

A Favor 561

Chapter 561

“I promise to thank my mother later for giving me your number and pushing me to meet you that day. Now I know it was the best decision I ever made, because I found my soulmate,” he whispered, just for me to hear, holding my face in his hands.

“Yes,” I agreed. “It was also the day you asked me how much your mother had offered me to accept the contract, and said you’d double the price.”

“Wow, I can’t believe I asked you something so silly.”

“But you did ask.”

“I know. That’s the stupidest question I’ve ever asked.”

“Hey! Excuse me—aren’t you going to kiss the bride?”

“Ahh!” we exclaimed in unison, laughing together as we turned back to the pastor, who had been patiently waiting for us to seal our vows.

A loud laugh echoed throughout the garden.

“Oops, sorry.”

Daniel shrugged, and before I could open my mouth to apologize too, he cupped my face and gave me the most passionate kiss he’d ever given me.

“I love you, my wife,” I said after that breathtaking kiss.

I simply smiled—a smile that carried all the happiness in my heart and soul.

“I love you too, my husband.”

He pulled me into a tight embrace after kissing my forehead. Everyone offered well wishes and congratulations as we descended the two steps and headed toward where our family waited.

That was it.

Our eternity starts here. Oh, that’s not quite true—our eternity began the moment we first met.

Our hopes and dreams, waiting to be fulfilled together, begin here.

We now have a new agreement—one that is not a sham, but real, and will certainly last forever.

Looking back on those times, on struggles that once brought a sharp pain to my heart, I find myself smiling now, wondering, How did I manage to overcome all that? Perhaps it was because I had friends around me, and a strong man behind me, supporting me through all of it.

Now I believe time has a way of revealing what truly matters in life. We just need to learn to wait and never lose hope, because one day you'll realize that everything worked out, and all you wished for came true.

Lesson learned? We must leave our past behind so it doesn't destroy our future, our dreams, our lives.

Live for what today has to offer, not for what yesterday took from you. These were Craig's words.

And he was absolutely right, because the past is a nice place to visit, but certainly not a good place to stay.

From that moment on, I closed the door to the past and opened the door to the future. I was beginning a new chapter in life with the man I'd chosen to grow old with.

The End.

Daniel's point of view

Two months later...

Darling, I came home early today. I want to cook your favorite dish... so please be home before 7 p.m... I love you... And don't forget to buy my favorite ice cream... Thank you.

Chapter 562

A smile formed on my lips after reading my wife's message. I glanced at the time on my wristwatch. It was only 3:30 p.m., and I still had thirty minutes before my last meeting of the afternoon, so I decided to call her.

I took a deep breath when she answered on the second ring. I was about to greet her when she cut me off.

"Hello, my handsome husband."

I couldn't contain my laughter when I heard her laughing on the other end of the line. That sounded like music to my ears.

"Hello to you, my wonderful and sexy wife."

She laughed even harder. “Wow! I love this, my dear. Anyway, did you read the message I just sent you?”

“Yes, that’s why I thought of calling you. Are you okay?” My voice sounded worried.

“Of course I am. I just have a craving for my favorite chocolate ice cream, and since I finished my workout early today, I decided to come home early. I’m also planning to make your favorite dish tonight.”

“Ah, my dear... you have no idea how much I wanted to cancel my next meeting to help you prepare dinner, but—”

“No! You don’t need to do that, I’m fine. It’s just a simple dish, and Nanay Emily is here to help me, so focus on your work, okay? I’ll wait for you tonight.”

“Alright... I’ll be home before seven.”

“That would be great. Anyway, I need to hang up—Nanay Emily is waiting for me in the car.”

“Why? Where are you going?”

“We’re going to the nearest supermarket to buy the ingredients and some canned goods.”

“Understood. Be careful, my love, and take Ben and his men with you.”

I grimaced when she suddenly laughed on the other end of the line.

“Oh my God, Daniel Kelley! The supermarket is only five hundred meters from the village gate. I don’t need that much security.”

“No, my dear... it’s better to have two or three of them with you, for your safety.”

“Alright...” I could just imagine her rolling her eyes. “We’ll take Ben and Tom. Is that okay with you?”

