in my shoes, how would you feel? Maybe if you tell me, I will have a better idea of how I'm feeling," Harry said, and Jade shook her head.

"I would have been hurt and devastated," Jade said, and Harry glanced at her.

"Why?"

"Are you really asking me that? Finding out that sort of truth about your mom is bound to break anyone. I wasn't even directly involved yet I wept when Tom told me about Sara and all she did to you guys. I was deeply sad. For you, Candace, and your dad," Jade said, and Harry shook his head.

"I don't feel hurt or devastated that someone like that abandoned me. She is not worth it. She is merely a stranger that means nothing to me. Her existence doesn't mean anything to me or change anything for me. The only sadness I feel is for my dad and Candace who was most affected by her wickedness. I don't think I was affected in any way."

"Did Tom tell you that we both met her?" Harry asked, and Jade looked at him with interest.

"No, he didn't. When? How?" Jade asked curiously and listened as Harry told her all about their brief exchange with Sara and how he later got to know she had been there to meet with his dad and Lucy.

"Let me get something straight, Lucy followed your dad to meet with her aunt who happened to be your mom. Is it that she didn't know the whole time that her aunt was your mom or what? I mean, if Sara is her mom's twin sister then she should have known that Sara was married, right?" Jade asked in confusion.

"They don't have such a relationship. That was the first time Lucy met her," Harry said, and then went on to fill Jade in on all the details.

He started by telling her all that Lucy had told them about Sara and how she ran away from home and went further to tell her what his father had said about Sara.

"Wow! I don't know what to say," Jade said with a shake of her head.

"It's thanks to Lucy that we found out she lied about the death of the other twin. And it's thanks to you that Lucy and Tom were able to figure out that Candace was the one," Harry said, and Jade looked at him curiously.

"So she told Lucy the truth?" Jade asked, and Harry reached for his phone and unlocked it before handing it to Jade.

"You can listen to their conversation. She made a voice recording," Harry said, and Jade played it.

Jade had a stunned expression on her face by the time she was done listening to the conversation between Sara and Lucy, "At this point I'm speechless," Jade murmured as she rubbed the goosebumps on her arms.

Although she was impressed by how Lucy had handled everything, she shuddered at the thought that she had come across such a cold-blooded person. She couldn't believe that woman was in any way blood related to Harry, Candace, or even Janet.

"How did Candace take the news?" Harry asked after some time.

"She wept. At first, she tried to pretend like she was unaffected, but then she broke into a sob and cried like a baby," Jade said weakly, and Harry glanced at her.

"It must have been very upsetting for her," Harry said, thinking about Candace.

"Yes, it was. As I told you earlier, it has been quite a rough day for her," Jade said, reminding Harry of everything she had said before.

"I can't even imagine how she must feel," Harry said with a slight frown, reminding himself once again that his feelings didn't matter at all.

The people who were hurting more than him were his father and Candace and all he needed to do was focus on them and help them set things in order.

"At first she was bitter when she found out about you and your dad. She was reluctant to come with me. She was concerned that there would be no room for her in your close-knit family. I had to do

my best to convince her otherwise," Jade said, and Harry's heart ached for Candace. His sister. His twin sister who he had no idea how he was going to face.

"Why does she need a room in her own family?" Harry asked, feeling very sad for her.

"You will have to make that clear to her. She believes you and your dad have been together for too long to make room for an extra," Jade said with a sigh.

"That is nonsense," Harry said harshly, and Jade nodded.

"I agree with you. But after finding out she was sold by her own mother and then learning how she ended up at the orphanage and also living with someone like Jero, you can't blame her for being a little wary," Jade said, and Harry sighed.

"I guess you are right."

"You remember she and her sister were strippers, right?" Jade asked, reminding him of some of the conversations they had about Candace in the past.

"Yeah. Why?" Harry asked as he stopped at the traffic light and turned to look at her.

"She is sort of worried that you might be disappointed and ashamed of her..."

Harry gritted his teeth, "That should be the least of her worries. Her past doesn't mean anything to us," Harry cut in with an angry hiss, and Jade smiled.

"Yeah, I tried telling her that too. I'm only telling you this so you will know better how to relate to her when you meet her. She has a lot of emotional scars so you will have to take it easy on her," Jade advised, and Harry gave her a nod.

"Sure, I will. Thanks," he said, and Jade gave him a smile.

"You're welcome. By the way, why did you decide to break the news to your dad that way? I thought you were going to wait until you were with him," Jade said, and Harry sighed.

"He suspected she was the one already. There was no reason to lie to him or keep the truth away from him Unnecessarily," Harry explained as he kept his gaze on the road he could only hope that his father would be fine at the end of it all.

The car was silent for the rest of the drive until Harry pulled into the parking lot of the hospital.

Immediately he turned off the car's ignition, Jade placed a hand on his arm before he could reach for the door, "Can I hug you before we go in?"

"Jade..."

"I know you are in a hurry. It won't take a minute," Jade said, and Harry reluctantly leaned forward, and Jade embraced him.

"I know you said you are unaffected, but I know you are only trying to be strong for the sake of your dad and Candace. So I'm hugging you because I know you are most likely going to be at the giving end of the hugs in there and not the receiving end. Stay strong," Jade said softly as she pat his back, and Harry sighed as he let his chin rest on the crook of her neck.

Chapter 476 Not Your Fault

Aaron's body shook violently as he wept in Candace's arm, and before long, Candace found herself crying too, while Lucy watched them both with tears in her eyes.

Thankfully, Candace had led Aaron back into the room, and they were seated on his bed now, where he sat sobbing uncontrollably. Anyone could tell by the way he wept that he was deeply sad.

"I'm sorry," Aaron cried.

"I'm so sorry," Aaron kept crying.

She didn't know what to say or how to respond to his apology. She was too overwhelmed by her emotions to say anything. A huge lump had lodged in her throat, making it impossible for her to say anything other than cry.

Her heart felt like it was going to burst out of her chest, and she didn't know if it was because she was hurting or if it was because of the love she felt for Aaron at that moment.

Even though she knew deep down that none of all that happened was his fault and that life had happened to them all, she was deeply touched by how he was willing to take responsibility for it and how unashamedly he displayed his emotion. And that was the reason her heart overflowed with love for him.

"I had no idea that she lied. I should never have believed her," Aaron cried while Candace held on to him as she tried to comfort him and draw comfort from him at the same time.

It was that scene that greeted Tom and Jamal when they joined them.

"Why is everyone crying?" Jamal asked in confusion as he looked up at Tom, who had become both his mentor and role model in the last couple of minutes.

Tom glanced at Lucy curiously, and when she gave him a nod, he understood that Harry had told his dad about Candace.

"You should go and console them," Tom suggested, gently pushing Jamal towards the bed where his mother and grandfather were weeping.

