

Wild Night 651

Chapter 651 Brazen Lucy

As Tom drove the remaining distance to Lucy's apartment, he glanced at her from time to time still stunned by her drunken confession of love and support for him.

Her words kept replaying in his head and the more he thought about it the lighter he felt.

He had thought she had been overdoing it the previous day and was probably pretending to be okay when she wasn't, but after hearing her say this in her drunken state he was more convinced now that she really wasn't going to leave him over this, and for that he was both very relieved and grateful.

Although, as relieved and grateful as he was feeling, he wished she was sober so he could ask her a couple of questions. Like what she meant about loving Dawn as she loved him.

Did that mean she was going to be okay with playing an active role in Dawn's life if she happened to be his daughter? If she was willing to do that by his side, then he didn't think he could ask her for more. He could see she was already compromising and meeting him in the middle.

After he parked the car in front of Lucy's place, he looked inside her handbag for the keys to her door as he decided to open the door first before getting her out of the car to make the process easier.

As he got out of the car and headed for her apartment to open the door, Alicia who was taking a stroll with Jasmine waved at him as they made their way towards him.

"Hello, Tom! It's good to see you," Jasmine greeted with a friendly smile.

"Been a while," Alicia said and Tom smiled at them.

"Same here."

"Well, if you're here to see Lucy, you should know that she is not in. I saw her leave earlier with Sonia. She didn't take her car," Alicia informed Tom making him wonder why she would think he didn't know about his own girlfriend's movement.

"Yeah. I know," Tom said, not bothering to add that Lucy was with him and was crashing in his car.

"By the way, I thought I saw you last night dropping off Lucy. That was you, right?" Alicia asked with a curious smile.

Tom shook his head inwardly, amazed by the fact that even at such a late hour Alicia had been up and had spotted him.

She seemed like the human security camera of the neighborhood monitoring everyone's activities. He wasn't sure he had ever met anyone as nosy as Alicia.

He had always thought that only lonely old folks in such neighborhoods did stuff like that and monitored people's life, but now thanks to Alicia he was learning that it was probably a bad habit that grew on people like Alicia to their old age.

He was very glad he wasn't a permanent resident of this neighborhood and had chosen to settle in a more reserved location, else he wasn't sure how he would live with someone like her in his every day business.

If she wasn't already on his good book before now for looking out for Lucy even if it had been at his expense, he would never let someone like her come close to him.

"Yeah, that was me..."

"Yeah. I figured. I saw the pictures in the newspaper. The anniversary party looked lit. Although, I sort of wish we got an invitation," Alicia said with a wistful smile and a shrug.

"Please don't mind her," Jasmine said apologetically.

"By the way, the interview with Eric is on Tuesday, you know? Eric and I were wondering when you would send the questions..."

"Listen, I wish I could chat with you right now but I really need to get Lucy inside the house. Why don't we talk about it later?" Tom cut in.

"Get her inside? Where is she?" Alicia asked as she looked in the direction of Tom's car, and Jasmine shook her head.

"We are sorry for keeping you! We didn't realize you were together," Jasmine said apologetically as she took Alicia's hand before she could ask Tom any more questions and pulled her away. Scolding her as they left.

Tom shook his head as he opened the door. He had no idea how someone like Jasmine had ended up with a person like Alicia, but they best explained the phrase, 'opposites attract'.

Once he had opened the door, he returned to the car and instead of waking Lucy, he unfastened her seatbelt and carried her out of the car and into her apartment.

"Tom? Where are we going?" Lucy asked as she snuggled closer to him.

"We are in your bedroom," Tom said as he gently lay her down on the bed.

As he tried to straighten up so he could return outside to get his duffel bag and her handbag from the car, Lucy opened her eyes held on to him.

"Don't go."

"I'm not leaving. I only want to get our bags from the car," Tom assured her.

"The bags can wait," Lucy said as she tried to sit up so she could kiss Tom.

"What are you doing?" Tom asked in amusement when Lucy buried her fingers in his hair as she leaned in for a kiss.

"Coming on to you. I told you I want to have sex with you. Alcohol makes me horny," Lucy said, and Tom chuckled.

How could he have forgotten how brazen she could be whenever she was drunk?

"Well, let's see if you can stay awake long enough for me to go lock up the car and get our bags. I'll be back," Tom said as he pulled her close for an intense kiss that left her swooning before leaving the room.

Even though her head was spinning and her legs felt heavy, Lucy got off the bed and quickly stripped off her clothes, leaving only her strapless push up navy blue colored bra and lace thong on.

She listened to be sure that Tom wasn't coming in yet as she quickly took off her lens since it was beginning to irritate eyes, and she fluffed out her hair with her fingers.

When she heard the door open, she dove on the bed, and although the sudden movement made her eyes roll in her head, she adjusted into a sexy pose.

As Tom stepped into her bedroom, he grinned when he saw her blinking rapidly like she was trying to focus, and shook his head as he dropped her handbag on top of her dressing table and his duffel bag on the floor beside it.

"Come here," Lucy said with a sultry drawl before he could speak, and motioned him forward with her forefinger.

"I think I should get you into the shower first," Tom said as he slowly approached the bed, and watched as she reached behind her to unclasp her bra.

"I think you should fuck me first," Lucy countered as she threw her bra aside and started taking off her thong while maintaining eye contact with Tom.

A tent formed in Tom's pants on its own volition as he stopped beside a naked Lucy and he let her take his hand and pull him down to join her on the bed.

Once he was on the bed, Lucy rolled over before he could move and straddled him, "I want to be in charge," Lucy said as she met Tom's desire laden gaze with her heavy eyes.

"Are you sure about that?" Tom asked and she nodded as she undid his shirt's buttons.

"Yeah! That's part of the reason I deliberately got this drunk. I wish I didn't always need to be so tipsy to get this way with you," Lucy murmured as she helped him out of his shirt and undershirt.

"Well, you don't need to be drunk to do it," Tom said as he reached out to touch her hair.

"I'm always in my head and overthinking things when I'm sober. It's easier to loosen up with alcohol because I can just blame any mistakes I make on alcohol," Lucy said with a giggle that made Tom smile.

So, it was deliberate, Tom mused as he watched her unfasten his belt. What she said made sense since she was the type to forget most of the stuff she did when drunk after she became sober.

"You don't have to be worried about making mistakes with me. I've made my fair share of mistakes with you," Tom said, and Lucy wrinkled her nose.

"You've not made any sexual mistakes. I'm not so experienced yet," she reminded him as she unzipped his trouser, and Tom sat up so he could take off his trouser.

"Don't tell me you really think you lack experience. I think you're doing great," Tom said, making conversation with her even if he knew she probably wouldn't remember most of the stuff they talked about.

Tom sucked in a breath and groaned when she grabbed his cock through his boxer and squeezed on the cap softly.

"You know the advantage my place has over yours?" Lucy asked as she helped him take off his boxer so he could be just as naked as she was.

"Tell me," Tom said when he noticed the naughty gleam in her eyes.

"Privacy. We can both moan and scream down the roof if we want to and no one would hear or bother us," Lucy said with a grin, as she lowered herself on him so that she could kiss his nipples.

Tom's cock twitched as she kissed and sucked on his nipple, and Lucy's hand went down to grab it so she could give him a handjob as she continued to tease his nipples.

Tom pulled her up so she was straddling him and he covered her nipple with his lips, making her moan loudly as he licked and sucked on it, circling his tongue around her pink areola.

As he sucked on her nipple, his right hand found its way between her legs and he wasn't surprised to feel her wetness.

Lucy moaned wildly as his fingers connected with her clitoris and even though she had said she wanted to be in charge, she couldn't bring herself to stop him from touching her.

She focused on kissing his neck and nibbling his ears as he pleased her with his lips and fingers.

"Fuck! I want you inside me, now," Lucy said breathlessly when she realized she was at the edge of her first orgasm.

She repositioned herself on him and sat directly on his cock making Tom moan as he felt his cock slide into her warm wetness.

Tom placed his hands on her waist, and with his lips still on her nipple he began to thrust in and out of her slowly from under her.

"Fuck me, Tom! I want you to fuck me!" She cried breathlessly as she bounced on his cock, wanting him to increase his pace.

Tom raised his head from sucking her nipples and he felt his already stiff cock grow even stiffer inside her as he watched the wild look in her eyes as she gazed at him.

Damn! She looked damn hot and sexy with her hair down and her brazen attitude.

Seeing how he was watching her, Lucy buried her fingers in his hair and crushed her lips to his as she continued to bounce on his cock, leaving him no other option than to match her pace.

Tom's hands moved over her body, playing with her nipples, and squeezing her ass as she took charge and rode him with fervor while kissing him passionately.

Lucy broke off the kiss, and Tom opened his eyes when he felt her movement. He was slightly surprised when she did a one eighty degree rotation on his cock so she was positioned in a cow girl position now without letting go of his cock.

With her back to him, Lucy turned her head to make eye contact with him as she adjusted into a comfortable position and started riding him cowgirl. Twisting and rolling on him.

Tom had no idea what had come over her or where or when she had learned to do this, but he could swear this was the wildest he had ever seen her, and he loved the hell out of it.

In no time they were both moaning and panting really hard and Lucy looked away from Tom as she felt her body begin to tremble.

Tom sat up and pushed her down on her knees as he positioned himself behind her and thrust into her. He grabbed her hair with one hand, and the other hand went around her to grab her boob as he pounded in and out of her making Lucy cry out loudly as her core clenched, and she toppled over the edge of her orgasm, leaving Tom no choice but to follow suit.

Tom pulled out of her immediately as he ejaculated, while Lucy fell face down on the bed, panting hard.

Tom lay beside her, and watched her as she tried to catch her breath, "You're beautiful," Tom whispered as he reached out to touch her hair, and she opened her eyes.

"Did you like it?" Lucy asked and Tom gave her a nod.

"I loved it. And I love you even more," Tom said as he kissed her shoulder, and Lucy yawned.

"I love you too. I think I might fall asleep soon," she said in a lazy voice.

"I'm surprised you haven't done so yet," Tom said, and she smiled as she yawned again.

"What's the time?" Lucy asked and Tom glanced at the clock by her nightstand.

"It's almost 7 P.M.," Tom said as he got off the bed wanting to go get a glass of water.

"It's still early. I can't fall sleep yet. You'd be bored. And I need to fix is dinner," Lucy said with a yawn as she tried to sit up but her body resisted the movement, thanks to both the alcohol and the sexercise.

"Don't worry. I asked Adolf to deliver dinner. Let's just shower first, and then I can arrange my stuff while you sleep. I..." the rest of his words trailed off when he heard her soft snores and realized she had dozed off as usual.

Tom chuckled. Some things never changed.

One thing he hoped to change however was her reliance on alcohol in order to be her naturally wild self.

She might not know it yet but she was a very sensual person and he hoped to help her explore that aspect of her without the use of alcohol.

Chapter 652 Ulcer

Tom was awoken by Lucy's whimpers and he sat up on the bed to see her rubbing her stomach like she was in pain.

"What's wrong?" He asked with a worried frown as he got off the bed and went to turn on the light.

"My stomach hurts," Lucy cried softly as Tom went to her and used his thumb to brush off the beads of sweat on her forehead.

"How bad is it? It's not menstrual cramp, is it?" He asked, since he remembered that she had already seen her period for the month and she was still naked so it obviously wasn't her period.

Before she could respond her stomach rumbled and she shook her head as she quickly got off the bed and rushed to the restroom.

Immediately she got in, she locked the door behind her before Tom could follow her in and sat on the toilet seat to empty her bowels.

"Lucy," Tom called softly from the doorway beginning to feel even more worried now.

From where he stood by the door and from the sounds he could hear, he could tell that she seemed to be having a running stomach.

What did she eat? Wait, did she even eat yesterday before going out with the girls? He mused as he waited by the door for her to come out.

He heard the toilet flush, and when Lucy opened the door, he noticed she looked really pale and was sweating profusely while still clutching the area under her breastbone.

"What can I do? Is it food poisoning? Should we go to the hospital?" Tom asked as he carried her back to bed despite her protest that she could walk.

"I think I need my antacids. Please check the drawer for them," Lucy said weakly as she tried to adjust to a suitable position on the bed that would cause her stomach to hurt less.

"Antacids? It's the ulcer?" Tom asked, and when she nodded, he quickly opened the drawer and took out the antacids, and Lucy watched in confusion as he started putting on his trousers.

"What are you doing?" She asked as she chewed.

"Dressing up. I'm taking you to the hospital right now," Tom said, and she shook her head.

"It's normal...."

"How long before it relieves you after taking the antacid?" Tom cut in, and Lucy gasped when another wave of burning pain hit her.

"That's it! I'm taking you to the hospital," Tom said as he tugged on his shirt and walked to her closet to pull out something for her to wear.

"No! I can bear it. It's just past four in the morning," Lucy said even though her eyes were watery now as she popped a couple of antacids into her mouth and chewed faster hoping it would relieve her of the burning pain.