“Yes, but ask Simon and Phil to follow your car too.”

“Oh my God! You know how much I hate it when someone follows me! It’s so strange!”

I sighed, but couldn’t help smiling. If there was one thing I loved most about her, it was her courage—and her stubbornness.

“Alright, but promise me you’ll be careful, okay?”

“Sir, yes, sir!” She chuckled, and I couldn’t help laughing along with her.

“I’m serious, dear.”

“I know, and don’t worry—I’m old enough to take care of myself.”

“Ugh, so stubborn,” I muttered, mostly to myself, not realizing she’d overheard.

“But admit it, my love—you still love this woman, even though she’s the most stubborn one you’ve ever known.”

“Well...”

“And she loves you, even though you’re the most arrogant and possessive husband in the world.”

“Ahh... you forgot to mention that he’s also the most handsome and sexy of husbands, and that he can make you scream in bed every night.”

“Oh, you’re mistaken, my love. For your information, I don’t scream during those moments. Do you know what I do instead?”

“What?”

Chapter 563

“I... moan... your... name... darling... ahh.”

I swallowed hard, hearing how seductive her voice sounded. I felt the effect of her words too, imagining her wrapped around me, and the priceless expression she wore when she reached the peak.

“Tsk, ts, ts... please don’t think too much about me, Mr. Kelley. Don’t worry, though—tonight I promise to give you the best thing you’ve ever had in your life.”

“Ahh...” I laughed at her statement, my mind still full of her. “Alright, you’ll do the work, then.”

She paused for a second. “Ah, that’s more interesting than doing the work... but alright, I’ll get the cooking done, and whatever else you want—get ready for tonight.”

The smile that spread across my face was full of desire, and I knew she felt it too. That’s what I gathered from her tone, at least. Little did I know that the “surprise” she had in mind was nothing like the one I was expecting.

“I’m going to hang up now, my love. Don’t be late for dinner tonight, or I swear I won’t speak to you for a week.”

“I won’t, my love, I promise,” I said, still smiling.

“Alright, I need to go. Bye... I love you.”

“Love you too.”

I leaned back in my seat as I heard the final tone on the other end of the line. Looking at her photo on my phone screen, a sigh of satisfaction escaped my lips.

She was right. Even though she was the most stubborn woman I had ever known, my feelings for her would never change. I would still love her—and perhaps, even in another life, I would choose to be exactly who I was now, because that was the reason I had met an incredible woman like her.

“Tsk, ts, ts... I didn’t know marriage would drive you crazier than being single ever did.”

I turned toward the door and saw Andrew laughing as he made his way to my desk. I hadn’t even noticed him come in.

“Ha! You’ll only know the feeling once Denise accepts your proposal,” I said, tucking my phone back into the drawer. “What are you doing here? I don’t remember calling you in.”

He let out a loud laugh as he dropped onto the sofa across from my desk.

“Haha... in case you didn’t know, I’ve already stopped flirting with your secretary. I know I’m not her type. And as for your question—don’t tell me you’ve forgotten I’m your personal assistant? Tsk, tsk. I’m here to remind you of your 4 p.m. meeting with our new investors. You still have ten minutes to prepare, sir.”

He emphasized the last word, but I ignored him. If the meeting weren’t so important, I would’ve had Andrew cancel it and push it to the next day. But I knew that would only cause me a headache tomorrow morning, so no—I was simply going to sacrifice one precious hour away from my wife to deal with this new investor.

Chapter 564

“Where is she?” I asked, referring to Denise, since she was the one I’d assigned to prepare the meeting room. He gave me a puzzled look.

“Why are you asking me that?”

“What?”

“Obviously, she’s at home.” He shrugged, and I stopped mid-motion, jacket half off the back of my chair, staring at him in confusion.

“What on earth are you talking about? Why would she leave without telling me?”

“Hey, I don’t know! Weren’t you just talking to her a minute ago?”

“Jesus,” I muttered under my breath, jaw tightening. “Yes, I was talking to my wife when you walked in, but she’s not who I meant!”

“So who are you talking about, then—ahh! Haha, got it!” He rubbed the back of his neck. “She’s in the meeting room, getting everything ready for your presentation.”