Once they sensed his presence, Candace and Aaron pulled away from each other to look at Jamal, who was staring at them in confusion since he couldn't understand why his mother was crying.

Candace pulled Jamal and held him to herself as she dried her tears while Aaron's gaze remained fixed on her.

His baby girl, who he had not once laid eyes on since her birth, was not only an adult now, but a mother. He had missed out on her childhood and growing up, and from the little he had gathered from observing her earlier and his discussion with her, he could tell that life had been hard on her.

"Are you okay?" Jamal asked his mother as he looked into her face with concerned eyes.

"I'm fine," Candace assured him with a shaky smile, but Jamal looked unconvinced as his gaze moved to Aaron.

"Then why are you both crying?"

How could they explain the situation to a child? Even though Jamal acted all mature, he was still a kid, and this was going to be too complex for him.



"Are you feeling sad for grandpa Aaron?" Jamal asked when his mom failed to answer his question.

"Give me a hug," Aaron said quietly, and Jamal moved away from his mother and went to embrace Aaron, who wrapped both arms around him.

Tom held out a hand to Lucy and led her to the door so they could give them the needed privacy to discuss whatever they had to discuss.

"Please take Jamal with you," Candace called out to them before they could leave.

Understanding that she needed to talk things out with Aaron privately before bringing Jamal into the picture, Lucy held out her hand to Jamal.

"Jamal, I need to speak with him privately. I will explain it all to you when I'm done," Candace promised as she kissed his forehead before letting him go to Lucy.

After they left, Aaron and Candace sat in silence for a while as each of them tried to gather their thoughts and figure out what to say to the other.

Aaron had no idea what to say or do to make up for everything. Even though he was happy that she was alive and was here with him, he couldn't help feeling responsible for all that had happened to her.

He couldn't exactly say he regretted meeting Sara, but just maybe there was something he could have done to stop her from doing all she did to him and his babies.

As upset as Candace was on the other hand, she knew her pain, but she also understood his pain. She tried to put herself in his shoe as a parent. She thought about what she would want her child to say to her if the situation was reversed.

She knew how much pain she had felt each time Jero separated her from Jamal to punish her for something. She couldn't compare it to what Sara had done to Aaron. She couldn't imagine how she would have felt had Jero sold off Jamal and lied that he was dead.

She could imagine the pain of never setting eyes on Jamal from birth until he was an adult. She couldn't imagine missing out on these whole stages of his life and growth. No, the thought of that was much too painful.

Seeing Aaron this way had increased her anger and hatred for Sara.

"I'm sorry for..."

"It's not your fault," they both spoke simultaneously and then looked at each other.

"Maybe I could have..."

"No," Candace cut in as she rose from the bed.

"I don't know the whole story yet, but after meeting you... After seeing you this way, I don't think there is anything you wouldn't have done to keep me if you knew about my existence," Candace said with a sniffle, and tears gathered in Aaron's eyes again.

"For a moment, I blamed you. I mean after Jade told me about you and Harry. I felt hurt. Naturally, I was upset that you all had a good life..." Candace paused and drew in a shaky breath.

"I spent the whole time on the flight thinking about it, and I came here wanting to be mad at you. I felt fully justified to be mad. But right now, it's so hard to be mad at you. It's unreasonable to be upset when you're already this upset. I can't blame you when you already blame yourself this way. Maybe I feel this way because I'm a parent, and I can understand the helplessness of your situation," Candace said as tears dropped from her eyes, but she didn't look away from him.

"You can be mad at me. You should blame me. I'm your father, and I failed to protect you," Aaron said with tears in his eyes as he got off the bed and reached out to wipe the tears on her cheeks.

"No. I'm just trying to say, as much as I feel hurt, I don't blame you for this, and I don't think you should blame yourself either," Candace said as she also reached out to wipe his tears.

"I know it's shameless of me to say this right now. I may not have any right to say this, but thank you for staying alive," Aaron cried on a shaky breath.

"I know things must have been hard on you..." Aaron's voice hitched, and he paused to put his emotion under control while Candace shook her head.

"You need to rest. I don't think you should keep talking. Let's focus on your recovery. Any other conversation can come later," Candace suggested as she led him back to the bed, worried that at the rate he was crying, he was going to trigger another heart attack.

Outside the room, Jade and Harry walked into the hospital and stopped when they saw Tom, Lucy, and Jamal standing outside Aaron's door.

"Tom," Jade called out as she went to them and embraced him before embracing Lucy too, and then ruffling Jamal's hair.

"How is he doing?" Harry asked Lucy as he looked at his father's door with uncertainty. Through the little glass window in the door, he could see Candace leading his father to the bed.

"You can go in and see for yourself," Lucy said, and Harry gave her a nod as he tried to make up his mind if he should go in to join them or not.

He wasn't sure what he was going to say or do in there. And he didn't know if it was okay to interrupt them. He felt they needed a private father-daughter moment.

Jade gently nudged him towards the door, "Go in," she said as if she could read his mind, and both Tom and Lucy gave him an encouraging nod.

Once he walked into the room and shut the door behind him, Tom turned to Jade with concerned eyes, "How is he doing?"

Jade sighed as she shrugged, "He keeps acting as if nothing happened. He says he's not hurt but only feels sad for his dad and Candace. I think he is in denial. He hasn't fully accepted it all yet. Or maybe he just hasn't digested it," Jade said, and Lucy sighed.

"Harry loves to take care of his loved ones and solve their problems, so maybe he just doesn't want to let himself feel anything. That's the only way he might be able to do what he needs to do," Lucy said, and Jade's eyes narrowed when she remembered everything Harry had told her.

"So you are Harry's cousin? I can't believe you were taking information from me and hoarding yours. I feel offended," Jade said, and Lucy glanced at Tom, thinking he was the one who had told Jade about her relationship with Harry, before looking back at Jade.

"I'm sorry. That wasn't my intention. I felt it wasn't in my place to tell you about it. I'm sorry you feel this way," Lucy said apologetically, and Jade scowled.

"It wasn't in my place to tell you everything I said either, yet I told you anyway," Jade said, and Tom raised a brow at Jade.

"She just said she is sorry. Let it go," Tom said, and Jade glared at him.

"This is between Lucy and me. Stay out of it," she hissed at him in annoyance.

"Please, don't be mad at Lucy. I'm sure she meant no harm," Jamal said before anyone else could speak, and all eyes turned to him since they had forgotten for a moment that he was still standing there with them.

"Such a sweet boy. I'll forgive her for your sake," Jade said as she smiled at him while thinking that Lucy seemed to have all the men wrapped around her fingers. Why was everyone so protective of her?

#### Chapter 477 Childish And Immature

"Where is Sonia?" Evelyn asked curiously when Bryan walked into the house, but he headed for the stairs and didn't respond to her question as he continued up the stairs.