The first time Tom had spent the night and made love with her here on her bed, he had ended up taking her to the hospital because she had fainted while telling him her story, and now this.

"Good. I'm glad you can bear the pain until we get to the hospital. You don't have to bear it after we get there," Tom said as he distractedly grabbed a short and T-shirt.

He didn't bother with undies as he returned to her side and despite her protest wore the tshirt over her head until she had no choice but to do as he was demanding.

"I need my pants," Lucy said as she tried to get off the bed.

"Not that I think it's important right now, but I will get it," Tom said as he walked over to her drawer where she kept her undies and took out a black lace pant.

Once she had finished dressing up, he carried her out of the house despite her protest and drove off as fast as he could to the hospital while she continued to chew on her antacids.

"How bad does it hurt?" Tom asked, glancing at her at intervals as he drove.

"It's not the first time I'm having such an episode, Tom. Please relax," Lucy said weakly.

"It's the first time I'm experiencing it with you and you can't expect me to relax when you're obviously in pain," Tom countered.

Lucy looked at him apologetically, "I'm sorry. It's my fault..."

"No, it's not. It's mine. I've always known you were irresponsible when it comes to your eating habits. I shouldn't have been so irresponsible to let you go to bed without eating anything especially after all that alcohol you consumed," Tom countered, and despite the burning pain she was feeling Lucy scowled.

"I'm not irresponsible," she hissed at him.

"Save your breath and argue that later. Let's get you to the hospital and make sure you're fine first," Tom said with a stern frown.

She had never seen him look so worried. Not even when he saw her crying in the storage room after she had heard them calling her a murderer.

Maybe he had looked this worried when she had fainted the last time, but she had been unconscious so she wouldn't know. But seeing the worried lines between his brows now made her feel sorry and remorseful.

"What did you eat yesterday?" Tom asked, and she winced.

"A packet of chips and chocolate," Lucy said and Tom shook his head not knowing what to say to that.

"I'm sorry. I will pay more attention to my eating habit," Lucy murmured.

"You should. I just want you to be fine. I don't like to see you in pain," Tom said, and Lucy smiled.

"How will you stand seeing me in labor pain then?" She joked, and then both her and Tom stiffened.

Tom turned to look at her, and noticed she had pressed her lips together now, obviously taken aback by the joke she had made.

Not wanting it to be awkward, Tom smiled, "Perhaps it's for the best that you're not interested in having kids then," he joked as he returned his attention to the road, and Lucy said nothing, wondering where that had come from.

The rest of the drive to the hospital was silent, and once they got there, Lucy was given priority treatment while Tom was asked to wait as the doctor checked on her.

After a short moment the doctor came out and confirmed she was having ulcer pains but assured Tom that there was no cause of alarm. She was being taken care of and would be okay in no time.

After an hour, Tom was allowed to go in to stay with her, and he was relieved to see her smiling. She didn't look so pale anymore.

"How do you feel now?" Tom asked as he went to sit beside her.

"The doctor said we can leave after I've exhausted this drip. I told you it wasn't life threatening," Lucy said, and Tom shook his head.

"I'd rather not take any chances with you," Tom said, and Lucy sighed.

"Well, this is the fastest I've been relieved of the pain. Thank you," Lucy said as she looked at her hand where the drip was fixed.

"Now that you feel better, can you tell me why you didn't wake me up the moment you started feeling the discomfort?" Tom asked and Lucy shook her head.

"I just didn't want to disturb your sleep," Lucy said and Tom raised a brow.

"I was sleeping right next to you, Lucy. It wouldn't have been a bother. Don't tell me if I hadn't woken up, you would have remained there whimpering all night?"

"I wasn't whimpering," Lucy said defensively and Tom heaved a deep sigh as he gazed at her.

"Alright. I'm sorry. I really just didn't want it to seem like every time you passed the night at my place you had to take care of a medical emergency," Lucy said without meeting his gaze.

"Why? Were you scared I wouldn't want to spend the night at your place anymore?" Tom asked, and Lucy's lips twitched as she met his gaze.

"Maybe," she said with a grin and Tom chuckled.

"Some times I don't know what to do with you," Tom said with a shake of his head.

"You can just love me," Lucy said, and he nodded.

"That I already do. I guess the pain didn't let you have any hangovers," Tom observed as he moved closer to her.

"I guess so. Although, I was having a mild headache earlier but the stomach ache was worse," Lucy said as she let Tom gather her into his arms.

"Sorry, love. I hope you realize I won't be letting you have alcohol anymore. So, you'd have to work on letting yourself loosen up without alcohol," Tom said as he brushed his lips against her forehead.

"Last night was crazy by the way," Tom said as he pulled away to look into her face.

He grinned when he saw the blush that stole up her face, "How much of it do you remember?" He asked, and she shrugged.

"Enough to know I wasn't drunk enough," Lucy said, and Tom chuckled.

"And do you remember dancing on the stage at the club?" Tom asked, and she winced.

"I wish I didn't. I remember doing that but I can't recall the dance moves," Lucy said, and Tom shook his head.

"Why did you do that? It's unlike you," Tom said and she sighed.

"Jade almost always complains about how uptight I am. It's not in my nature to be as carefree as they are. I guess I just wanted to have fun with the girls and show them I could be fun to hang around with as well," Lucy said with a shrug.

Tom wasn't sure if she realized how sad that sounded.

"You don't have to try so hard to fit in. I think you should be yourself and they should learn to accept you the way you are. Everyone can't be wild and careless," Tom said, and she raised a brow.

"You also think I'm uptight and need to loosen up. You insinuated it the other time in the car," Lucy pointed out.

"No! I've never referred to you as uptight. You're far from uptight. Cautious was the word I used I said your speech is always guarded," Tom said, remembering the exact conversation she was referring to.

"Well, if I'm to take the advise you just gave I can choose to remain cautious and you can accept me the way I am, right?" Lucy asked, and Tom smiled.

"I already accepted you the way you are. However, accepting you the way you are doesn't mean I can't ask you to improve on certain areas that affect our relationship, does it? I only suggested you work on your communication skills. I promised to do the same as well, remember?" Tom pointed out reasonably.

"Well, maybe being more carefree is also a way to improve my friendship with Jade and the others," Lucy said, and Tom shrugged.

"That's your choice. Just don't do anything you'd be embarrassed about just because you want to impress them," Tom advised.

"Were you embarrassed by my actions?" Lucy asked, realizing she had not thought of that aspect.

Tom chuckled, "Was I supposed to be embarrassed that you announced to everyone that I'm your boyfriend and you love me?" Tom asked and she closed her eyes.

She had forgotten making that announcement.

"I'm never going back to that club. Ever," Lucy said, and Tom laughed softly as he caressed her cheeks as though to get rid of her blush.

Chapter 653 A New Phase

"Do you know the difference between now and the last time you brought me here?" Lucy asked, an hour later as they got into Tom's car after she had been discharged.

"Tell me," Tom said as he started the car, and she scowled at him.

"You're taking me home yourself. You didn't abandon me like you did the last time," Lucy said as she fastened her seatbelt and Tom looked at her incredulously.

"Damn it, Lucy! You didn't have to remind me that I was such a lowlife jerk," Tom said, and she giggled.

"I couldn't help it. Sorry. This was definitely not how I envisioned spending our first morning together in my apartment," Lucy said, smoothly changing the subject.

"Well, it's barely seven yet. We can just return to bed and wake up like nothing happened," Tom assured her.

"Maybe. So, what's your plan for the day?" Lucy asked with interest.

"I will be hanging out with Harry. It's been a while we chilled together. And hopefully I can take you out on a date tonight," Tom said, thinking about Bryan's surprise engagement party.

"Oh, a date?" Lucy asked with a surprised smile.

"Yeah. Nothing very fancy though. When are you meeting with Jamal for your date?" Tom asked, and she shrugged.

"I'm going over to pick him up by noon," Lucy said and Tom nodded.

"That's fine then. We can spend the rest of the morning together and then you can drop me off at Harry's and pick me up when you come back with Jamal. Is that okay?" Tom asked, and Lucy flashed him a smile.

"It's perfect!"

They drove in silence for a while as Tom thought about Lucy's slip earlier.

He was sort of curious to know what had prompted her to make the statement she had made earlier about how he could stand seeing her in labor pain.

Was he reading too much meaning to her slip up or was she perhaps rethinking her decisions and ready to change her mind?

He also wanted to know if she remembered and had meant what she said in the car about sticking with him whether or not Dawn was his and loving Dawn as she loved him if she turned out to be his.

"By the way, I told my parents about Dawn before they left," Tom said, wondering if she would be okay to talk about it since she had said they put it aside until they saw the result.

"You did? I thought you were going to wait until we got the results," Lucy said as she adjusted in her seat to look at him.

"I figured it was best I tell them in person before they leave. You know how they are, if I tell them about it over the phone later they might want to fly down again, and I don't want them to," Tom said and Lucy smiled.

That was something both their parents had in common. Traveling on a whim the moment they received any news whether or not you wanted them to.

"I see. So? How did they take it? I bet Evelyn was happy," Lucy said, and Tom shook his head.

"On the contrary her reaction was surprising. She was more worried about you and how it would affect us," Tom said, and Lucy's heart did a flip flop.

"Really?" Lucy asked, and Tom nodded.

"Yeah. She must love you more than I thought," Tom said, and Lucy smiled sadly.

As much as she appreciated their concern, she thought it was sad that when everyone else should be thinking about the kid, they were more worried about her reaction.

"Well, you can ask her not to worry about me. If the result comes back positive, we would all have to focus on Dawn. That reminds me, did you say anything to Kimberly?" Lucy asked when she

remembered Kimberly's text, not giving Tom time to respond to her statement about them focusing on Dawn.

"Why? Did she reach out to you again?" Tom asked with a frown.

"You did, didn't you? You really shouldn't have, Tom. I don't want to have a bad relationship with her if I can help it," Lucy said, and Tom scowled.

"Did she threaten you or say anything harsh?" He asked, and Lucy sighed.

"No, she didn't. She apologized for reaching out to me. I'm just saying, I don't want to be on bad terms with her. She was only trying to be nice and you didn't have to tell her I said anything to you or make her feel bad for talking to me," Lucy explained.

"I know how trusting you can be and I simply wanted her to understand that you are a no go area. I don't want another Anita situation," Tom said reasonably.

"Yes, I understand that. But you are being a bit too protective," Lucy said, and Tom snorted.

"Protective? I haven't even started yet," He assured her, and she giggled.

"I'm serious, Tom. We have to at least give her the benefit of doubt without letting our guards down," Lucy said and Tom sighed.

"So, what? You want to be friends with her?" He asked, and Lucy shrugged.

"If she happens to be the mother of your child, then yes! I'd rather we are friends than enemies," Lucy said and Tom shook his head.

"I am not sure I'm comfortable with that," he said with a frown.

"Trust me, you would be even more uncomfortable when I can't get along with Dawn because her mom has poisoned her heart against me. The enemy of a girl's mom is her enemy," Lucy stated, and Tom turned to spare her a glance.

She sounded like she had made up her mind to be actively involved in Dawn's life and was already thinking of getting along with the kid.

"Alright. You can do whatever you want. But if she bothers you or says anything unpleasant to you, you have to tell me," Tom said and Lucy gave him a nod.

"Sure."

"You know you don't have to do any of this, right?" Tom asked, and she smiled.

"I'm doing it because I want to. Also, I wanted to suggest something, but I do not know if it's too soon to do so," Lucy said, and Tom glanced at her.

"Let's hear it."

Lucy cleared her throat, "If it's okay with you, I want to suggest that if the result comes back positive you invite them down here instead of going over," Lucy said, and before Tom could respond she quickly spoke again.

"I'm not suggesting that because I am worried or feeling insecure about you traveling over to see them alone. I'm just saying so because it would be easier for us all to meet them. I will like to see them too," Lucy added as he drove into her street.

"My mother suggested the same thing," Tom said, and Lucy relaxed.

"Oh, really? Nice! So? Are you going to do that?" She asked as he parked the car, and Lucy smiled.

"Since you're also cool with it, I will invite them over," Tom said, not wanting to tell her yet that Evelyn had also suggested that Dawn moves in with him.

"And you should know that even if I had any plans of traveling, I would have made sure you come along with me," Tom added as he took her hand and kissed her knuckles.

"Cool," Lucy said, and they both got out of the car and went into the house.

Inside the house, Tom urged Lucy to go in freshen up since the bathroom was too small to accommodate them both at the same time.

While she was at it, he went into the kitchen to heat up the meal which Adolf had delivered last night while she was asleep.

As Lucy walked into her bedroom, she grinned when she saw Tom's stuff arranged on the space she had left him on her dressing table.

She walked over to her closet and pulled the drawer she had reserved for him open. She felt a surprisingly overwhelming sense of satisfaction at the sight of his neatly folded undies in her drawer.

She opened the main closet door and something tugged on her heart when she saw a couple of his clothes hanging there.