“Tss! Let’s go.” I shook my head, gathered the files from my desk, and walked past him toward the door.

When I felt him following me, I stopped and handed him the files. “Were you drunk last night?”

“Huh? Of course not!” he replied with a grimace.

“Then why do you look hungover? You’re not yourself.”

“Nah! Don’t worry about me. I was just thinking about my life.” That made me burst out laughing.

“Yeah, I believe you weren’t drunk last night,” I said, shaking my head as I stepped into the elevator.

Sophia's perspective

"He's here! He's coming!"

My breath caught as I heard Craig yelling from the yard. I knew he was talking about Daniel. I closed my eyes, trying to calm my nerves.

"Hey." I felt a gentle tap on my shoulder. "Are you okay?"

I opened my eyes to see Rian smiling at me, and I took a deep breath before nodding.

"Relax, sis, we're all here for you. We're going to support you."

"Thank you. I just don't know what his reaction will be. He'll be happy..."

"Of course he will! He's going to be a father, and besides having you as his wife, becoming a dad would be the greatest gift he could ever have in life."

I bit my lip and looked at her, not knowing what to say.

“Come on, sis! He’ll be so excited when he finds out about your surprise, I promise!”

I took another deep breath when I saw Craig and Gavin gesturing for me to stay where I was.

“Stay here, and remember, we’re the supporting cast. You two are the lead actors.” I laughed as Rian winked at me.

I was three months pregnant now. It was just six more months of waiting, and we’d become a complete family. Actually, it had been two weeks since I found out I was pregnant. I’d needed to visit my doctor without telling anyone, not even Craig, just to confirm my instincts, and the result had brought me to tears.

When I shared the news with Craig and Rian, they insisted on throwing a surprise party for Daniel. With only two weeks until Father’s Day, I decided to tell him on the exact day.

Daniel’s perspective

Chapter 565

I couldn’t help but furrow my brow as I approached the spacious area in front of our house, noticing the familiar cars parked outside. I tried to remember what possible celebration could be happening today, but nothing came to mind.

It wasn't my father's birthday, nor my mother's. Not Rian's either, or Alex's, or the kids'. I glanced at the calendar app on my phone to check the date and make sure I hadn't forgotten any important occasion, but there was nothing listed. My wife's birthday was in August, and we were still in July, so I couldn't imagine any reason for a celebration today.

I stopped thinking about it once I was three meters from the entrance.

"Good evening, sir."

"Good evening," I greeted the two guards as they opened the door for me.

A deep frown formed on my forehead the moment I saw my family and friends gathered in the living room. I scanned the crowd, looking for my wife, but my mother caught my arm.

"Hi, son, you finally made it home."

I smiled, kissing her cheek. "Hello, Mom. Why is everyone here? What's the occasion? Am I forgetting something today?"

She was about to answer, but my father appeared in front of me and gave me a pat on the shoulder. "You're home, my boy!"

"Dad, how are you?"

“Hmm... well, I’m well. And you, son? Don’t tell me you’re always like this, always busy. And you always leave your wife waiting for you every day.”

“Dad, I—”

“How will you give me grandchildren if you don’t change your routine?”

“Dad...” I couldn’t help but scratch the back of my neck when he cut me off again.

“You’ve only been married for two months, and here you are, leaving your wife in bed and coming home when she’s already asleep. Tsk, tsk, tsk, Daniel... you’re not getting any younger, and neither are we. We’re aging day by day, and we want to see your children before the sunset covers our bodies.”

Wow. I sighed quietly. I really wanted to see my wife—hug her tightly, kiss her, bury my face in her neck and breathe in her fresh vanilla scent. But how could I do that while I was still trapped in my father’s lecture?

“Anyway, I know how hard you’re working now, but please make time for your wife. Time is precious, my son. You can’t turn it back once it’s passed, so don’t waste it. Make every day count for her.”

He gave me another pat on the shoulder.

“I’ll keep that in mind, Dad.” I decided to agree with him rather than argue my case, because I knew if I did, we wouldn’t finish the conversation until tomorrow morning. “Have you seen my wife?”