Evelyn raised a brow as she watched him disappear, but before she could comment on his behavior, Sonia walked into the house and looked in the direction Bryan had taken before smiling at Evelyn.

"Sorry I didn't come back to the Perrys' house as I said I would," she said apologetically as she went to join Evelyn and Desmond in the living room.

"For a moment, I thought Bryan left you behind, or maybe you chose not to spend the night here anymore," Evelyn said, and Sonia shook her head.

"I would have given you a call if that were the case. I can't just come and go as I please in your house," Sonia said without her characteristic excitement, and the couple exchanged a look.

"Did you both fight again? I thought Bryan went over to reconcile with you?" Desmond asked, wondering why they both seemed upset.

"We will be fine. He's just upset," Sonia assured them with a forced smile as she picked a finger of banana from the bowl of fruits Evelyn and Desmond were eating.

The couple exchanged a look, "If you don't mind me asking, were you able to resolve the issue with him?" Desmond asked as he watched Sonia peel the banana and take a bite from it.

Sonia chewed slowly as she turned to them, and after swallowing, she went on to explain all that had transpired in her apartment with Derek, as well as the whole conflict thing and how Jeff had been behind it.

By the time she was done, both Evelyn and Desmond sighed, "Bryan meant to help," Evelyn said weakly.

"And I appreciate that," Sonia said with a nod as she ate what was left of the banana.

"But?" Desmond asked, knowing that Sonia had something else to say.

"Bryan doesn't trust me. And the way he handled the entire situation scares me. I don't want to believe that if Jeff had not called, Bryan would have handled things this way," Sonia said, and Desmond nodded.

"You are right to feel that way, but you should also not forget that he came to find you to resolve things even before he found out Jeff was behind it," Desmond reminded her.

"I'm not forgetting that," Sonia said with a sigh as her thoughts drifted to her earlier conversation with Bryan.

She had asked him to show her the message he had received from Derek, and after reading it, she sighed.

Derek had no doubt gone too far, especially with the last line about missing the feel of her cunt around his cock, but there was nothing in the text that wasn't true. But all that was in the past. And the difference was that she was in love with Bryan and was committed to him. She had no plans of getting bored or breaking up.

His jealousy was understandable, but his reaction wasn't. She couldn't get over the fact that he had confronted her that way about it when he could easily have raised it as a discussion.

"I'm sorry..."

"What are you sorry about, Bryan?" Sonia interrupted as she returned his phone to him.

"For setting this up and for reacting the way I did," Bryan said, and Sonia shook her head.

"I think we might be going too fast," Sonia had told Bryan after they were both seated in her apartment.

"What do you mean by that?" Bryan had asked with a frown, not wanting to believe she was implying what he thought she meant.

"You heard me. I think maybe it's time we started to take things slowly if we want this relationship to work," Sonia said, and Bryan raised a brow.

"By slowly, what do you mean?" Bryan asked as he watched her.

"Maybe we shouldn't move in together..."

"For Christ's sake, Sonia! I made one mistake. One mistake. And I've apologized for it. I'm sorry. You can't just make such a decision on the spur of the moment like this," Bryan said as he rose from his seat and went to her, but Sonia shook her head.

"I'm not mad at you... No, maybe I'm mad. I'm not mad that you tried to create conflict. I'm mad at the way you handled this situation. But I'm not making this decision because I'm mad. I'm making this decision because I love you, and I want us to work..."

"This doesn't make sense, Sonia," Bryan cut in.

"I think we barely know and understand each other well enough to move in together. I think it's best we go slowly. I can visit, or you do the visiting, and then we go out on dates and get to learn more about each other," Sonia said, and Bryan shook his head.

"I don't agree with you. I don't think this is best for our relationship. I've been able to spend this much time with you because I've not been working. What do you think will happen when I resume work, and I have to travel around a lot? We planned that we would live together and travel together to the movie sites, remember?" Bryan asked, but Sonia shrugged.

"I don't want us to do that anymore. If what we have is important to you, I'm sure you will find a way," Sonia said, and Bryan looked at her incredulously.

"Are you fucking kidding me? You are being selfish right now; do you know that? Why do you always call the shots in our relationship this way without discussing it with me?"

"Always?" Sonia asked, standing up to face him. This was the second time he was using that word, and it was pissing her off.

"Yes. This is not the first time you are making a decision that involves us on your own without seeking my opinion or caring about my feelings," Bryan said angrily.

"Did you seek my opinion before talking to Jeff about creating a conflict in our relationship?" Sonia asked, equally angry.

"That was different! You said you wanted drama. You hinted that our relationship was boring and there was no fun thing for you to write about. Jeff may have gone about it the wrong way, but I did that to help you with your story! That is different from breaking up with me in the middle of a reality shoot because you want to go meet Lucy!" Bryan yelled at her.

"You have no right to bring that up in this discussion. You understood why I did that. I did that for you!" Sonia snapped at him, hating that he was dragging Lucy into their argument again.

"Did I ask you to? Did you ask me if that was what I wanted? Is this what being in a relationship means to you?" Bryan asked, completely angry now.

"I can't believe that we are back to this subject. I can't wrap my head around the fact that I'm dating someone so childish and immature who can not let go of the past..."

"Childish and immature?" Bryan asked in a suddenly calm voice.

"Yes! You heard that right. If you don't want to be addressed as childish and immature, then you shouldn't act so childish and immature. I see no reason you keep bringing up Lucy or the fact that I ended things with you that way. I think this is more reason we need a break from each other. I maintain my stand that moving in together is a bad idea at this stage of our relationship," Sonia said, and Bryan gave her a nod.

"Have it your way then. Are you going back home with me now, or do you intend to stay back here now?" Bryan asked, and Sonia's brows pulled together when she realized she had hurt his feelings.

"Bryan..."

"Meet me in the car in five minutes if you're coming with me. If you don't show up, I'll assume you're not coming," Bryan said, and without waiting for her to say another word, he walked out of the apartment.

Sonia sighed as she looked at the door. She shouldn't have called him childish and immature. That had been uncalled for, regardless of her anger. She had hurt his ego.

She had no plans of changing her stance concerning moving in with him, but maybe she needed to let him calm down before talking to him about it again. She had to make him see reasons with her and understand why they needed to take things slowly.

Once Sonia joined him outside and got into the car, he started the car and drove off.

"Bryan, I shouldn't have called you childish and immature. I'm sorry," Sonia said, but Bryan didn't spare her a glance as he drove.

"Babe, I'm sorry," Sonia said, but Bryan remained quiet through the hour-long drive, and once he parked the car in front of their family house, he got out of the car without saying a word to her, and went inside the house.