She sighed as she closed the door and stepped back, then looked around her bedroom.

Even though having someone who wasn't her family or Sonia in her space in this manner was new to her, she didn't feel uncomfortable in any way.

Tom was like a part of her and it just felt right to have him with her and to have his stuff mixed up with hers.

After she had straightened the bed and properly put away the clothes they had worn the previous night which he had folded and kept on the padded vanity stool, Lucy freshened up and went out to find him, dressed only in an oversized tshirt, which she had stolen from Lucas.

She stood by the kitchen door barefooted, and watched as Tom moved around setting their breakfast on a tray.

Overwhelmed by an emotion she couldn't explain, she walked into the kitchen quietly and wrapped her arms around Tom's waist from behind, surprising him.

"Is everything alright?" Tom asked, and she bobbed her head even though she was standing beside him and he couldn't see her.

"Yeah. I just felt like embracing you," Lucy said, and Tom smiled.

"Then you should do it properly," Tom said as he took her arms and pulled her around so that she was standing in front of him.

"So, what's making you feel like embracing me?" Tom asked as his arms went around her and he gazed down at her as she looked up at him.

"I think I just like having you here," Lucy said and Tom grinned.

"If I had known that being in your apartment would make you more romantic I would have moved in a long time ago. Tell me, do you want me to sell my house and move in completely with you?" Tom asked with a teasing smile and Lucy giggled.

"Please, don't," she said as Tom's hand moved over her back and he raised a brow.

"You're not wearing anything under this, are you?" He asked, and she gave him a coy smile.

"Why don't you see for yourself?" She asked, and Tom chuckled.

"I will do that after you've had breakfast. Come now, I don't want it to get cold," Tom said as he kissed her chin.

"What if I don't want to eat breakfast yet? What if I want to eat you instead?" Lucy asked as she stretched on her toes to kiss him.

"What's gotten into you today?" Tom asked in amusement as he kissed her back, and she shrugged as she tucked a strand of hair behind her ear.

"I don't know. Maybe I'm just trying to practice being naughty without any alcohol? How am I doing?" She asked and Tom laughed softly.

"You are doing more than good. But I will only be willing to indulge you after you've had breakfast," Tom said making her scowl at him as he picked up the tray and led the way to her bedroom.

"You're going to regret turning me down. I'm going to make sure of it," Lucy threatened as she followed him.

"I'm sure I will," Tom said and she gave him a stink eye as they both settled down on the bed.

Seated on her bed and having breakfast with her this way while she kept scowling at him, Tom couldn't help but feel like they had stepped into another phase in their relationship.

It felt like he had crossed another line with her. Or perhaps he had broken through another wall around her heart.

Yes, she had been with him in his house and all, but their relationship felt somewhat different now. Deeper in a way.

He could feel Lucy opening up her whole heart to him and letting him into her life unlike before.

He couldn't help but wonder what had prompted the changes in her. Was it just his short trip? Or was it because of Kimberly and Dawn? Whatever it was that had prompted the changes, he was thankful for it.

"What are you grinning about?" Lucy asked when she noticed the smile which had formed on his face.

"Seeing how your love for me increased in the space of a few days because I was away, I was wondering if I should perhaps take another trip. Perhaps a longer one...." The rest of his words were lost in a guffaw when she threw a piece of steak at him.

Chapter 654 Everyone Would Be Happy

Harry, who was playing PS with his father, rose from the couch when the doorbell rang a couple of times.

"It's probably Lucy," Aaron said since they were all aware that she was picking up Jamal for their little date and it was almost time for them to leave.

"Yeah," Harry said in agreement as he opened the door.

He scowled when he saw Tom standing there with Lucy, "If I had known you were out here I wouldn't have opened the door," Harry said, and Tom chuckled.

"Why not?" Tom asked as he walked past Harry into the house while Lucy embraced Harry.

"You know the damned passcode! Use it!" Harry hissed at Tom as he led Lucy into the house and shut the door behind them.

"Well, you're not alone in the house, are you? What if someone was running around naked?" Tom asked with a grin, and Harry rolled his eyes while Aaron raised a brow.

"And who would be running around here naked?" Aaron asked, and grinned at Lucy as she came to kiss his cheeks.

"How have you been?" Lucy asked, giving him her whole attention while Tom and Harry continued to argue about Tom's annoying use of the doorbell despite the fact that he could unlock the door himself.

"This old man has missed you," Aaron said and Lucy giggled as she sat beside him.

"What old man? I don't see any one around here. All I see is a very attractive mature male," Lucy said, batting her lashes at him, and Aaron chuckled.

"Can you stop flirting with my girlfriend? Each time we are around you, it's either you or Jamal flirting with Lucy. Do I have to cut Harry off?" Tom asked, mock glaring at Aaron.

"Lucy, I suppose you will have to choose. It's either us or Tom," Aaron said, and Lucy placed a hand on her chest.

"How could I ever do that? I think I'm polygamous in nature and can't settle for only one fine man. Hence, I chose handsome men from different age groups. You all would have to love me for who I am," Lucy said, looking from Aaron to Tom and back again, while Harry shook his head in amusement.

"Thinking about it, you're right. But a teenager is missing from the list. Should I find you one?" Harry asked, and Lucy rose dramatically.

"Alas! I think I have found my one true love who loves me for who I am," Lucy said as she went to hug Harry and they all chuckled.

"Lucy!" Jamal cried excitedly as he hurried down the hallway to greet her.

"Ah! And my other true love," Lucy said with a beaming smile for Jamal as she went on one knee to embrace him.

"I can't believe how much I've missed you," Lucy said as she buried her face in the crook of his little neck and he wrapped his tiny arms around her neck.

"I missed you too. I'm ready to leave," Jamal informed her, and Lucy pulled away from him to look at him.

She giggled when she noticed he was dressed in a shirt and trousers with a bow tie which sort of made him look really formal.

"You look dashing, darling," Lucy said as she straightened up, and Jamal grinned.

"Thank you. You look beautiful as always," he said as he looked Lucy over.

She was dressed in a floral glared knee length dress with bow straps. Her hair was back in a ponytail as usual and her glasses was in place.

"When are you going to look away from my girlfriend long enough to acknowledge my presence?" Tom asked, and Jamal grinned as he looked his way.

Even though he was never going to admit it out loud to anyone, Tom was his idol, and he was more than happy to see him.

"She is my girlfriend for today. Right, Lucy?" Jamal asked with a smirk, and Lucy bobbed her head.

"Totally," Lucy said as she rose.

"Going with you on a date doesn't mean she is your girlfriend," Tom said, and Jamal raised his chin.

"It does!"

"Does that mean I will be your boyfriend when I take you out on a date?" Tom asked, and Jamal looked at Tom incredulously.

"I'm not going on a date with you. A date is for boys and girls. I'm only gonna hang out with you," Jamal said matter of factly and the rest of them laughed.

"Well, I suppose I can let you have your COUSIN for today," Tom said, stressing on the word and Jamal scowled at him.

"Hello, sober Lucy!" Candace greeted as she joined them, and Lucy winced.

"Give me a break, will you?" Lucy asked, and Candace laughed softly.

"You sure took one from your senses yesterday. I'm surprised you are able to show your face in public," Candace said with a grin.

"All I did was dance and talk," Lucy said dismissively.

"Yeah. Very interesting dance steps too. Did you see the video?" Candace asked, and Lucy gasped.

"There was a video?" Lucy asked, turning to Tom who had not mentioned that.

Tom shrugged, "Harry took care of it. Right, Harry?" Tom asked, looking at Harry.

"That doesn't mean the videos don't exist. Maybe you should take a look at it. That way you will think twice the next time you think it's a good idea to get drunk in public," Harry said with a pleasant smile.

"I hope you ladies can find another less irresponsible way to hang out? Perhaps have such drunken meetings in your room or hang out in a spa and gossip without alcohols. I don't want to have to deal with any unnecessary scandals," Harry said, giving both Lucy and Candace a pointed look.

"It was your girlfriend's idea. Talk to her, not me. It wasn't like I was drunk anyway. Good thing it was both your girlfriends who ran the whole show," Candace said as she went to sit next to Aaron and he draped his hand over her shoulder to pull her close and she relaxed against him.

"Well, you can do me a favor by making sure Lucy never takes a drop of alcohol when next you girls hangout. I will talk to Sonia and Jade too. She woke up with a raging ulcer this morning and I had to take her to the hospital," Tom said and they all looked at Lucy with concern.

"An Ulcer?"

"Are you alright now?" Harry and Candace asked simultaneously before Aaron could speak.

"Do not mind Tom. It wasn't that serious," Lucy assured them.

"Yes, it was. If only you had seen how pale you looked," Tom said, and Jamal frowned.

"We can stay home if you are not feeling..."

"You're so sweet, Jam. But you don't have to worry. I'm fine, alright? Let's leave these adults now and go spend some time together?" Lucy interrupted Jamal as she took his hand.

"Is there something he shouldn't have?" Lucy asked Candace curiously.

"Don't worry, Jamal is responsible. He wouldn't let you get him whatever that would hurt his health," Candace assured Lucy.

"Alright then. We should get going," Lucy said as she went to kiss Aaron's cheeks and then kissed Tom before leaving with Jamal.

"So, is Jade coming over?" Harry asked Candace after they were sure that Lucy had left.

"No. She asked that I meet her at Bryan's house. She is busy supervising the workers," Candace said and Tom turned to Harry.

"Do you want us to join them? I thought you wanted to hangout?" He asked since he had not planned to head there until later in the day.

Bryan had assured him he that everything was under control and his help wasn't needed. All that Bryan wanted was his and Lucy's presence.

"Sure. We are hanging out. Give me a minute to change my clothes then we can drop Candace off to meet Jade before going to the lounge," Harry said as he walked away to do just that.

Outside, once Lucy and Jamal got to the parking lot, she automatically unlocked the car as they approached it and Jamal ran ahead of her.

She looked at him wondering what he was up to, and giggled when he held open the drivers door for her to get in.

"My heart can't take any more of your sweetness, Jam," Lucy said with a wide smile as she stopped next to him, and instead of getting into the car, she opened the backdoor for him to get in.

"Thanks for holding out the door. But I can't get into the car if you're not seated and buckled in first," Lucy said, and Jamal left the door open as he got into the car and let Lucy fasten his seatbelt even though he thought that wasn't necessary and he could do it himself.

And he also did not really like the fact that he was being tucked away in the backseat like a kid. He wished he were an adult and could ride in front with her or even drive the car himself.

After Lucy got into the car, she turned in her seat to face him, "So, what would you like to do? Do you have any fun place in mind you want to go?" Lucy asked, and Jamal shrugged.

"Can we go see a movie?" Jamal asked, and Lucy raised a brow.

She had expected him to want to go to the amusement park or a playground, "Cinema?"

"Yes. And maybe we can get ice cream and snacks later," Jamal suggested, and Lucy found herself grinning when it dawned on her that he was treating it like an actual date.

"Sure. That works for me. But we will have to stop off at an amusement park or a video arcade. I'd love to play a couple of games. Is that fine by you?" she asked as she started the car, and watched as his eyes lit up through the rearview mirror.

Although she wasn't really into movies and stuff, but for Jamal she could do it since it was obvious he had suggested that mostly for her sake.

"So, what sort of movies do you like?" She asked, wanting to make conversation with his as she drove away from there.

"It depends on what I'm allowed to see," Jamal said, and Lucy giggled.

"Right. We will have to find something age appropriate for you," Lucy said, wondering why it hadn't occurred to her that they couldn't see normal adult movies.

"But we can see something you like. I'm sure she won't mind," Jamal said, referring to his mother, and Lucy smiled.

"Nah. I'm not very much into movies. I sleep halfway into them, so it's best we see something you prefer," Lucy said and Jamal shook his head.

"Then let's not see a movie. I thought you would want to see a movie since uncle Harry said that's what adults do during dates," Jamal said, and Lucy giggled.

"Don't you want to see a movie?" Lucy asked and he shrugged.

"I wanted to because I've never been to a cinema so I don't know what it feels like," Jamal explained, and she smiled.

"Then permit me to be the first person who goes to a cinema with you," Lucy said, and he looked at her hesitantly.

"But you won't enjoy it. You just said you will sleep off," Jamal pointed out.

"I will try not to, and if I begin to doze off you can wake me up. Deal?" She asked, and Jamal smiled at her.

"Okay."

They continued in silence for some time and Lucy would have thought that Jamal had slept off had she not been glancing at him from time to time through the rearview mirror.

"Lucy?" Jamal called after a while.

"Yes?"

"Are you going to get married to Tom?" Jamal asked, and Lucy's heart skipped a beat.

"Huh?" She asked, not sure she had heard his question clearly.

"Are you going to get married to Tom?" Jamal repeated, and Lucy was silent for a moment.

"Uhm, I'm not sure yet. Why?" She asked, hoping he wouldn't ask further questions there and just tell her what he was thinking instead.