“Ah, yes... she went into the kitchen,” my father answered.

“Mom, can you tell me what the occasion is today?”

“Hi, Dani!”

For God’s sake. I bit my tongue as my sister greeted me loudly enough for everyone to look over.

Both our families were here—my mother-in-law, Steven, Bryan, and all our friends: Ryan, Cari, Jack, Craig, and... Andrew? I stopped mid-thought as Rian kissed my cheek.

Chapter 566

“Hello, brother.” She wore the widest smile I’d ever seen on her, and even her husband gave me his signature grin.

“What on earth is happening here? Am I forgetting something?”

“What’s the occasion today?” I asked her, the same question I’d already asked three times since walking through the door.

“Oh my God! Did you forget?” she asked, her face open with surprise.

“What did I forget?”

“You forgot today’s important occasion, man! Tsk, tsk, tsk,” Alex answered for her, shaking his head.

“Can’t you just tell me what the occasion is? Because I swear, I’m at the edge of my sanity!” I shouted at both of them, unable to hold it in any longer. I didn’t know what to do, or what I’d say to my wife if what they were implying was true.

“Hey, relax, dude!” Alex just laughed at my reaction, while my stubborn sister rolled her eyes at me.

“Today is Father’s Day, Mr. Daniel Kelley!”

“Ahh...” I made a face at her response.

“Father’s Day.”

"I see."

"Ahh, did you get it?" she repeated, narrowing her eyes at me. "You didn't congratulate your father, your brother-in-law, and all the fathers present here, and now you're just going to say 'ahh, I see'?"

"I-I'm so sorry, I forgot!" I said, raising my hands in surrender. No matter how hard I thought about it, I couldn't remember ever celebrating the date like this. We usually just congratulated Dad and Alex whenever the occasion came around.

"Haha, you forgot your own butt!" She rolled her eyes again, which made me laugh.

"I swear, it really slipped my mind."

"Yes, obviously, we already knew that!" She sighed. "So what are you waiting for? Go congratulate Dad and all the fathers celebrating Father's Day today!"

"Oh, yes. Thanks for reminding me."

"No, save your 'thanks' for later."

I decided to ignore Alex's mischievous smile and turned to him instead. "Happy Father's Day, bro."

“Thanks, bro.” We hugged in a manly fashion, even though I knew my sister hated it every time she saw us doing it.

I was heading toward my father when Rian’s words came back to me: Congratulate all the fathers. I scanned the crowd, trying to figure out just how many fathers were being celebrated tonight. My dad and Alex, obviously. So what did she mean by “all”?

Ryan and Cari weren’t married yet. Bryan and Aira were only planning to marry next year. Jack, Andrew, and Steven didn’t have girlfriends. And Craig and Gavin—wait. Jesus, of course. They were a couple. And Tatay Berto, well, he counted too, since he’d been like a second father to Rian and me growing up.

“Dad.” I hugged him the moment he turned to me. “Happy Father’s Day, Dad. I owe everything to you.”

“Don’t say that, son. We all know my duty as a father to you and your sister,” he said, patting my back. My mother stood behind him, giving me a warm smile.

Chapter 567

“No, Dad, it’s not just duty.” He frowned when I let go, but I just smiled at him. “I know I haven’t thanked you properly for being the best father Rian and I could have asked for, and for being the best husband to Mom.”

“Ahh... you’re making your old mother cry.” I pulled her into a hug when I noticed tears forming in her eyes.

“Thank you both.”

“Why did you suddenly get so dramatic tonight?”

I just laughed at my mother’s question. Honestly, I wondered the same thing myself, and I couldn’t find an answer either.

“I just realized how lucky I am—I mean, my sister and I are incredibly fortunate to have you both as our parents. And I know I should have said this sooner, but I want to thank you for everything you’ve given me, especially for introducing me to Sophia. You are the best parents a child could ever have. Thank you, and happy Father’s Day, Dad!”

“I’ve already told you, son, there’s no need to thank me. That was our duty as parents. And by the way, happy Father’s Day to you too.”

I laughed at his congratulations. Knowing my father well, I chose to let it go and asked for permission to speak with Tatay Berto and Alex. It looked like they were sharing jokes again, judging by their body language.