Sonia sighed as she forced a smile and looked at Desmond, who was watching her with concern, "I'm fine. You don't have to look at me with such worried eyes," Sonia assured him before facing Evelyn.

"So, how was your visit? I hope you enjoyed yourself with Janet?" Sonia asked as she picked a slice of apple and plopped it into her mouth, wanting them to discuss something else other than herself.

"About that," Evelyn said as she sat up and looked at Sonia with interest.

"Did you know Janet has a twin sister?" Evelyn asked curiously, and Sonia bobbed her head.

"Janet told you about her? You must be pretty close. Lucy said she never likes to talk about her," Sonia said as she chewed, and Evelyn sighed.

"Janet and Andrew plan to return to Ludus tomorrow. I think we should return as well, but Desmond says he's tired of getting on the plane again," Evelyn said, and Sonia frowned.

"Why are they going back to Ludus, and why do you want to go there too? Did something happen to Lucy?" Sonia asked with a frown.

"Not Lucy. Harry. Janet's twin sister is Harry's mom...."

"What?" Sonia asked in surprise, almost choking on the apple she had just swallowed.

"Sara is Harry's mom?" She asked with surprised eyes, and Evelyn gave her a nod as she went on to tell her everything Janet had told them as well as what she had heard directly from Lucy.

"Candace? Does that mean Candace is the missing daughter Jade was trying to help Sara find? Does Jade know about this yet? Is she aware that Harry is Sara's son?" Sonia asked, wondering what was going on and why Lucy hadn't bothered to tell her about it when they had spoken the previous night.

"Jade was trying to help Sara find her missing daughter?" Evelyn asked curiously, and when Sonia gave her a nod, Evelyn exchanged a look with Desmond.

"We should call Jade, so she doesn't tell Sara about...."

"I'm sure she knows everything already since Candace is probably with Harry and his dad by now," Evelyn said, and Sonia frowned.

So she was the last to hear about everything? Both Lucy and Jade had kept everything from her while she had been trying to help the both of them, Sonia thought with a sigh feeling disappointed at Lucy for keeping secrets from her when she never kept anything from her.

Sonia's thoughts drifted to Matt, and she wondered if he was aware of this and what he would think when he found out that Candace was Harry's twin sister.

"I wonder if Jade travelled with Candace," Evelyn said with a worried frown as she looked at her husband.

"Can't we go? Please. Harry is our boy too, and Jamal is our baby. This will be tough on them all, including Janet. I think we should be there for them," Evelyn pleaded, and Desmond sighed.

"Fine. I will arrange for us to leave tomorrow," Desmond said as he rose from his seat, and Evelyn smiled at him as he leaned forward to kiss her forehead.

"Thank you, Des. I love you."

"I love you more," Desmond said as he headed for the stairs, but paused when Bryan suddenly headed down the stairs looking like he was going out.

"Where are you going boy?" Desmond asked, since it was past 8 PM already.

"Out. Don't wait up for me," Bryan called to whoever cared to listen as he headed for the door and Sonia rose to follow him.

"Bryan!" She called as she hurried after him but Bryan said nothing as he got into his car and drove off before she could get to him.

Sonia sighed as she watched him leave. She wished they could go with Evelyn and Desmond to Ludus, but she needed to conclude her business with her editor, meet with the movie producer and travel out to visit her mother's graveside as she had planned.

She wished Bryan didn't choose to act up right now.

#### Chapter 478 Kid Sister

Once Harry stepped inside the room, both Candace and Aaron looked at him, and he paused, "I could come back later if you need priv..."

"Don't be silly," Aaron scolded with disapproval while Candace looked at Harry with a guarded expression.

She didn't require any introductions to know who he was. The man standing before her was the person she had never met but had heard so much about from the staff at Tom's house during her stay there, and also Jade.

The man she had now been told was her biological brother. Her twin brother. How did he feel about everything? It was one thing for Aaron to be happy about having back his missing child, as most sane parents would be, but what about Harry? Was he glad to see her?

He was a successful and influential man like Tom, and she knew reputation meant a lot to people like him. How did he feel about having a twin sister with a history like hers? She mused as she looked back at Harry, who was quietly observing her.

She was strikingly beautiful, with brown eyes like his and a short crop of black hair like Jade's.

Looking at her, Harry could see the resemblance between her and Sara's younger self. He had spent over twenty-six years looking at the picture and talking to it since he was old enough to speak, so he knew every angle and curve on that face. It was etched in his memory, and he doubted that he would have missed the strong resemblance had he met her before now.

Aaron watched silently as both his children stared at each other, and he wondered what was going on in their minds and if he should say anything to lighten the air.

Harry called himself to order when he observed Candace's posture and realized that his silence was making her uncomfortable. He noticed that she seemed cautious, like she didn't know what to expect, and then he remembered everything Jade had told him in the car about her fears and concerns about being accepted.

"Welcome home, Candace," Harry said with outstretched arms, surprising Candace, who looked at him with uncertainty, but before she could decide whether or not to embrace him, he covered the distance between them and hugged her to Aaron's relief.

Harry was taller and bigger than her, so he covered her up entirely while Candace stood stiffly in his embrace as he held her to himself. She had received so many hugs in one day from different people, more than she had received in her adult life.

The only people who hugged her this way were Andy and Jamal, but today Jade had embraced her, Tom had done so too, and then Lucy, and then she had embraced Aaron, and now Harry was embracing again. She had never felt so welcomed and accepted.

"I'm sorry it took so long to learn of your existence and find you," Harry murmured against her hair as he held her, and Candace found herself tearing up once again.

"We would have done everything we could to find you if we so much as suspected that she lied," Harry said, seeing no need to let her know that their father had kept everything away from him.

Aaron tried to stifle his sob as he watched them but could not, and Harry pulled away from Candace. They both turned to him, "Don't you think you've cried enough for one day? Even I didn't cry this much as a kid," Harry said in a light tone, and Candace smiled as she blinked back her tears while Aaron looked at them both apologetically.

"I'm sorry. I'm so sorry for everything," Aaron cried as he tried unsuccessfully to control his happy tears at seeing his babies together.

"Why don't we give you some time to rest and pull yourself together?" Harry suggested, and before Aaron could protest, Candace nodded in agreement, thinking that he needed a break.

"I will get Candace something to drink at the cafeteria and get acquainted with her, and then we will return when you have put yourself together. We don't want her to think you are a crybaby. First impressions matter, remember?" Harry asked in a jocular tone as he handed a handkerchief to his father, and Aaron gave him a wobbly smile.

"You are doing so well, so just hang in there a little more," Harry encouraged, and Aaron gave him a nod, thankful that he had an empathetic son like Harry. He had no idea how he would have survived all of this if Harry wasn't as open-minded, caring, and forgiving as he was.