"You want to break up with him?" Jamal asked with a slight frown.

"No, I'm not breaking up with him," Lucy was quick to correct.

"Then you're going to get married to him," Jamal stated reasonably.

"Why do you ask?" Lucy asked again, not responding to that. She wasn't about to tell a seven years old kid all that was going on in her head right now.

"Well, I sort of like Tom and he loves you a lot. So I was thinking that I wouldn't want to hurt his feelings by taking you from him," Jamal said, and Lucy stuck her tongue in her cheek to stop herself from laughing.

"Ah! I see. That's so considerate of you," she managed.

"If you both have a daughter, she would be just like you, but I would be older than her and she can be my girlfriend instead, right? That wouldn't hurt either you or Tom. That way everyone will be happy, right?" Jamal asked, and this time Lucy couldn't help her laughter.

"I suppose so," Lucy said, and she watched as Jamal's lips curved in a smile.

The kid never ceased to amuse and amaze her.

Chapter 655 Hurt Feelings

After Tom and Harry had dropped off Candace at Bryan's new place, they went to the lounge where they usually used to hang out until Lucy showed up in Tom's life with all the accompanying drama.

After they were seated and sipping from their wine glasses, Harry turned to Tom, "So? What's up with you?" Harry asked with interest.

On their way they had agreed to only discuss personal stuff during this hangout, and not talk about work or business.

Tom shrugged, "I'm alright. Sort of anxiously waiting to get the result tomorrow," Tom confessed.

"Why didn't you ask them to speed things up? I mean, they could have easily done that because it's you," Harry said and Tom sighed.

"I didn't want to," Tom said, and Harry raised a brow.

"Why not? You'd rather be anxious all weekend than get the answer you seek easily?" Harry asked and Tom looked away for a moment before looking back at him.

"I suppose I just wanted to have a normal weekend with Lucy. I thought things might change when we get the result and I wanted us to be at ease," Tom explained and Harry nodded in understanding.

"Did she do or say anything to make you think she would walk away if the result comes back positive?" Harry asked and Tom shook his head.

"On the contrary her behavior has been sort of really encouraging. It's beautiful and scary at the same time," Tom said, and Harry chuckled.

"Beautiful and scary?"

"Yeah. It's beautiful because I would love for it all to be true. I sort of feel like our relationship has improved a lot this weekend despite the whole Kimberly thing. And I'm scared because I'm worried she might be in denial or something and if she realizes for real that the kid is mine, she might just withdraw," Tom said with a sigh.

"Well, I'm very sure you're overthinking it. This is the reason you should have pushed for the test to be carried out faster. That way you would save yourself all this stress. The way I see it you're only postponing the inevitable," Harry said as Tom sipped from his glass.

"I suppose you're right. Tomorrow is almost here now, so we will know," Tom said, and Harry eyed him curiously.

"Have you decided on what you would want to do if she turns out to be yours?" Harry asked and Tom nodded.

"My mom and Lucy suggested I invite them down here to meet with the family. I also would want to talk to Kimberly to see how we can coparent from the distance. Perhaps she can live with me and start school here, then spend her holidays with Kimberly, or she can school there and spend her holidays with me," Tom said and Harry nodded in understanding.

"Yeah. I think that's the only way it can work due to the distance," Harry said thoughtfully.

"I can also visit from time to time while she is over there. I wouldn't want to wait months to see her," Tom added and Harry nodded once again.

"That sounds fine. You seem to have given it a lot of thought," Harry said, and Tom shrugged.

"I don't think I had much of a choice. Lucy wants to be friends with Kimberly," Tom said and Harry raised a brow.

"And why does it seem like you don't want her to?" He asked, and Tom sighed.

"I don't know. I just don't want a repeat of the whole experience with Anita..."

"I don't think there is any reason to worry. Both situations are very different. The stuff with Anita happened only because you weren't honest from the beginning. Lucy would never have gotten close to Anita had you clearly told her your intentions from the onset or at least told her precisely that

Anita was your ex. Lucy is going into this fully aware of who Kimberly is, and she doesn't need to be told to be careful until she can tell if Kimberly is friend or foe. Both situations are not the same," Harry stated confidently, and Tom pinched the bridge of his nose.

"I suppose you're right..."

"Of course, I am. When have I ever been wrong?" Harry asked with a smug smile and Tom chuckled.

"I could list a couple..."

"I don't want to hear them," Harry cut in and Tom laughed.

"So, how do you feel about Bryan getting married?" Harry asked, and Tom raised a brow.

"What's this? Therapy? You don't have to worry about..."

"I'm not worried, just curious," Harry corrected.

"Well, I never would have imagined that Bryan would get married before me or that I would be actively considering not getting married, but I'm fine. I had plans of finding a way to change Lucy's heart about the whole marriage then, but then life threw me a curveball and now marriage is the least of my worries as I'm too busy trying not to lose her as my girlfriend. I've decided that I'm just going to take life as it comes," Tom said dismissively before looking at Harry with interest.

"Enough about me. Let's talk about you. What's happening with you? How does it feel to be in a relationship?" Tom asked with a grin and Harry chuckled.

"I'm not sure. It's all good I think," Harry said since he didn't feel like much had changed since he started dating Jade.

His love for Jade was a constant. And his thoughts of her were the same. The only difference was his growing desire to make love to her, and even though Tom was his best friend he could hardly tell him that he couldn't wait to have his sister under him.

"And Sara?" Tom asked, and Harry shrugged.

"She's awaiting the DNA test result to ascertain if Crystal is her daughter. I spoke with Bar. She has tried to arrange a meeting with the supposed head doctor at research institute, so I've arranged for someone to meet her. But I think she would be putting that on hold for the time being," Harry explained and Tom raised a brow.

"Why?"

"Because she wouldn't want to miss out on this opportunity to get a free lobe of healthy liver or the whole of it for that matter. If she's anything like I think she is, she would want to get a transplant first," Harry said and Tom mulled over it for a moment.

"The good thing is that either ways, she falls into our trap," Tom said, and Harry nodded.

"I would rather she makes an attempt on illegally harvesting Crystal's liver so she can be arrested. Duping her through the research institute scheme wouldn't be good enough for me," Harry said and Tom smiled.

"There are a lot of things we can do to her. And there is no reason we can't make her do both," Tom said confidently.

As though summoned by their discussion, Harry's phone started ringing with a phone call from Sara and he raised a brow and showed Tom the caller's identity.

"Speak of the plastic devil," Tom muttered as Harry received the call.

"Hey, mom!" Harry greeted cheerfully and Tom scoffed.

He'd rather choke on his own balls than refer to someone as Sara that way.

"Don't call me that! Call me Sara!" Sara hissed impatiently, and Harry raised a brow.

"Why? It's not like anyone is here to hear me call you that," Harry said reasonably.

"I don't like it. I don't want it. And if you keep calling me that I might just have to..."

"What? Abandon me again?" Harry asked harshly, and realizing that she had pissed him off she took a deep breath.

Although she had been about to threaten to cut him off if he continued to refer to her as his mother against her will, she had not expected that her gullible son would become annoyed at her. She had expected that he would apologize instead and promise not to make her uncomfortable anymore. That was what Aaron would have done.

She couldn't afford to annoy Harry. What if she did and he ended up angry enough to want to expose her for real? She couldn't have that.

"Of course, not! I would never do that to you," Sara said placatingly.

"If you don't want a relationship with me why did you bother coming back into my life?" Harry asked with a scowl.

"Of course, I do want a relationship with you. It's just awkward right now...."

"Why did you call?" Harry asked curtly, not giving her room to make her foolish excuses. He really wasn't in the mood for it.

Sara pursed her lips as she considered her options. She had wanted to ask him to make an official statement to the press denying being related to her. She had continued to receive calls and questions about her relationship with him and if he was her son.

The last thing she wanted was for Crystal to get wind of the news and try to go in search of Harry. All her plans would be ruined if Crystal got reunited with Harry and Aaron.

Unfortunately as it stood now, Harry seemed to be in a foul mood and she couldn't exactly ask him to do that else he might not only get annoyed but might be suspicious.

"I was hoping we could meet again," Sara said instead even if that wasn't the reason she had called.

Maybe she could come up with a way this time to quell the rumor. Perhaps she could make them think he was her lover or something.

"I thought you said you were leaving Ludus and you suggested that we don't meet again? Harry asked, not liking the idea of seeing her again.

"Well, something came up and I didn't leave as planned. As long as we stick to the story of me being your late mother's best friend I think we should be fine," Sara said and Harry shook his head.

Of course he knew what had come up. Crystal had come up. What he didn't get was why she suddenly wanted to see him.

"Well, I don't think it's a good idea. I'd rather we don't get into such an awkward situation again. I guess seeing you once was enough. And since you've made it clear you don't want me in your life I don't think we should keep in touch or see," Harry said, and Sara frowned.

What was going on? Was he rejecting her now? Why? Simply because she had asked him not to refer to her as mom?

"C'mon, Harry. You can't possibly be mad at me simply because I said I don't want to..." the rest of her words trailed off when she heard the disconnect tone and her eyes widened slightly in disbelief.

Did Harry just hang up on her? How could he? Harry was sweet and gullible, why was he suddenly acting like his silly twin, Crystal?

"Why did you do that?" Tom asked Harry curiously.

"I'm tired of her bullshit. I don't have any more room for it. Besides, this should make her focus on Crystal," Harry said dismissively.

Tom looked at Harry for a moment and shook his head, "You can cut the act. She hurt your feelings, didn't she?" Tom asked, giving Harry a knowing look.

Harry said nothing as he sipped from his glass. There was nothing to say. Tom knew him well enough to see through his anger and know his feelings were actually hurt.

Even if he only called her mom to taunt her and make her feel guilty, hearing her say she didn't want him calling her that sort of made him feel rejected in a way.

As much as he hated to admit it to himself or anyone else, Sara's attitude hurt him. And it annoyed him because he knew he shouldn't feel anything where she was concerned. Not even hurt. She didn't deserve to have the slightest bit of power over his emotions.

Seeing that Harry didn't want to talk about it, Tom slapped a hand on his back, "Do you want to hear some 'your mama so ugly jokes'? I could come up with one or two for you, and the best part of it is that neither of us will have to feel guilty about it," Tom said, and Harry chuckled.

"I'd rather we don't talk about her at all. Let's focus on more pleasant subjects instead," Harry suggested.

"Yeah. I was thinking. Since I won't be traveling anymore, why don't you go on your vacation now?" Tom asked and Harry shook his head.

"We still have so much going on..."

"We will always have so much going on. That doesn't mean you shouldn't take a break. Let's work on handling any loose ends you might need to fix this week, and then you can leave. I think it's high time you take a break," Tom said and Harry smiled.

"A paid vacation, huh?"

"Fully funded by me. Tell me where you want to go and I will take care of it," Tom promised and Harry chuckled.

"Don't you think it would be weird for you to handle the details considering I'm taking your sister with me and it might be a really steamy sex themed vacation?" Harry joked, and Tom chuckled.

"You? Steamy sex-themed vacation? I will definitely handle the details!" Tom promised with a grin.

Chapter 656 Motherhood

Candace couldn't say she wasn't impressed by Bryan's and Sonia's taste as Jade gave her a tour of the house showing her every inch of it, while the workers busied themselves with their assignment both around and inside the house.

"This place is going to be spectacular by the time they are done," Candace said, and Jade nodded.

"I have no doubt about it. Now all we have to do is hope that things go smoothly tonight," Jade said and Candace raised a brow.

"What could possibly go wrong? We both know Sonia is going to be over the moon with joy," Candace pointed out and Jade grinned.

"Sure. It's beautiful being a part of this, isn't it?" Jade asked and Candace nodded.

"It is. Weeks ago I never would have imagined my life would take such a turn and I would be here like this hanging out with people like you," Candace said with a small smile.

"Can you imagine all you would have thrown away had you gone ahead with your plan to get rid of Jero?" Jade asked, and Candace scowled.

"But I didn't," she pointed out.

"Agreed. I'm just trying to say, this teaches us that some things are better left to time. Some of our present worries and concerns become insignificant with time," Jade said with a shrug.

"I suppose you're right. I wonder how Sonia hasn't caught on yet when she always acts like she is all knowing," Candace said changing the subject.

"How is she supposed to know anything when we are being really discreet? Even Lucy doesn't have a clue," Jade said, and Candace glanced at her watch.

"Speaking of Lucy, I wonder how she is doing with Jamal. Do you think I should check on them?" Candace asked, and Jade shook her head.

"Lucy is someone I can trust with my kid. And considering how much Jamal adores her, you can bet they're having a smooth day," Jade said confidently.

"That's right. It's amusing to see him so taken by her. I wonder how she would react when she finds out he actually took one of Harry's cards to pay for their date," Candace said with a grin and Jade looked at her with amused disbelief.

"You're kidding, right?" Jade asked, amused by the thought of Jamal paying for lunch or whatever Lucy was getting him.