“Happy Father’s Day, Tatay Berto,” I said as soon as I approached them.

“Thank you, anak. Happy Father’s Day to you too,” he said, winking at me.

That was the second time someone had wished me a happy Father's Day tonight. What was going on with everyone?

"Hm... are we celebrating something else today besides Father's Day?" I had to ask several times, since no one would give me a straight answer.

"No, we're just celebrating Father's Day." Alex gave me a light pat on the shoulder before glancing at something behind me.

Curious, I turned to see what had caught his attention, and found myself facing my beautiful wife.

I instinctively took a deeper breath at the sight of her in a purple floral summer dress, her hair tied up in a high ponytail that made her face even more radiant. I couldn't explain the emotion welling up inside me as I took a few steps toward her, especially when her face broke into a smile. She had no idea how that smile made my knees weak, or how her scent alone drove me crazy. How had I gotten so lucky?

"Hi, darling. How is your—"

I didn't let her finish. I placed one hand on her face and pulled her close by the waist with the other, kissing her deeply. She was caught off guard at first, but she quickly melted into it, her hands coming up to rest on my shoulders.

I don't know how long our kiss lasted in the middle of the room. Fortunately, a small, indignant voice interrupted us before we could get too carried away and forget where we were.

“Hey! This scene should be censored for kids!”

Chapter 568

We broke apart, and my wife immediately bit her lower lip to hold back her laughter. It was Dino, scolding us with his arms crossed and his eyebrows drawn into an almost straight line.

“That’s censored, Uncle Dani!”

I just laughed, wondering where a six-year-old had even picked up an idea like that.

“You shouldn’t do such things in front of children!” Dino added, and everyone burst out laughing. He scolded us as though he weren’t a child himself.

“Oops! Excuse me, my little young man. I really missed your aunt, and I couldn’t hold back when I saw her looking so beautiful tonight.”

“Hmph,” my nephew snorted. “Alright, I’ll let it slide this time because it’s your night, but this can’t happen again!”

Since he was just a child, I didn’t take his scolding too seriously. I let it go in one ear and out the other, much like the “congratulations” I’d been receiving from my father and Tatay Berto all evening.

“Alright.” I shrugged and turned back to my wife. “I missed you,” I said, and without waiting for a response, I pulled her into a tight hug, making her laugh.

“Hey! It hasn’t even been a whole day!”

“I know. But how can you blame me? I wouldn’t last a single day without holding you.” I released her to press a kiss to her forehead. “Anyway, why is everyone here?”

“They came to celebrate today’s special occasion with us,” she said, shrugging as if it were obvious. That only left me more confused.

“Special occasion? What occasion? Why didn’t anyone tell me anything?”

“Everyone’s been telling you since the moment you got here.”

“What? As far as I know, they’re here for Father’s Day.”

“Exactly.”

“Ah—wait!” I didn’t understand. The smile she gave me sent a shiver of anxiety down my spine.

“Well, someone is going to be a dad soon.”

“What? I mean—who?”

“Have you spoken to your father?”

“Of course.”

Not quite grasping what she meant, I started throwing out random questions.

“Y-you mean my dad is going to be a dad again?” I turned to my father, frowning. “What?! How did that happen? Mom, do you know anything about—”

My question hung in the air as everyone shouted at once, in unison.

“Happy Father’s Day, Daniel!”

A shower of confetti fell over me the moment they said it. What? Had I heard that right?

I stood there, shocked, confused, and speechless, until Sophia appeared in front of me holding a small rectangular box.

“W-what is this, dear?”

“The answer to every question that’s popped into your head since you got home tonight, my love.” I looked at her and saw the happiness radiating from her smile as she waited for me to open it.

The first thing I saw inside the box was a folded sheet of white paper.

“Ultrasound results?”

“Uh-huh,” she nodded.

At that moment, my heart started pounding harder, though I couldn’t quite say why. I think my brain had already guessed the meaning behind it, but I still wanted to be sure. So I asked her again.

Chapter 569

“And... is this result yours?” Everyone laughed at the question. Yes, I know it was a silly thing to ask.