"I will be back," Candace told Aaron before letting Harry lead her out of the room.



Immediately the door opened, Tom and the others who were standing some feet away from there turned in their direction.

"Mommy!" Jamal said, running up to meet her, and she kissed his forehead.

"I will be back shortly so wait a bit, alright?" she asked, and he bobbed his head before looking up at Harry who was staring down at him.

"Are you alright now?" Jamal asked with concern, and Harry smiled at him.

"Yes, I feel better. Thank you for watching over my dad," Harry said as he ruffled Jamal's hair, making Jamal brush his hair back in position.

He couldn't understand why all the adults liked to ruffle his hair. The only person he could permit to do so was Lucy and he wished the others would keep their hands to themselves.

"We will be at the cafeteria," Harry informed the others, but his gaze was on Jade.

Jade exchanged a look with Candace before giving Harry a nod, and they all watched as they walked away.

Once they got to the cafeteria, Harry led her to the spot where he had sat with Lucy earlier and held out a seat for her before taking the chair opposite her.

"Jamal is a nice kid," Harry said conversationally and she smiled as Jade had told him she would. He had said talking about Jamal always brightened her and got her attention.

"I've been receiving compliments from everyone all day," she said with a proud smile, and Harry smiled back.

"Jade told me about his father's death and the package he left you. I know it has been a tough day, and coming here must not be easy for you. Thank you for agreeing to come despite everything," Harry said, and Candace gave him a nod.

"I wish there was something I could do to make up for all the pain you must have endured all these years. I wish she had given me away and not you," Harry said, wanting to make her understand that he shared her pain.

"I don't think you should wish for something like that," she said with a slight frown as she blinked back her tears.

"I really do wish so. I know you didn't live a pleasant life. I understand that things would have been tough for me had I been the one she abandoned, but I would have preferred it to you going through everything you did," Harry said, and a tear dropped from Candace's eyes at his kind words.

This wasn't what she had expected from him. But then again, it was Aaron who had raised him. It made her feel even more heartbroken to know that she had such a warm and caring family but had been denied all this warmth thanks to Sara.

"Jade said you thought your mother was dead until today. You must have been very shocked to learn the truth," Candace said, and Harry sighed.

"I am. But it is nothing compared to how shocked you must be," Harry said, and Candace didn't miss how he was trying to make it all about her.

"I want to hear about it if you don't mind," Candace said, and Harry gave her a nod.

Knowing that his initial plan not to tell her that had been ruined by Jade already, so he decided to open up to her.

He told her how his father had lied about having a perfect wife and how he had bought her gifts every year, claiming that the gifts were from his late mother.

"Why didn't he tell you the truth about her?" Candace asked curiously since she hadn't been able to ask Aaron about it.

Harry sighed as he told her about their father and how he was abandoned by his mother too. Harry also told her the story about how their father had met and married Sara and how she had abandoned them after stealing from him, leaving Aaron broken.

Tears dropped from Candace's eyes, and she smiled as she listened to Harry. All she could see in his story was a father's love for his son. Aaron was indeed a precious man, and she was proud to know that despite being born by a heartless being like Sara, someone like Aaron was her father.

By the time he was done, Candace sighed, "I guess, seeing as you only just found out about her existence today, you never met her in all these years?" Candace asked since she had been curious to know if Sara's maternal instinct had been roused even once in all these years for her to want to see her son.

Harry told her about his brief meeting with her in front of the restaurant, and he also told her about her meeting with their father and Lucy and let her listen to the voice recording Lucy had made. When he was done, Candace looked at him with disbelief.

"Is she even human, or does she lack a brain and a heart? You mean she had the guts to threaten him despite all she has done? She even showed up without the least feeling of remorse?" Candace asked, her blood boiling with anger, and Harry nodded.

"Now I feel more sorry for Aaron. He doesn't deserve this," Candace said with a frown, and Harry nodded in agreement.

Harry knew he didn't have to let her in on all of this immediately, but he wanted her to know everything so they could get that out of the way. She needed to know who her family was and who the enemy was.

"I don't suppose you knew you had a twin sister before today?" she asked, and Harry shook his head.

"But now that I think of it, I think he celebrated your birthday every year too. I once saw him blowing off some candles on a cake in the middle of the night on one of my birthdays, and when I asked him why, he said he was having his own private celebration. He might have done that every year. I don't think he ever stopped thinking about the daughter he thought he lost," Harry said, thinking about how Lucy had said she saw him crying in his sleep and asking for his daughter.

"What is your plan, Candace?" Harry asked as he watched her, and Candace frowned.

"What plan?" she asked in confusion.

"I'm sorry I'm asking you this so soon when you only just showed up. But there is a lot I need to do, and I need to get this out of the way. I need to know if you are willing to be with us," Harry said, but Candace looked at him with a blank expression.

"I hope you understand that my fath... Our father did not abandon you," Harry continued after correcting himself.

"I understand that you have the right to say you want no part in any of this, and you want to continue to live alone with Jamal. But I'm hoping you won't do that. I'm hoping you will stay back and complete our family. For both our sake and yours," Harry said, and Candace teared up.

"You don't mind having a sister like me? Are you not worried about what people will say?"

"As long as we reach an agreement right now that I'm the older twin, I don't think I care," Harry said, wanting to make her smile, and her lips trembled as she managed a smile.

"Shouldn't you be worried about your reputation? You know about everything, don't you?" she asked, and Harry gave her a nod, not pretending to misunderstand what she meant.

"So are you asking me to choose between my reputation and my family?" he asked with a slightly raised brow, but she looked away, unable to hide her insecurity and shame.

Harry stood up and went to her seat, then placed both hands on her shoulder and gently made her stand up so she would face him.

"You are much more valuable to our father and me than my reputation or anything else. And my reputation is a little price to pay in return for having you and Jamal," Harry said, and a tear dropped from Candace's eyes.

"So what do you say to taking your place in the family, kid sister?" Harry asked as he brushed away her tears.

"It will take some time for me to get used to this..."

"Me too. But we are not in a hurry," Harry assured her, and this time it was Candace who embraced him.

Harry sighed as he felt her arms go around him, and he hugged her back. He had been unsure how to approach her or what to say to her, but he was glad that Jade had made things easier for them.

Jade, who had followed to watch them from a distance, smiled when she saw them embrace each other, and she let out a sigh of relief.

She looked down at her phone when it started ringing with a call from Sonia, and she received the call when she remembered that she had a score to settle with Sonia.

#### Chapter 479 More Conflict

Jade walked away from her hidden spot as she received Sonia's phone call, "I was going to call you..."

"Where are you right now?" Sonia asked, interrupting Jade.

Sonia had planned to give Lucy a call, but seeing as Lucy had not called her all day despite the text she had sent her and remembering what Evelyn said about Lucy being at the hospital with Harry's dad, she decided to first speak with Jade and wait for Lucy to call her.