Candace giggled, "I wish I was. He quizzed Harry and his grandpa about dates and all, and then asked for money to pay for the date. Well, I didn't expect Harry or our dad to fight over whose card he could go with," Candace said with a grin, and Jade giggled.

"That boy of yours is something. You must be so proud," Jade said and Candace nodded.

"I am. Every day I am grateful for the gift that he is. Sometimes he can be a pain in the ass though," Candace said as Jeff and Mia joined them.

"Bryan said you were with the chef. How did it go?" Jade asked them, since they were in charge of the refreshments.

"We have it all under control," Mia assured her.

"We came over to see if you needed extra help here," Jeff told Jade.

"I'm not sure I do, but maybe you could help me supervise the decoration being done outside and see if something is missing," Jade said, and they both left.

As Jade and Candace stepped into the passage way, they heard a familiar voice talking with Mia and Jeff in the living room.

"Isn't that Matt?" Jade asked Candace who was wondering the same thing.

"Where are the gorgeous ladies?" Matt asked as he appeared by the passageway.

"What are you doing here? We weren't expecting you," Jade said, and Matt arched a brow.

"Bryan might be your brother, but I'm his best friend and I'm here to make sure everything is going smoothly and to see if there is any manly chores you need me to run," Matt said before shifting his gaze to Candace.

"Hello, Candace!"

"Hi, Matt! What's up?" She asked, and Jade rolled her eyes.

She thought it was ridiculous that they both thought she could be fooled by such casual hellos when she already knew they were screwing each other.

"You know what? I will just excuse you two and join Jeff and Mia outside," Jade said before walking away, leaving them alone.

They both stared at each other for a moment without saying anything, and Matt walked up to her and kissed her.

Candace's lips twitched with an amused smile as he broke the kiss, "This whole stuff is silly," she said with a shake of her head.

"I'm glad you think so too. Now that it seems they all know about our little affair, do you think it makes sense to pretend otherwise?" Matt asked as he took her hand and pulled her into one of the bedrooms closest to them and shut the door.

"Yes. Let's keep it the way it is. I won't let them dictate to me what I should do or how I should do it. You're not bringing any friend with you tonight, are you?" she asked, and Matt grinned.

"Do you want me to?" he asked, wanting to get a reaction.

"Why don't you try it?" Candace asked with a sweet smile, and kissed his jaw before walking away.

Away from there, Lucy was having a swell time with Jamal. Her first moment of shock had come when she was about to pay for their movie tickets and Jamal brought out a card to make the payment.

Well, she had not exactly been the only one shocked. Even the cashier had been taken aback by the gesture as well.

"What are you doing?" Lucy had asked in amusement, while looking around slightly embarrassed.

"I want to pay. Uncle Harry said a gentleman handles the bills," Jamal explained, and the cashier chortled.

"Oh, you've got yourself a sweet young man, ma'am," the cashier said, looking really amused.

"Thanks for the sentiment, Jam, but that doesn't always apply, darling. I asked for this date, and I'm handling the bills. So don't embarrass us both any further, and put that card away. You can save it for when you take my daughter out on your first date," Lucy said, and Jamal hesitantly returned the card into his pocket.

"Oh? He's not your son?" the cashier asked, and Lucy smiled awkwardly.

"No, he's not. Can I have the tickets, please? I'm sure you have a long line of people to attend to," Lucy said politely, and the cashier quickly handed them the tickets and they left to pick up their snacks.

"I'm sorry," Jamal murmured, and Lucy turned to him, and crouched in front of him so they could be on the same eye level.

"You don't have to be sorry for doing something you believed was right, Jam. It was a sweet gesture, I assure you," Lucy said as she kissed his cheek.

"But you said I embarrassed us," Jamal pointed out.

"I didn't mean it in a totally bad way. I said that only because we were holding up the line and bringing attention to ourselves. What you did was sweet," Lucy assured him.

Jamal eyed her for a moment wanting to see if she was just saying that or she meant it, and when she held his gaze, he finally smiled, "Okay."

"Good," Lucy said as she straightened up and took his hand again.

"Excuse me," the man who had been standing behind them on the queue called as he approached, and both Lucy and Jamal turned to look at him.

"Yeah? Is there a problem?" Lucy asked politely.

"No. Not at all. I overheard your conversation on the line earlier. I thought it was cute. I'm Mike," he said with a polite smile as he extended his hand for a handshake, and Jamal scowled.

"Hello, Mike! Is there something you wanted?" Lucy asked politely, deliberately not giving her name.

"I was hoping I could tag along with you too..."

"No, you can't!" Jamal said, surprising both Lucy and the man.

"This is a date for just the two of us. And she already has someone she is getting married to," Jamal stated, making sure to defend both his and Tom's interest.

As far as Jamal was concerned, if he couldn't have Lucy, the only man allowed to have her was Tom because Tom loved her like he did.

Lucy laughed softly, "You heard my man. It was nice meeting you, Mike. We have to go now," Lucy said, and walked away with Jamal, while the man remained where he stood staring at them.

"Why did you do that? I would have said no," Lucy told Jamal as they picked up their snacks.

"I didn't like him talking to you," Jamal said and Lucy grinned.

"I see."

Thanks to Jamal's constant interesting commentary, Lucy was been able to stay awake through the movie at the cinema.

After that they had gone to a video arcade and played a couple of games before she decided to take him to a park so he could mix up with other kids of his age since she knew he had not been able to do that since he got to Ludus.

Although he had been reluctant to leave her side at first, Lucy assured him that she brought him out to have fun and would feel better if he did that.

She was amazed by Jamal's ability to socialize, and how he seemed to draw all the other kids around to himself.

She looked around the park at the different mothers and nannies around. Some were seated alone and some in groups. There were a handful of men around as well.

The whole place was colorful and filled with happy sounds and laughter apart from the occasional yell from mothers or nannies to their wards.

"Your kid?" a lady asked as she sat beside Lucy who was grinning as she watched Jamal teach a younger kid how to skip.

Lucy turned her smiling face to the lady, "No," she said, not seeing any reason to expand on it.

"But you do have the look of a proud mom though," she said, and Lucy raised a brow.

"Really? How do proud moms look?" Lucy asked curiously.

"Just like you do," she said with a grin, and Lucy chuckled.

Although she didn't like talking with strangers much, there was something relaxing about the lady, so she decided to just enjoy the company.

"Those two flanking your boy in yellow and green shirts are my boys," she said, and Lucy turned to look at the young guys standing beside Jamal.

"They are cute. Are they twins?" Lucy asked when she noticed the resemblance between them despite the height difference.

"I always get that question. They are two years apart. They took after their dad totally, those two. Not a single thing from me. I wonder if I contributed anything genetically apart from being their warehouse for forty weeks," she said with an envious sigh that made Lucy look at her again.

"You don't sound so pleased about it," Lucy said and she giggled.

"Don't mind my outburst. I've always wanted a girl. A girl who looked like me and maybe a bit like him. But what did I get? Two boys who are the spitting image of their dad. It's so unfair considering I'm the one who housed them in my body," she said, and Lucy smiled.

"Well, you could always try again," Lucy suggested and she shook her head.

"Hell, no! I've given up. I could die of heartbreak if I tried again and got another boy that looks just like him," she said with a shake of her head and Lucy laughed.

"What if you had a little girl who looked like him?" Lucy asked, thinking of Dawn who looked a lot like Tom but in a feminine way.

"At least it would be a girl," the lady said and then called out to one of her sons to behave himself.

"I don't think there is anything wrong in having little boys who remind you of your husband. Besides, if you think about it, it's sweet in a way, don't you think? You never have to really miss him because you're always looking into his face," Lucy said and her heart skipped a beat when she realized her words had actually evoked images of little boys that looked exactly like Tom in her mind.

Her little boys with Tom.

"Oh, wait until you have yours and then you can tell me about it," she said, but Lucy was no longer listening to her.

She was now beginning to wonder what was really going on with her. Did she actually just imagine having kids with Tom? With Tom?

"Are you married?" the lady asked, and Lucy shook her head as she turned to her, trying not to dwell on her thoughts at the moment.

"No, I'm not. But I do have a very handsome and sweet boyfriend," Lucy said with a happy smile.

"Judging by the smile on your face, you must be happy in love," she said, and Lucy's smile widened.

"I am," Lucy said with a nod.

"That's nice. He must be a great guy," she said as both their gaze wandered to the kids.

They were both silent for a while until Lucy spoke, "What about you? Were you happy in love with your husband before you got married?" Lucy asked curiously.

Although she wasn't usually one to pry on other people's private lives, but she was curious and she didn't think the lady would mind.

She giggled, "Of course. He's the love of my life. Always has been, and always will be. Don't mind the fact that I'm irked about the boys looking like him. I just feel cheated," she assured Lucy.

"That's nice," Lucy said and then turned to her, "What's motherhood like? My best friend is pregnant and I'm really happy about it and looking forward to sharing the experience with her," Lucy said with a small smile even if the question was more about her than Sonia.

"That's great. Congrats to you both," she said, and then pursed her lips for a moment to consider the question, "I don't think I have the right words to describe it. That sort of unconditional love and bond is best experienced. One thing I can tell you though, is that it can be stressful and draining. But with the right partner by your side and with all the good help you can get, it's probably one of life's most profound experiences," she said confidently.

"I'm sure you must have had to give up on some pleasures and stuff you love..."

"There was nothing I gave up on that isn't worth the joy I got from feeling the first flutter of those two in my stomach, or the joy of holding them in my arms after birth, or that of seeing them look into my eyes with trusting eyes as I nursed them, or watching them take their first step or call me mama for the first time," she said passionately and then laughed softly when she realized tears had gathered in her eyes and she brushed them away.

"Sorry I was rambling. What I'm just trying to say is that motherhood is worth it. And with someone like you by your best friend's side, I'm sure she would do great! You'd make a good mom yourself," she said, and Lucy raised a brow.

"Why do you say that?" Lucy asked and she smiled.

"You've got the mom instinct. Your eyes haven't strayed from the kid for longer than a couple of seconds, and each time he almost trips your body reacts naturally," she said, and Lucy sighed as she glanced at her wristwatch.

"Ah! We need to start heading back now. I have a date to get ready for," Lucy said when she noticed it was almost 6 P.M.

"We need to leave too anyway. I'm Mary by the way," the lady said as they both rose.

"I'm Lucy. It was really nice meeting you and conversing with you," Lucy said as she signaled Jamal over so they could leave.

Chapter 657 Dream Come True

Jamal was dozing in the back seat by the time Lucy pulled into the parking lot at Harry's place.

After Lucy turned off the car she didn't get down immediately but remained in her seat staring at Jamal through the rearview mirror.

Sometimes it was so easy to forget that he was only a kid because of the way he acted and spoke.

She giggled when she recalled how he had proudly taken out the card to pay for their movie ticket. Now that was something.

She couldn't wait to watch him grow up so she would see how he would pamper his girlfriend. Hopefully they won't be in the plural.

She had noticed that majority of the kids who had flocked around him at the park were girls.

She spent only a moment contemplating whether to carry him in or wake him up, before he opened his eyes.

He smiled at her when he caught her eyes in the mirror, "I dozed off," he said as though she had missed it, and she grinned.

"So, I noticed. We are here now. Ready to go in?" she asked, and he gave her a nod.

Lucy got out of the car and as she unlocked his door and unfastened his seatbelt, his arms went around her neck.

"Thank you, Lucy. I love you," Jamal said, and Lucy was taken aback when her heart fluttered pleasantly.

"I love you too, Jam. And I had fun today. You were such a gentleman," Lucy said as Jamal broke the hug so she could straighten up.

"Uncle Harry says I come from a family of gentlemen," Jamal said, and Lucy giggled as she locked the car and took his hand.

"Yeah. No doubt about that," Lucy said, thinking she should have gotten something outrageously expensive with Harry's card just to teach him a lesson.

"Those kids at the park thought you were my mom," Jamal told Lucy as they got into the elevator.

"Really? So what did you say to them?" Lucy asked, and he shrugged.

"I told them you will be my girlfriend's mom," Jamal said with a grin, and Lucy giggled.

Once they got to Harry's, Tom opened the door to let them in, "Finally, you're back. I missed you," Tom said as he kisses her.

"She didn't have the time to miss you because she was with me," Jamal informed Tom as he went to meet Aaron and Harry who were playing a round of soccer.

"How did your date go?" Aaron asked, pausing the game to look at Jamal.

"It was very fun," Jamal said filling them in on all they had done.

"I can't believe you gave him your card to pay for our date," Lucy said to Harry with a shake of her head.

"You gave him one of your cards?" Tom asked in amusement and Harry grinned.

"I don't see why not. He has to start learning to be the perfect gentleman, right, Jamal?" he asked, and Jamal bobbed his head.

"Right. Lucy let me pay for our games. And I didn't let anyone steal Lucy," Jamal said proudly and Tom raised a brow.

"Did someone want to steal her?" Tom asked and Lucy giggled.