She was trying to distract herself from worrying about Bryan, who had left the house an hour ago and was not taking his calls.

"I'm in Ludus. Why didn't you tell me that Sara was Lucy's aunt? Or were you not aware of that fact?" Jade asked, and Sonia, who had called because she was angry that both Jade and Lucy had kept everything from her, paused.

She didn't miss the annoyance in Jade's tone, "How was I supposed to know that person was Lucy's aunt? Am I supposed to remember the name of Lucy's aunt, who I've never met in my life?" Sonia asked defensively as she sat on the bed, not wanting to tell Jade that Lucy had asked her not to tell her.

Knowing the kind of person Jade was, she suspected that Jade would feel even more offended if she told her that, and at this point in her life, all she wanted was peace. No more conflict.

Jade paused, "Does that mean you had no idea that Sara is Lucy's aunt?"

"You heard me. I was surprised to hear from Evelyn that Sara is Harry's mom and also Janet's twin sister," Sonia said, thinking that at least one part was true and would sound believable. She could only hope that Lucy wouldn't tell Jade otherwise.

Jade's brows pulled together, "Wait, my mom is aware of all this?" Jade asked in surprise, and Sonia explained how they had gone to visit Lucy's parents and Janet had told Evelyn about Sara, and then they had both spoken to Lucy over the phone.

"Yes. And I'm also surprised that you didn't tell me," Sonia said, wanting to turn the tables on Jade, but unfortunately, Jade wasn't done yet.

"You mean Lucy told her mom but did not tell you, who happens to be her best friend anything?" Jade asked in disbelief.

Although it stung Sonia to hear the disbelief in Jade's voice, knowing that her best friend had kept all of this away from her, she wasn't going to show it.

Sonia let out an awkward bark of laughter, "You know how Lucy is. She prefers to mind her business and not talk about other people's business. She must have told her mom because Sara is her mom's sister," Sonia said dismissively.

"Still, you are her best friend. How can she..."

"I don't blame her for it. It's Lucy, and I understand her. I'm sure she would have come around to tell me eventually," Sonia said, knowing that despite how she felt about Lucy keeping this from her, Lucy would have eventually told her about it.

"I can't be as understanding as you are, Sonia. I was pissed at her. I'm still trying not to be angry. She was on the phone with us for almost an hour while we talked about Candace, and she knew! She knew there was every possibility of Candace being Harry's sister, yet she kept it to herself. She had every information I needed, but she took all of mine and didn't give back any!" Jade said, sounding very annoyed.

"People are different, Jade. You can't expect Lucy to be like you. It was your decision to give her all the information you had. She didn't force them out of you," Sonia reminded her, choosing to defend Lucy despite her own annoyance.

"No, she didn't need to force them out of me! I gave her all those information because I trust her and consider her family! I wouldn't have given such information to an outsider!" Jade said, and Sonia sighed.

She partially agreed that Jade had a point. But even though she could understand what Jade was saying, Lucy had always been this way, and even if she didn't sometimes like it, she understood Lucy.

"I'm sure she didn't mean to withhold any information from you or hurt your feeli..."

"This is not about hurting me or my feelings. Information is important. She claims to follow the rules and not involve in other people's business, but she doesn't have any problem breaking the rules or prying information out of others when it suits her. I find that offensive and hypocritical. What do you think would have happened had I not told Lucy or Tom anything? What would have happened had Tom not opened up to me in time that Sara was Harry's mom? Don't you think I would have handed Candace to Sara on a platter before finding out anything? Everything would have been ruined, and it would have been Lucy's fault!" Jade said in annoyance, and Sonia scowled.

Why did it seem like Bryan and Jade had issues with Lucy? She couldn't remember Lucy doing anything serious to offend them, so why was Jade so upset?

"No. It wouldn't have been Lucy's fault. I don't think it's fair to her to say something like that. Lucy did what she thought was best, and I'm sure she handled the situation the best way she could. She probably thought she couldn't tell anyone else about it until Harry and Aaron knew everything. Besides, your brother didn't tell you anything either, so why are you only blaming Lucy?" Sonia asked, beginning to feel irritated by Jade's annoyance.

"I don't understand why you all keep defending her," Jade muttered.

"Because she is the kind of friend you would love to have in your corner. Someone that doesn't mind displeasing even her best friend to do what she believes is right for you. Lucy would have handled this the same way if you were in Harry's shoes, and I'm sure you would have appreciated it. It would be annoying to learn about something like this after everyone else has heard of it, don't you think? You should get over your annoyance," Sonia said in a placatory tone, and Jade scowled since she knew that Sonia had a point.

"I'm trying to. But as her best friend, I think you should have a conversation with her about being so god-damned tight-lipped. We are," Jade said, and Sonia rolled her eyes.

"Lucy is going to remain Lucy. Hate her or love her," Sonia said, and Jade sighed.

"Whatever. How are my folks?" Jade asked, changing the subject.

"They plan on flying down tomorrow with Lucy's parents. What's happening over there?" Sonia asked curiously, and Jade filled her in on everything.

"Nice. I wish I could come down too, but I have some business I need to settle. Do me a favor and ask Lucy to call me when she is done playing hero, alright?" Sonia said, and before Jade could respond, Sonia's phone beeped with an incoming call.

"I gat to go now. I have to take this phone call," Sonia said when she saw the call was from Jeff.

"Alright. Talk to you later," Jade said and hung up the call so that Sonia could take her phone call.

"Hey, Jeff!"

"You need to get down to the station at once, Sonia. Bryan has got himself into a fix," Jeff said in a worried tone, and Sonia sprang up from the bed where she had been seated.

"What happened?" She asked in an alarmed tone.

"He was arrested," Jeff said as he ran his fingers through his hair, hating the situation he had gotten them all into. He wished he had talked things through with Bryan before getting Derek involved. He had messed things up while trying to help.

"Why? Where is he?" She asked as she quickly got off the bed and picked up her clothes which she had taken off some minutes ago.

"I don't know the details, but I received a call from Derek. I think he got into a fight with Derek and..."

"Derek? For goodness sake! Text me the location," Sonia said as she hung up the call and hurriedly got dressed. By the time she was done dressing up, Jeff had texted her the location.

As she ran down the stairs, she noticed that Evelyn and Desmond had retired to their bedroom, and not wanting to bother them, she quickly ordered a cab as she left the house.

Once the cab stopped in front of the police station, Sonia didn't miss some journalists and paparazzi who were standing around with their cameras.

"Shit!" She swore under her breath. She wasn't dressed in disguise, and everyone would know she was the one.

Why did she keep forgetting that Bryan was a celebrity and normal fights like this that guys got into were bound to be blown out of proportion if someone like Bryan indulged in it? Bryan couldn't afford another scandal. They both couldn't.

"Are you not going to get down?" The cab driver asked impatiently, and Sonia murmured an apology as she took out some money notes from her handbag and handed it to him before getting out of the car.

Without making eye contact with anyone, Sonia bolted for the door before anyone could spot her or recognize her.

She ran into one of the cops at the door, and he placed a hand on her shoulder to steady her, "Are you being chased? You can't run into a station this way," he said when he looked behind her to be sure she was alone and was not being chased, and he noticed that the only people around were the journalists and some paparazzi.

"I'm sorry. I heard my boyfriend was arrested," she said impatiently as she craned her neck to look behind him.

"Who is your boyfriend? He asked as he took a closer look at her.

"Bryan Hank," she explained, and his eyes twitched with recognition.

"Oh! You can go in then," he said as he stepped away from her path, and Sonia quickly walked in.

Immediately Sonia walked inside, she sighted Derek seated opposite a cop.

His face looked a mess. His lips were swollen and split, and he had a cut above his right eyebrow, amongst other bruises.

She also saw Bryan seated some feet away from him, but his hands were cuffed, and he had a glare in his eyes as he looked at Derek, who had a smirk on his face.

"Babe," Sonia called as she approached him, and Bryan's gaze shifted to her, but his expression was blank as he turned his gaze away from her once again.

"What happened?" Sonia asked once she got to where he was and took the seat beside him.

"Why are you here?" Bryan asked with disapproval. He had not called anyone to bail him, so how did she get to be there?

"What do you mean? Am I not supposed to be here if you're here?" Sonia asked, annoyed at Bryan's attitude. He was taking things too far and it was beginning to piss her off.

"I'm pressing charges against him. He hit me," Derek said with a malicious smile, and Sonia rose from her seat to face Derek.

"Don't speak with him," Bryan told her quietly.

"Why? Are you too jealous to even watch her talk to me?" Derek taunted.

"Shut it!" Sonia snapped at Derek.

"You can't press charges against him. Else I'm going to press charges for the photos you sent to him," Sonia threatened, and Bryan gritted his teeth.

"I don't have a problem with that. I'm sure lover boy here is going to face more embarrassment than me," Derek assured Sonia with an evil grin.

"Sonia, go back home. I can handle this," Bryan told Sonia coldly, but she ignored both Bryan and Derek and went to the cop who was seated with Derek.

This whole thing was mostly her fault and she felt responsible for it. If she had not wanted a conflict they wouldn't be in the middle of one by now. She needed to resolve this as quickly and quietly as she could before it got out of hand.

"What can I do to get Bryan out of here?" Sonia asked, and the cop tilted his head to Derek.

"Settle with him. Mr. Hank has refused to give his statement or even apologize to him. He has to settle with him," the cop explained, and Sonia looked at Derek.

"Let's speak in private," She told Derek, and Bryan glared at her.

"Sonia, stay out of this. Don't do any damned thing!" Bryan growled, but Sonia didn't spare him a glance as she stepped aside with Derek.

"Why are you doing this? What do you want?" Sonia asked, and Derek shrugged.

"I need an apology from your boyfriend. And he has to take care of my medical bill and compensate me financially. Everyone saw what he did to me. The pictures and videos should be everywhere by now," Derek gloated.

"What happened?" Sonia asked as she looked at the wounds on him.

"He came to the club where I was hanging out with some friends, and he attacked me," Derek said, and Sonia arched a brow.

"How did he know you were there?" She asked, recalling how Bryan had hurried out of the house earlier.

"He texted me asking to meet up," Derek said, and Sonia sighed, knowing that Derek must have done something to trigger Bryan.

"Let it go. I will take care of your medical expense and compensate you financially," Sonia offered, and Derek chuckled.

"You care about him, don't you?"

"That is none of your business. Stop messing with him, or else I will be forced to stoop to your level, and I can assure you it won't be pretty," Sonia threatened, holding his gaze.

Derek scowled, "Whatever. I will text you my account details," Derek said before returning to the cop's desk.

"You are lucky to have such a sweet girlfriend," Derek said with a suggestive grin as he walked past Bryan.

"I've settled with his girlfriend. I won't be pressing any charges," Derek said, and the cop standing beside Bryan uncuffed him.

"I will text you soon, Sony," Derek said with a wink before walking away.

"Let's go home," Sonia said as she returned to Bryan's side, but he didn't say a word to her as he stormed away.

Once he stepped out of the door, the journalists and paparazzi who were gathered around Derek hurriedly moved to him, taking his photos and throwing questions at him asking if what Derek had said about being Sonia's ex-boyfriend was true, and if that was the reason he had attacked him.

Bryan ignored them as he fought his way through their midst and got into the first cab he saw, leaving Sonia to find her own way home.

#### Chapter 480 No Hard Feelings

When Candace and Harry returned to Aaron's room, they met everyone laughing at something Jamal was demonstrating, and a smile lit up Aaron's eyes when he saw them.

"Jamal was just showing us the role he played in his school's play. He's a terrific actor," Aaron told them.

"He once auditioned to be a Disney child actor. He wants to be an actor," Candace said, and Jamal shook his head.



"Not anymore, mom. Now I want to be like Tom," Jamal announced, making them laugh while Candace looked at him with interest.

"Oh, really? Why that all of a sudden?"

"He has lots of money, cars, and Lucy. I want to have all that too," Jamal said, and the room erupted with laughter.

"I see," Candace said with an amused smile.

"Lucy, thanks for staying with him. It's late now. You guys can go home. I will continue from here," Harry said, and Lucy nodded as she rose from her seat.

"Although my schedule is tight for tomorrow, I will find time to stop by and see you," Lucy told Aaron as she leaned over and kissed his cheeks.

"Thank you for everything, Lucy," Aaron said, looking at her with eyes filled with gratitude.

"I didn't do anything special," Lucy said before looking at Candace.

"I don't suppose you're coming with us?" Lucy asked, and before Candace could respond, Harry and Aaron responded.

"She needs to get some rest."

"You can go with them. You look exhausted. I'm sure you need to rest," Aaron said, and Candace smiled.

"I will see you tomorrow," Candace promised, and Aaron smiled back at her as he gave her a nod.

"I will also see you tomorrow, right, mom?" Jamal asked his mother, and she gave him a nod while Aaron chuckled.

"I hope I get to see you tomorrow. You make this place fun," Aaron said, and Jamal grinned at him before going to stand beside Tom, whose hands he held.

Tom looked down at Jamal with a slightly raised brow, and he chuckled when Jamal grinned at him.

"Thank you, Tom," Aaron said, and Tom waved it off.

"Just get well quickly. I need a clear-headed Harry by Monday," Tom said, and Aaron smiled while Harry scowled.