"A man wanted to join us, but Jamal shooed him off by telling him I had someone I was getting married to," Lucy explained, and Tom grinned at Jamal.

"You did? I should reward you for that," Tom said, and Lucy rolled her eyes, while the men laughed.

"Tell me, what do you want?" Tom asked, and Jamal looked from Aaron to Harry for a suggestion.

"If I were you I would ask for a private jet or a house," Harry suggested.

"Tell him you will think about it," Aaron said, and Jamal nodded.

"I will think about it," Jamal said, and Tom grinned.

"As long as you don't say you want Lucy or all of my shares or the company," Tom said as he patted Jamal's shoulder.

"We need to run now," Tom said as he glanced at his wristwatch and Harry nodded knowingly.

The drive from Harry's to Lucy's would probably take them about thirty minutes and they would need to freshen up and dress up before driving another distance to Bryan's and Sonia's.

"So, how did your date go?" Tom asked as he drove them to Lucy's.

"It was fun. Jamal was fun," Lucy said with a grin as she told him what Jamal had said about not wanting to hurt Tom but left out the part about wanting to date their daughter.

Saying that would only make the conversation awkward, and she didn't want that. Things were going well between them right now, and she still had a lot of things she needed to figure out and put in place in her head before ever broaching that subject again.

"Jewel?" Tom who had been laughing called softly, when he noticed she had gone silent all of a sudden.

"Yeah?" Lucy asked as she smiled at him.

"Is everything alright? You suddenly became quiet," Tom said and she nodded.

"Yeah. I'm going to miss Jamal when he goes back," she said with a sigh.

"We can always visit him or have him visit us if you want," Tom assured her.

"Sure."

As they dressed up an hour later, Lucy turned to Tom, "So where are you taking me?" she asked, and he grinned.

"It's a surprise. I'm sure you'll love it," Tom said, and Lucy eyed him suspiciously.

"I don't like surprises," she said as she turned away from him to put on her lens.

"Well, I'm very certain you will love this one in particular," Tom said as he looked her over.

For their date Lucy had chosen a glimmering black midi column dress with a halter neck. Her hair was a tumble of curls which fell over her shoulders. A pair of diamond and emerald drops dripped from her ears.

"Your beauty never ceases to steal my breath," Tom said, and Lucy grinned as she met his gaze in the mirror.

"Let's hope you still think so fifty years from now when my skin is all wrinkly," Lucy joked, and Tom caught her hand before she could turn away.

"I love it when you think so far ahead and speak of it so casually," Tom said with a grin, and Lucy chuckled.

"Why? You think I'm going to let you go? You are stuck with me, love. You're mine," she said as she held his warm gaze, and Tom smiled.

"I think wrinkles would look sexy on you," Tom said, and she giggled.

"Please, no! I'm glad you're so wealthy. I can always have plastic surgeries to look younger and sexier..."

"I had no idea you so desperately wanted to look like your plastic doll aunt Sara," Tom cut in and Lucy's lips dropped open in shock but laughter gurgled out of her.

"You're a mean bastard to say that," she said as she laughed.

"Like fine wine, you will only become more beautiful with age," Tom assured her as he looked her over one more time before leading her out of the apartment.

"Where is this place?" Lucy asked as they drove into the residential area where Bryan's house was located. She doubted there were any restaurants or hotels in the neighborhood.

"The place I'm taking you to," Tom said, flashing her a grin, and Lucy adjusted in her seat as they drove past the open gate into the premises.

"This looks like someone's home not a restaurant," she said, and Tom shrugged.

"I said we were going out on a date. I never said I was taking you to a restaurant, did I?"

"What are you up to?" she asked suspiciously.

"Something good," Tom assured her as he drove around the house to park the car away from view as they had agreed so that Sonia wouldn't be suspicious when she saw too many cars parked outside their new home.

As he drove around the house, Lucy caught sight of Harry's car which was already parked there and saw Matt getting out of his car.

"What's happening?" she asked and he shrugged as he parked the car.

"We are here now. You will find out soon enough once we join the others," Tom said as they both got out of the car.

Tom led Lucy to the back of the house, and she was stunned by the decoration and arrangement of the place.

There were flowers and balloons everywhere she turned and in the middle was a single wide bouquet table like the one at the anniversary dinner party.

"You're here. For a moment I thought you were going to be arriving after them," Jade said as she walked up to them.

"Hello, Lu the drunk! How are you doing today? Are you sober now?" Jade greeted sweetly and Lucy giggled.

"I'm not sure I am. What's going on here? Whose party is it?" Lucy asked curiously.

"You do know how to keep secrets better than Bryan. I'm really impressed," Jade said with a pleased smile as she plucked Lucy's purse from her hand.

"It's Sonia's engagement party. I'm going to be holding on to your phone so you don't sneak off and alert her," Jade said, and Tom watched Lucy as she gasped, her eyes wide with happy surprise.

"Really? Bryan is proposing to Sonia tonight?" Lucy asked Tom and he grinned.

"Yeah. He didn't want you to know about it so you wouldn't tell Sonia," Tom explained and she rolled her eyes.

"I wouldn't have told Sonia about it. Besides, I would have been happy to be a part of the arrangement! I feel cheated," Lucy said with a scowl as she turned to Jade.

"Is everything in place? Is there something I can do?" She asked, and Jade shook her head.

"Nope. Everything is in place. We had too many hands on board. Mia and Jeff took care of the catering, I handled the decoration, and Candace handled the florist. Matt is seeing to the waiters," Jade said and Lucy sighed.

"I see."

"You don't have to look so sad. I'm sure you'd be with Sonia all through the wedding planning process. You will definitely be in charge of that," Tom said, and her eyes lit up again.

"You're right! I actually have a wedding to plan! Oh, my God! I didn't even think of that!" Lucy exclaimed laughing happily, and Jade shook her head in amusement.

"Well, I'm going to leave you both now. I need to get back to my man," Jade said as she turned to leave with Lucy's purse, and then paused to look at Tom.

"By the way, Harry said you offered to take care of our vacation?" She asked, and Tom chuckled.

"Yeah. Why? You don't want me to?" Tom asked, while Lucy looked at them curiously wondering what vacation they were talking about.

"Can I trust you to make sure it's as romantic as possible? Don't go all protective possessive big brother on me and get us separate bedrooms," Jade warned, and Tom grinned.

"I would never think of doing that to either of you," Tom assured her, and she grinned.

"You're such a good brother. When you want to propose to Lucy, I will go the extra mile for you," Jade promised as she pecked his cheeks before walking away.

Tom turned to see Lucy's reaction to what Jade had said but she was merely smiling as she looked around, "I suppose this is the property they purchased?" Lucy asked and Tom gave her a nod.

"Sonia is going to be so happy. This is a dream come true for her. Getting married to someone she loves and having a family," Lucy said happily.

"What about you? What is going to be a dream come true for you?" Tom asked as he watched her with interest.

"Why? Are you going to make it come true?" She asked with a teasing smile.

"Sure. I would love to if it's something I can do. So, tell me," Tom urged her.

Lucy opened her mouth to say it but frowned when she realized she didn't even know what it was.

She pursed her lips as she considered the question for a moment.

If she had been asked this same question a week ago she might have said getting to the peak of her career or owning a house or something, but now she wasn't so sure anymore.

She wasn't sure she had ever had a dream that wasn't tied to her career. All she had been doing until now was merely existing and living for her job.

She had not really lived until she moved to Ludus. Until she met Tom. Until she fell in love with him and met all the wonderful people connected to him.

Yes, independence was still a major personal goal for her. Being able to do what she want, when she wanted and how she wanted. But in Tom's brief absence the independence had meant next to nothing and all she had wanted was to have him back with her.

All these years had she not thought that she didn't need a man in her life? She never would have guessed that she would become happier by letting a man into her life. Yet, here she was.

In the last couple of weeks she had come to learn that there was more to life than her career or even money.

This was begining to make her realize that she did not know herself as much as she had thought she did all this time, and perhaps it was time to really get to know herself and find out what she wanted. Maybe it was time to start dreaming again.

Tom smiled as he watched different emotions flicker on her face. He had expected her to say something about getting to the peak of her career, but seeing how confused she looked, he was somewhat relieved.

Maybe there was hope for him after all.

"What are you thinking about so seriously? Want to own a fashion line?" He asked to get her attention and Lucy smiled as she shook her head.

"Nah! I like working for you too much," she assured him with a grin.

"That's such a relief. I have no doubt how fashion line would be out of business if you decided to be a competitor," Tom said making her giggle as they went to join the others.

Chapter 658 Surprise Engagement Party

"Isn't this the way to the house? Is the restaurant on this route or are we stopping by the house before going to the restaurant?" Sonia asked with a displeased frown as Bryan drove the car.

As much as she liked being spontaneous she wasn't in the mood for spontaneity right now. She had planned to spend the evening just lying in bed until Bryan suddenly decided he was craving some fancy Chinese delicacy.

She had suggested he order whatever he wanted but he had insisted they go out together since it had been a while they had gone out on a date.

How could he not understand that being an extrovert didn't mean she was always up for such impromptu dates? She was not in the mood. She was feeling lethargic and wanted to stay in.

After much convincing, here she was, dressed up in a sexy red dress he had convinced her to wear and seated in the car letting Bryan drive her to wherever he pleased

"Yeah. Jade said she left her earrings there yesterday and wanted me to help her get it..."

"And you didn't think you should inform me about this detour? We are going there to meet with the interior decorators tomorrow, aren't we? Why can't the earrings wait until tomorrow?" Sonia hissed irritably.

"She wants to wear it tomorrow..."

"For Christ's sake, Bryan! Then she could have picked it herself! I'm really not in the mood for all of this! I'm tired and want to be on my back," Sonia said, and Bryan reached over to take her hand.

"I'm sorry. I understand I'm stressing you," Bryan said as he lifted her hand to his lips without taking his gaze off the road.

Sonia pulled her hand away from his irritably and turned her back to him so she was looking out her window.

"C'mon love, don't frown. You look more beautiful when you smile," Bryan said, and she turned to glare at him.

"I'm not staying at the restaurant. Not after this detour. We will just get the food and come back home. We can arrange to go on a date some other time," Sonia said, and Bryan nodded.

"Alright. If that's what you want. I'm sorry," Bryan said amicably.

Seeing how calm he was and how he was trying to calm her, Sonia sighed, "I understand you were trying to be romantic by wanting us to go out on a date, but I'm really not feeling up to it. Sorry I'm ruining the mood," Sonia said apologetically and Bryan shrugged.

"It's fine. Is something bothering you or is it the pregnancy hormones?" He asked curiously and she sighed

"I don't know. Maybe it's the hormones," she said, and Bryan turned to look at her.

"What can I do to help?" Bryan asked and Sonia raised a brow.

"Other than taking me back home?" She asked, and Bryan grinned.

"I thought we are heading to our home?" Bryan asked, and Sonia smiled involuntarily.

"Whatever. Let's just get it over with," she said as he drove through the open gate.

"Why is the gate open?" Sonia asked with slight a frown.

"I guess they workers must have forgotten to shut it on their way out. We will do that on our way out," Bryan said and Sonia sighed.

"That's quite careless of them. I guess we should be thankful there's nothing valuable in the house yet," Sonia said and Bryan smiled.

"I doubt anyone living around here would be the type to cart away people's valuables when they're not looking," Bryan assured her as he parked the car.

"Well, you can afford to be so trusting. I can't. Did she tell you where she dropped the earrings?" She asked as she unfastened her seatbelt.

"Give me a minute to call her," Bryan said as he picked his phone and dialed Jade's line to inform her they were there so they could get ready.

"We are here. Where did you drop the earrings?" Bryan asked, and listened for a moment before turning to Sonia who was already getting out of the car.

"She thinks it might be in the backyard," Bryan said as he got out of the car and they both headed for the front door.

Once they got into the house, Sonia turned on the lights and headed straight for the back door which led to the backyard, and as she approached she couldn't help but hear the sound of music drifting from there.

"Are the workers still around or did someone forget their speaker here?" Sonia asked as she turned to look at Bryan.

"Let's find out," he suggested with a blank face as he slowly followed her, letting her lead the way.

As Sonia opened the door, Bryan quickly dipped his hand into the pocket of his trousers to take out the ring.

Now she could clearly hear the lyrics of the song. It was Ed Sheeran's thinking out loud. One of her all time favorites since she was a huge fan of Ed Sheeran.

As she got off the porch and turned the bend following the music, the backyard was suddenly flooded with light and a loud cry of "Surprise!" Split the air as camera lights flashed in her eyes to capture her shocked expression.

"What?" She asked in stunned surprise as she looked around at the smiling face of everyone present there while wondering what was going on.

She turned to Bryan, and gasped in surprise when she saw he was on one knee and holding out a princess cut diamond engagement ring.