"I will see them off," Harry told his dad as he escorted Tom, Lucy, Candace, and Jamal out of the room.

"Where is Jade?" Harry asked when he noticed that she seemed to be missing.

"She is probably around here somewhere," Tom said, seeing no reason to tell Harry that Jade had not returned since after following him and Candace.

Before Harry could say anything, they saw Jade rounding the bend ahead of them.

"The party is over already?" Jade asked as she approached them.

"You can start yours," Tom said, and she made a face at him.

"I'm staying back with my dad. You should go home with them," Harry said, and Jade rolled her eyes.

"I thought we were done with this already? I'm not leaving," Jade said before shifting her gaze to Lucy.

"Sonia wants you to call her," she said, and Lucy gave her a nod, not knowing what else to say to Jade since it seemed Jade was still not happy with her.

"Are you aware that the folks are coming back to Ludus tomorrow?" Jade asked Tom as they all walked out of the hospital, and he raised a brow.

"Mom and dad?"

"Yep. And the Perrys too. At least that's what Sonia told me," Jade said, and Tom shook his head as he turned to Lucy.

"No one said a word to me. Were you aware?" Tom asked Lucy, and she shook her head.

Seeing the annoyance in his eyes, she could tell what he was thinking. The house was about to be filled up again, and he was yet to spend enough time with her. Lucy sighed softly as she rubbed his arm.

"Why are they all coming over when they only just left?" Harry asked, and Jade raised a brow.

"Why else do you think? To see you all, of course. You are family, and so are Candace and Jamal. Besides, Jamal has always been their baby, and I'm sure they can't wait to see him," Jade said, and Jamal looked at his mother curiously.

"Grandma Evelyn and Grandma Janet are coming?" He asked, and his face split into a happy smile when his mother gave him a nod.

Candace could only imagine how excited Jamal would be when he finds out he is related to Lucy, Janet, and Aaron. He had always envied his peers who had large families.

Tom exchanged a look with Harry when they got to the parking lot where his car was parked, "Call me if you need me," Tom said, and Harry scowled at him.

"When I needed you to get your sister out of my house..."

"I'm still standing right here, Harry," Jade said, poking his sides softly, making Candace and Lucy laugh softly.

"I had no idea," Harry said dryly, and Jade smiled at him sweetly.

"You weren't complaining when you kissed..."

"Shut up, Jade!" Harry pleaded through gritted teeth, and the others laughed at his embarrassment while Tom shook his head at Harry.

"You too, Tom. Shut up," Harry said, knowing that Tom was going to tease him.

"I didn't even say anything yet," Tom said with a chuckle.

"I don't want to hear a word. Get into your car and take them home. There's a kid here. Don't make me force you," Harry said as he opened the door for Candace and Jamal to get into the car, and Tom chuckled.

"We will have that talk later," Tom assured him.

"Can I have a word with you?" Lucy asked Jade, and she shrugged as they both moved away from the car.

"I know you are offended by my actions. I'm sorry. I don't want this to cause any strain in our relationship," Lucy said, and Jade sighed.

"It's not like I don't understand your reasons. I do, and maybe deep down, a part of me admires it. But I just can't help my annoyance right now. I'm trying to be chill with it, so don't let my attitude bother you. It will pass," Jade said, and Lucy sighed.

"Are you sure?"

"Positive. No hard feelings," Jade assured her as she embraced her, and Lucy sighed in relief.

"Thanks."

"I may have called you some unpleasant names, though..." Jade said with an awkward smile and shrugged.

"I'm sure you did," Lucy said as they returned to join Tom and Harry, who were conversing while waiting for them.

"Sorry for keeping you guys waiting," Lucy said apologetically as she got into the front passenger seat, but just as Tom was about to get into the car, his phone rang.

He paused and raised a brow when he saw the call was from Bryan's manager, while Harry and Jade, who were still waiting to see them leave, looked at Tom with interest.

"Hello, Jeff! It's been a while," Tom greeted politely.

"I'm sorry to bother you by this time, but I thought you should know that Bryan is involved in some scandal, and it's all over the internet..."

"For Christ's sake, when do I ever get a break?" Tom hissed angrily, surprising both the people in the car and Harry and Jade, who were still standing close to him.

"I think Bryan has caused a mess," Jade, who was standing beside Harry, whispered to him as they watched Tom run his fingers through his hair in frustration.

"What did he do this time to get his name on the news?" Tom asked impatiently while Lucy got out of the car to join him.

"A fight? Are you kidding me? Even a kid would know that this is not the time for such nonsense! He barely just got out of one with Sonia and he is doing this? Bryan should know better! I'm supposed to be introducing him to the shareholders and announcing the creation of the entertainment agency at the first event of the anniversary next week. How the fuck am I supposed to do that if he's involved in such a scandal right now?" Tom barked into the phone in frustration.

Looking at him, Lucy could tell he was at his wit's end. It had been a busy day for him and it seemed like there was not even a moment of reprieve. What could she do to ease his stress? Lucy mused as she approached him.

Harry moved closer to Tom and took the phone from him while Lucy held Tom's hand, "How bad is it?" Harry asked Jeff and listened patiently as Jeff explained the situation.

Jeff didn't need to ask who it was since he knew that the only other person who could be handling Tom's phone was Harry, and he had heard of how scary Harry could be.

"Alright. I will make some phone calls to get the news off the internet. Get over to wherever Bryan is and get him down here as soon as possible," Harry ordered calmly and hung up the call before turning to face Tom.

"Don't worry about it, I will fix it," Harry said, but Tom was too upset to listen to him.

"You have enough on your plate already. Focus on your business, and I will handle this," Tom said, and Harry raised a brow.

"You know better than anyone that I handle things like this faster and better. Besides, I'm also the CEO, so this is my business too. I will take care of this. Go home and get some rest," Harry said as he slapped Tom's back.

Tom looked at Harry for a moment, and Harry grinned at him, "You don't have to thank me. Just say you love me more than Lucy, and we are cool," Harry joked, wanting Tom to smile, and it worked.

"You wish. Make sure you are good. I will see you tomorrow," Tom told him before turning to Lucy, who was standing beside him.

"Let's go home," he said as he led her back to her side of the car and opened the door for her to get in.

"Calm down, Ace," Lucy murmured, and Tom sighed as he kissed her forehead.

"I'm trying. Let's just get home. I'm exhausted," Tom said, and Lucy gave him a nod as she got into the car.

Once he shut the door, Tom went around the car, "Be good, Jade. And talk some sense into that brother of yours," Tom called as he got into the car.

Harry looked into the backseat at Candace and Jamal, "See you two tomorrow," He said with a wave, and they waved back at him before he stepped away from the car and he and Jade watched as Tom drove off.