"For days now I've been thinking a lot about this moment and what to say to you. There is so much I want to say to you and so many promises I want to make, but I don't think I want to exhaust them all here tonight. If I do that what else will I be telling you for the rest of our lives together?" Bryan asked, and everyone laughed, while Sonia merely continued to stare at him as tears gathered in her eyes.

"One thing I can say though, is that I don't think it's a coincidence that of all the ladies gathered at the lobby that day, I chose you to be my fake fiancée. Perhaps I did not recognize you as mine then, but my soul recognized your soul and of its own volition my heart pulled me to you. At first I thought you were a witch, but then I knew for real that you were one, cause only a witch could have captivated my heart as easily as you did. I'm enchanted by you and I love you, Sonia Smith. You're the most beautiful, most intelligent, most compassionate and sexiest woman I will ever know. I want you to be mine. In body, heart and soul. I want to spend forever knowing and loving you. Will

you please do me this honor and be my partner for life?" Bryan asked, and a tear spilled from Sonia's eyes as she bobbed her head and held out her fingers to him to slip on the ring.

"Oh, Bryan!" Sonia cried, her lips wobbling as she looked down at her fingers and broke into a sob startling everyone.

Bryan smiled as he rose and embraced. Kissing her head as he held her tightly to himself while she cried.

Looking at Sonia, Lucy couldn't stop her tears from flowing either, despite the smile on her face, and she sniffled as she received the hankie Tom handed her.

"Damn pregnancy hormones," Jade muttered beside Harry, and he chuckled since he could see she was blinking back tears.

"I suppose you're pregnant too?" Harry joked, and Jade giggled as she brushed her tears away.

"Her tears are contagious," Jade said as she stepped forward.

"Alright, enough of the tears sister-in-law! It's time to celebrate!" Jade exclaimed, and they all clapped and gathered around Bryan and Sonia, congratulating them.

While the guys drew Bryan aside, the ladies flanked Sonia.

"We took you by surprise, didn't we?" Jade asked with a grin and Candace giggled.

"All that talk about engagement and proposals was because of me?" Sonia asked when it finally clicked, and both Jade and Candace laughed even more but Lucy was lost.

"I always thought you were so smart. I can't believe you didn't catch on," Candace teased Sonia as she embraced her.

"Did you know about this too? I really wasn't expecting it," Sonia said and Lucy shook her head.

"I had no idea. Tom tricked me. He lied we were going on a date and brought me here. Now that you mention it, I should get back my phone from Jade," Lucy said and explained how Jade had seized her phone making Sonia laugh softly.

"Well, we couldn't trust you to keep the secret from her," Jade said as she returned Lucy's purse.

"Lucy is best at keeping secrets," Sonia assured them as she faced Lucy again and they both teared up as they embraced.

"Congrats, best girl! I'm so happy for you!" Lucy said as she patted Sonia's back.

Perceiving that the best friends needed a moment alone, Candace and Jade excused themselves.

"I can't believe I was giving him such a hard time in the car earlier while he had managed to set this up. Now I feel like a bitch," Sonia said, and Lucy giggled.

"I'm sure he knows you're a bitch already and loves you all the same. By the way, if I remember correctly you used to say people who shed tears during proposals are hypocrites, yet you just cried a river," Lucy said and Sonia shrugged.

"Blame it on the pregnancy hormones," she said, and Lucy giggled.

"I have a feeling you're going to be blaming a lot of things on your pregnancy hormones," Lucy said and Sonia laughed softly.

"Well, I was actually surprised and touched. I wasn't expecting a proposal. I didn't think Bryan was ready. I know he loves me and stuff, but you know, he's a celebrity and all that. I thought we will just keep dating and I'll be his Babymama and stuff until he was ready," Sonia said with a shrug.

"How do you feel?" Lucy asked looking at her seriously and Sonia sighed.

"Happy and contented. I'm going to have a husband I love and a baby we cherish. My own family and home, Lu!" Sonia said, and Lucy smiled.

"Dream come true, yeah?"

"Dream come true, Lu! You realize this means you're going to be spending all your free time with me, right? We have to make lots of plans for the wedding, Lu! I want a really grande wedding," Sonia said, and Lucy laughed.

"Why don't you start by enjoying your engagement party and then we can talk about the wedding plans later? Your fiancé and the guests are waiting," Lucy said jerking her head towards the others.

"Fiancé, Lu! He's no longer just my boyfriend but my fiancé!" Sonia said with sparkling eyes and Lucy giggled as she took Sonia's hand and led her back to where Bryan was standing.

"Ready to go back home to lie on your back now?" Bryan asked, and Sonia grinned as she kissed him.

"I guess that will have to wait," Sonia said as Mia walked up to them.

"Congrats, girl! I knew if anyone could tame Bryan, it was you!" Mia said as she embraced Sonia.

"Oh, Mia! Thank you," Sonia cried softly as she embraced Mia, remembering how Mia had rooted for her at the beginning of the fake relationship.

"Tame? I tamed her too," Bryan said defensively making Mia and Sonia laugh.

"I don't think you did," Matt said as he joined them, and embraced Sonia.

"Too bad I can no longer snatch you from him," Matt said, and Sonia laughed.

"You couldn't even if you had tried," Bryan said smugly as he pulled Sonia back to his side.

"Can I welcome my soon-to-be sister-in-law?" Tom asked, and Sonia stepped away from Bryan to embrace Tom.

Seizing the opportunity, Bryan drew Lucy aside, "I was going to talk to you before proposing to her but I also didn't want to ruin the surprise," Bryan said and Lucy grinned as she shook her head.

"That doesn't matter to me, Bryan. As long as Sonia is happy, I'm cool," Lucy assured him.

"Well, since you're the closest person she has to a family apart from your parents and brother, I wanted to assure you that I love Sonia and will do my best to make her happy for the rest of our lives," Bryan said and Lucy giggled.

"I'm sure you will. And if you don't, I trust Sonia to handle you," Lucy said, and Bryan chuckled.

"Right. I'm also hoping we would both get along better. I mean, it's not like we don't get along. I just hope we will have a better relationship since apart from the fact that you're Tom's girlfriend, you're also really important to Sonia. Maybe we could work on being friends?" Bryan asked, and Lucy smiled.

"Sure. Thanks," Lucy said and they both turned when Jade used a piece of cutlery to tap lightly on her wineglass so she could get everyone's attention.

"Alright, people! I know that so many of you are jobless here, but tomorrow is a work day and we need to leave here early," Jade announced.

"That's my role you're filling! I'm Bryan's best friend for crying out loud!" Matt complained loudly making everyone laugh as they took their seats around the table.

"I'm surprised you invited Alicia and Jasmine. I thought you didn't like them," Sonia asked as she looked at the couple who were busy capturing photos.

"I don't dislike them. I just don't like them nosing into my business. And I invited them because I wanted them to cover the engagement and release the news to the public. I didn't want to invite any other reporter into our home," Bryan explained and Sonia nodded.

"That was quite thoughtful of you," she said with an approving smile.

"You don't mind us spending the night here, do you?" Bryan asked quietly, and Sonia raised a brow.

"Where? We haven't set up... Hold on, did you fix our bedroom without my knowledge?" Sonia asked with a glare and Bryan chuckled.

"Only a temporary fix. I wanted us to spend tonight here. It doesn't change the fact that you're in charge of fixing up the place. It's your house after all," Bryan said, and she relaxed.

"Our home," Sonia corrected.

"The building is yours. I know you didn't notice that I bought it in your name. Consider it my engagement gift to you," Bryan said, and Sonia's jaw dropped.

"Bryan!" she said softly not knowing what else to say.

"I love you," Bryan said and raised her hand to his lips.

"That could be us, you know?" Matt whispered to Candace who was seated beside him, when he noticed the smile on her face as she stared at Bryan and Sonia.

"Really?" she asked as she turned her attention to him and Matt nodded.

"Yeah. I know it will be us someday. I'm counting on that," Matt said and without waiting for her to say a word he deliberately turned away from her to talk to Jeff who was seated beside him.

He wanted her to have it in mind that he was only playing her game with her right now but still had every intention of building something serious with her someday when she was ready. He wasn't going to let her forget it.

Chapter 659 Awkward Request

As they all dined together, everyone around the table had different thoughts running through their mind even as they conversed.

While Sonia and Bryan were filled with joy at the prospect of beginning the forever journey with each other, Lucy was joyful on Sonia's behalf but couldn't stop thinking about Tom's question to her.

What would be a dream come true for her? It seemed like with each passing day she was getting more thought-provoking questions that she had no answers to.

Tom who was seated beside her, was wondering how he would propose to Lucy if ever she eventually decided to get married to him. He knew it was risky to have such hopeful thoughts, but he couldn't help it.

Knowing how private Lucy could be, he doubted that she would want such an engagement party. She would most likely want a quiet proposal with just the both of them.

Tom's lips twitched as he imagined proposing to her and making love to her after she accepted. He would rather do that himself than sit like this to eat with a bunch of people no matter what their relationship was. They could always dine together on their wedding day, it just didn't have to be on their engagement hour.

Seated beside Tom, Harry was busy thinking about all that he needed to put in place so he could leave with Jade on their vacation.

It had been such a long time since the last time he had taken a leave from work, and even the while on the so-called leave, he had been busy working but not just from the office.

It didn't matter that he had traveled to one of the best vacation spot in the world to spend his time away from work. He had almost been drive crazy by the idleness and boredom of not doing anything.

He had no doubt that with Jade it would be easy to laze around and do nothing but give his whole attention to her. Even with his busy schedule right now, she had no problem stealing his attention and thoughts. That had never been a problem with Jade. By simply being in the same space with him, she had his attention.

His lips twitched as his thoughts drifted to the image of her joining him naked in the bathroom the previous day. She was crazy. Crazier than he had thought, and as amusing as it was, it was cute.

Her annoyance at his reaction had actually amused him more even though he had actually thought she was mind-blowingly sexy, if there was such a word to qualify it.

If only she knew the number of women who had tried to seduce him over the years, then she would understand that his self-control was more about himself than it was about her.

Seated beside Harry, Jade was imagining Harry's proposal to her. Even though she knew she was running ahead of herself she just could not help it.

"How do you intend to propose to me?" Jade asked as she turned to look at Harry and he chuckled.

"When it's time I will figure it out, and you will know," Harry said, and she scowled.

Harry leaned closer to her so he could whisper into her ears. "You shouldn't scowl. You look better, smiling, laughing, blushing, or having an orgasm," Harry said and Jade gasped in shock as color flooded her face and Harry chuckled as he returned his attention to his meal

Candace looked around the table as she ate and one again she was overwhelmed by the sort of people she had in her life now. Was she daydreaming or was she really a part of this cycle?

A couple of weeks ago she never would have imagined that her life would take such a turn, but thanks to Matt, it had.

If he hadn't shown up in her life when he did and reunited her with Jade, she would probably still be in hiding by now or maybe something worse could have happened to her, after all Cassidy and Jero had managed to find them.

And even if thanks to Jero she would still have known she had a family, she would never have tried to dig deeper to know it was Aaron and Harry. She never would have even made an attempt to contact them if Jade hadn't convinced her to.

Here she was now. Seated with these lovely people, enjoying a quiet dinner in celebration of love.

She looked down when she felt Matt trailing a finger on her thigh and then she glanced at him, wondering what he was up to.

"How about we sneak off so you can show me what you're wearing underneath your beautiful dress?" he whispered to her with a blank face.

"Pervert!" she hissed playfully, trying not to look amused as she caught Sonia's gaze on them, and Sonia winked at her.

She couldn't believe that even at this important moment, Sonia was busy focusing on her interaction with Matt. Never had she seen a busybody like Jade and Sonia in her entire life.

Mia was unusually silent as she ate, and Harry did not miss that. Neither did he miss the fact that all evening she had tried not to be within his line of vision. He was going to make sure to have a word with her before leaving.

Unlike the others, Jeff was more interested in eating to his satisfaction, so his whole attention was focused on the meal.

Alicia and Jasmine on the other hand, busied with checking out the videos and pictures they had captured so they could sort them and show it to Bryan and Sonia before leaving.

The plan was to release the news of their engagement that night after they left there.

Once they were done with dinner and were having dessert, Jade cleared her throat so that every other conversation around the table would seize.

"I understand that this is your engagement party, but since everyone involved is gathered here right now do you mind if we discuss Rebekah Miller's coming interview?" Jade asked, looking at Sonia and Bryan for permission.

Bryan turned to Sonia and she shrugged, "I don't see why not. It's not like all the conversations going on around the table was focused on us anyway," Sonia said with a grin.

"It's this week, isn't? I haven't been paying much attention," Tom muttered to Harry who was seated next to him.

"We both know you have more important things to worry about. Leave stuff like that to us who don't have babymama dramas," Harry whispered back and chuckled when Tom glared at him.

"So, what do we need to know about the interview?" Lucy asked curiously and Jade filled them in on everything that had happened thus far and her plan for the interview.

"We still haven't discussed the possible questions we need to ask her yet," Alicia reminded them, glancing at Tom.

"That should be the easiest part. We have to come up with questions about motherhood and being the wife of Richard. Just something to keep her occupied with her lies until the police shows up to put the cuffs on her," Jade said and Sonia smiled.

"You can leave the questions to me. Alicia, I will text you the questions by morning," Sonia said and Alicia gave her a nod.

"Although I wish Anita would be on that stage with her mother after all she did, but I guess it's a good thing she turned a new leaf," Sonia muttered and they chuckled.

"How many of us are going to be attending that interview?" Jade asked curiously.

"Since Anita won't be there, I'm not sure I'm interested anymore. I'll rather watch the show from my office," Lucy said, and Tom nodded.

"Me too."

"I will definitely be there. I don't want to miss the drama," Sonia said with a grin.

"That settles it then. The three of us will be there. Candace, you'll be joining us, I trust you don't have an appointment to meet with any friend at that time," Jade said, and Candace rolled her eyes while Matt chuckled.

"Mr. Jonas?" Alicia called politely since this was her first time interacting with Harry unlike the others.

Harry raised a brow as he turned to her, "How can I help you?" he asked, and Jade grinned at the coolness of his tone.

Harry was obviously not one to just let anyone into his cycle whether or not he was sharing a meal with them at the same table. He had heard all about how nosy Alicia could be and he had enough nosy people in his life already. There was no room to accommodate more.

Alicia cleared her throat, feeling slightly unnerved by his coldness, "I was hoping you would be willing to grant me an interview concerning the issue that has been going on for some time now about Sara Walker being your mother," she said politely and everyone stopped what they were doing to look at Harry.

Jeff and Mia were the only two people at the table, apart from the gay couple, who had no idea about the relationship between Harry and Sara and they definitely didn't know about Candace's relationship with Harry either.

"Alicia, I didn't invite you here to do this," Bryan said, when he saw that Tom was clearly displeased by Alicia's manners.

"We are sorry," Jasmine apologized immediately she sensed the tension that had taken over the air and pinched Alicia to do the same.

"I'm sorry. I didn't think before speaking," Alicia said, wondering if they seemed upset by the subject because it was true.

"I believe you thought before speaking, but you just didn't think your request would be met with such a response," Harry said before Tom could speak.

He did not miss the fact that she didn't seem genuinely apologetic about doing what she did.

"No, I..."

"I will grant you an exclusive interview if only you go can dig into Sara Walker's life on your own and confirm whether or not the rumors are true. If you're able to do that and come up with any tangible evidence on your own, I will grant you an exclusive interview and tell you everything," Harry promised, interrupting Alicia.

"You will?" Alicia asked excitedly.

"I will," Harry said as he met Candace's questioning gaze.

He gave her a subtle nod, asking her not to worry. He doubted that Alicia would be able to uncover anything meaningful they didn't already know about Sara, but if she ended up doing so, then it would be an advantage for them.

As much as he didn't like Alicia's nosy personality, he had loved how she handled Lucy's interview and got her to talk about her past. Maybe Candace would need someone like that too when it was time to introduce her officially to the world as his sister.

He believed that Alicia had enough empathy to make both Candace and the public understand that Candace had done what she needed to do to survive and there was no shame in anything she had done.

Jade placed her hand over Harry's and squeezed gently. Maybe it was because she had spent too much time in his company some how she could guess what he was thinking.

Once they were done and everyone was ready to leave, Harry cornered Mia before she could get into Jasmine's car since they had come together.

"You've been deliberately avoiding me, haven't you?" Harry asked from behind Mia, and she spun around to face him, slightly startled.

"What? No! Why would I do that?" she asked, looking flushed.

"That's the exact same thing I've been wondering. Why would you do that when you can easily tell me where we first met. Or would you rather I hire someone to look into you?" Harry asked, and Mia swallowed.

"No. No! I wasn't avoiding you. And all of that is not necessary," Mia said, and Harry nodded.

"I don't want to keep the others waiting. I will be expecting you in my office tomorrow. If you don't show up before noon, I'll assume you want me to dig into you," Harry said and walked away without letting her say anything else.

Mia raised a hand to massage her temple as she watched him walk away. She would rather tell him who she was herself than have him dig into her life. Since she had no idea how much digging would be done or what they might find.

Chapter 660 ECopy Result

The first thing Lucy did when she woke up the next morning was reach out for Tom, but when her hands made contact with the empty space beside her, she frowned as she sat up and turned on the bedside lamp.

Where was Tom? She mused as she glanced at the clock beside her. It was just past four in the morning.

They had gotten home sometime past eleven the previous night, and had shared the bath together, relaxing, talking about all that had happened at the engagement party and making love before finally going to sleep.

She got out of bed and looked around to find her oversized T-shirt which she threw over her head before going out in search of Tom.

She found him in the living room, dressed in just his boxers and sipping from a mug of coffee with his back to her.

Judging by his posture, Lucy guessed he was lost in his thoughts so she decided to sneak up on him on tiptoes, but before she got to where he was, he sensed her presence and turned to her.

He smiled at the sight of her tousled hair and sleepy face which was now set in a pout at being caught.

"How did you know I was here?" She asked, and Tom chuckled as he pointed to her shoulder.

"Good morning. Missed me?" he asked as he set down the coffee mug, and she bobbed her head as she climbed onto his lap straddling him.

"Yeah. Why are you up already? Did you even get any sleep?" she asked as she watched his face since she knew she had slept first.

"I couldn't fall asleep," he said with a shrug.

"Why?" she asked with concern.

Tom smiled, "You were snoring so badly..."

"Liar! I don't snore!" Lucy hissed and he chuckled as he rubbed his eyes which were beginning to feel really heavy.

Despite the fact the he was exhausted and wanted to sleep, his mind wasn't. He was too worried to go to bed.

"Is something bothering you?" Lucy asked as she rubbed his shoulders gently.

Tom hesitated a moment before shaking his head, "I don't know. I guess I'm feeling really anxious. In a couple of hours the result will be out. I'm just worried," Tom confessed.

"Aww!" Lucy cooed as she embraced him.

Tom buried his face in the crook of her neck and tried to relax as she patted his back like a mother comforting a troubled child.

"I didn't expect you to lose sleep over it," Lucy said softly.

"How could I not? If the result comes back positive it means my whole life is going to change, Lucy..."

"For the better hopefully," she said in a soothing voice as she pulled away to look into his face.

"What if it isn't for the better? What if I'm not prepared for it? I mean, I don't even know what I'm expected to do. How am I supposed to build a relationship with the child if she is mine?" Tom said and Lucy giggled.

"What's funny?" he asked with a frown, and she grinned.

"I never thought the day would come when I would see the almighty Thomas Hank doubting himself," she said with a teasing smile, and Tom sighed.

"I'm being serious."

"And I am being serious too. How can you even doubt yourself?" Lucy asked incredulously.

"What if I'm not ready to be a father yet?" he asked with a frown.

"How could you not be ready? You've always wanted to have a child and now you just might have one. I expect you to be excited not second-guessing yourself," Lucy said, and Tom shook his head.

"This is different, Lu. Wanting it is different from being all round prepared to take on the responsibility. Take Bryan for instance. Sonia is pregnant and he has the whole of nine months to prepare his mind towards fatherhood. But you see this? It's like it is being thrust upon me. There is no enough time for me to prepare. It's all so sudden," he said and she sighed.

This must have been one of the things Harry had meant when he said Tom must have a lot on his mind. It had not exactly occurred to her that apart from being worried about her reaction to the news he would be so worried about not being ready to be a father.

"If you ask me, I think you're more than ready and would do an excellent job. Let's assume you were adopting. It would be the same as this. Adopting a grown up child..."

"No, it wouldn't," Tom cut in.

"It's not just about her age or the fact that I missed out on her birth and all. It's about being ready for it psychologically. If I were going for an adoption I would be adopting with an already prepared mind. I would even be the one to see the child, bond with the child and choose to adopt them myself. This is different. If the DNA result comes back positive I have no choice in the matter. I have to meet this cute little stranger and try everything I can to form a bond with her. How and where would I start from? What if she ends up not liking me as she gets to know me?" Tom asked, and even though Lucy was tempted to laugh again, she shook her head.

"Who wouldn't love you? Besides, didn't you say she was happy to see you when they came up to the hotel to see you?" Lucy reminded him.

"I don't know, Lucy," Tom said as he rested his head on her bosom and she patted it gently.

"I thought I was the overthinker in this relationship. Are you trying to take my position from me?" She asked, and Tom smiled.

"I think it's a good thing we are well balanced. You can be reasonable while I am overthinking and vice versa," Tom said and Lucy kissed the tip of his nose.

"Don't you think you are forgetting something?" she asked, and he looked up at her.

"What?"

"The fact that you won't exactly be doing it alone. I will be right beside you cheering and supporting you in every way that I can," Lucy said, and Tom smiled as his hands moved over her back.

"As much as I would love to have you do this with me, I couldn't possibly ask you to do something I know you don't want to. Last time we had conversation about kids you made it clear you didn't want to be involved with one whether birthing them or adopting them," Tom reminded her.

"Yeah. And that was before we realized I might not have much of a choice in the matter since the man I am crazily in love with probably has one already. What kind of a lover would I be if I left you to take care of this all by yourself?" Lucy asked reasonably.

Before Tom could respond she kissed the side of his lips, "It's a good thing I'm not the only one with drama and baggage in the relationship. Not that I'm calling the kid a baggage," Lucy rushed to add so he wouldn't misunderstand.

"I'm just trying to say, you don't have to ask me to do any of this with you. I will love to be here for you for change," she said as she held Tom's gaze with a firm one of her own.

"Thanks," Tom said, and she shrugged.

"If we are done with that, can we return to the bedroom now? You need to get some sleep, love. Why don't you come in and rest your eyes for the next couple of hours? I'm sure no one would mind terribly if you show up at the office an hour late," Lucy suggested.

"I doubt I'd be able to get any sleep. Not after consuming two mugs of coffee," Tom said and she raised a brow.

"So, why did you take coffee then?"

"Because I wanted to drink something other than water, and there was no alcohol," Tom said, and she nodded.

"I see. Perhaps we can wear the coffee out of your system, what do you think?" She asked with a suggestive wink and Tom chuckled.

"I think you might end up wearing yourself out in the process," he said, and she grinned.

"I guess that's a little price to pay in order to put you to sleep. I will have to pilfer a couple of bottles when next I sleep over at your place," Lucy said and Tom raised a brow.

"Why pilfer when you can just buy it?"

"You don't possibly expect me to buy the sort of wine you prefer with my money, do you? Do you think I haven't checked the prices of the wines at your bar? I've been thinking about it, you know? I think that's the downside of having a wealthy boyfriend. You have such an expensive taste and I

think I might have to break my account to get you anything of your taste," she said and he chuckled as he rose, still carrying her, and headed for the bedroom.

"Then you should allow me place you on a monthly girlfriend allowance. That way you can afford to buy me stuff of my taste," Tom said and she rolled her eyes.

"Buy you stuff with your own money? How romantic. I'd rather break my account. What's the point in working so hard and saving so much if I can't afford to splurge on the love of my life?" she asked, and Tom chuckled as he dropped her on the bed and she wrapped her legs around him so that he would remain on top of her.

"I think you're awesome, Tom. And would make an excellent father. Any child would be proud and lucky to have you as their dad," she said with a serious expression.

"If you think so why don't we make at least one proud and lucky child together some time in the future?" Tom asked, half expecting her to pull away or dismiss it, but to his surprise she giggled.

"I guess I will have to think about it," she said, surprising him further.

He wasn't sure whether to ask if she meant it or if she was pulling his legs, but he decided not to push it. Maybe he could playfully bring it up again next time so he could know what was going on in her head.

He didn't know if she realized it yet, but so much about her was changing. And he loved it both for her and for himself.

A couple of hours later, seated behind the desk in his office, Tom received the eCopy of the DNA paternity result that had been bothering him all through the weekend and without opening or downloading it he dialed Lucy's line.

He knew he could have called Harry to do this with him, but the person he wanted to be with him right now was Lucy. He wanted her to be here with him when he opened it so they could see the result together.

"Tom?" Lucy asked the moment she received the call, wondering if everything was alright.

"They've sent the result," Tom said, and Lucy's heart skipped a beat at that.

"And?" She asked, holding her breath as she waited for him to tell her the result of the test.

"I haven't checked it yet. Can you come over to my office so we open it together?" He asked, and without thinking twice Lucy shut down her laptop and rose.

"I'm coming over right now," she said as she hung up the call.

She quickly picked her blazers from where she hung it and put it on as she strode out of her office, walking briskly.

Tom might not know it, but the DNA paternity test result was just as important to her as it was to him. The presence of this kid wouldn't only be changing his life but hers as well.

Seeing how it seemed like she was beginning to rethink her decision on marriage and having kids, there was every possibility that this one child might end up being her first child as well even if she was going to be her stepdaughter.

If the kid happened to be his, then this might just be the child that would determine whether or not she was interested in having kids of her own.