“Just read it.”

So I did. When my eyes finally scanned the paper, I asked the question that left me breathless, a lump rising in my throat.

“Are you pregnant?!”

I know it didn’t come out quite like a question. When she answered with a nod, my eyes filled with tears, and I didn’t wait even a second before pulling her into my arms and holding her tight.

“My God, dear!” I shouted, lifting her by the waist and spinning her around. Her screams and laughter were like music to my ears, filling my heart with a joy that felt like it would never end.

“Careful, son!”

“My God, Dani! She’s pregnant! Put her back down!” I heard Mom and Rian shout at the same time.

As I set her back on the ground, I held her tightly against my chest, as if she were the most delicate thing my arms could ever hold. I couldn’t put into words how I felt when she wrapped her arms around me in return.

“I’m going to be a father,” I whispered against her ear.

“Yes, darling. In six months, you’ll become a father.”

“Ahh... thank you. Thank you so much, darling,” I said, covering her face with kisses before pulling her in for another embrace. “You have no idea how happy this news makes me.”

I was about to kiss her on the lips again when I noticed my father shaking his head at me.

“Dad!” I called out, a little embarrassed.

“How dare you, son? Do you really think I could betray your mother, huh?”

Everyone burst out laughing, my mother loudest of all.

It was true—how foolish of me to have jumped to such a ridiculous conclusion. I walked over to him and apologized with a tight hug. Then I returned to my wife, placed my hand on her belly, and knelt down in front of her, tears streaming down my face as I gently caressed the small curve.

“Hey, my little one, how are you in there? And... I don’t know how to say this, but you caught me completely by surprise. You really surprised your father! Please be healthy, my little one. I promise to take care of you and your mother. I’ll love you both more than my own life, and I’ll do everything to protect you. Can you hear me, my baby?”

I knew every eye in the room was on me, but I didn’t care as I pressed my ear against Sophia’s belly.

“Darling, he’s only three months along—he can’t hear you yet,” my wife laughed, trying to help me back to my feet.

“He?” I looked at her, curious.

She nodded.

“And if it’s a girl? I mean, what if she’s a girl?”

“It’s not, my love. I know it’s a boy.”

“I don’t think so. I believe it’s a girl.”

“Oh, no. Believe me, it’s a boy. I can feel him moving inside me.”

“My love—”

Chapter 570

I was cut off when, out of nowhere, Alex's laughter rang out across the room. We all turned to look at him, a little confused, his wife included.

"Oops, sorry! I just remembered something," he said, still laughing. "I think you two had this exact same argument when I came to your house asking for help because my wife was missing. Back then, you were also debating whether our child would be a boy or a girl."

"That's right!"

My wife and I exchanged glances, both of us smiling knowingly.

"I think I remember now what he's talking about, Daniel Kelley. What about you? Do you still remember that day?"

I remembered it very well.

"Of course I remember. I remember that day like it was yesterday."

Six months later

Sophia's point of view

“Oh, my God!”

We looked into each other’s eyes, smiling, our thoughts drifting back to the day it all began...

I closed my eyes, gripping the stair railing as a pain grew in my lower abdomen, followed by an inexplicable ache in my lower back.

“Oh, God!”

Tears began forming in my eyes. I wanted to scream, but the pain consumed all my strength and kept me from even opening my mouth.

There was no one in the living room. Daniel was in the study, since I’d told him earlier I was fine and would call if I needed anything. He hadn’t gone back to the office since he found out I was pregnant; instead, he’d asked Andrew and Denise to bring him whatever documents needed his signature and approval. He’d also become overly protective, even about the smallest things. Not that I was complaining—honestly, I liked this side of him.

I tried to pull my phone from my pocket as I slowly made my way down the stairs. But before I could finish dialing my husband’s number, our eyes met. He wore a grim look at the bottom of the stairs, but the moment he noticed I was in pain, he rushed to my side.

“Darling, are you okay?” His voice was thick with concern as he took my hand.

I wanted to answer, but the pain wouldn't let me speak; it grew stronger with every passing second.

"Hey, are you in pain? What the hell—are you okay?"

"Oh, God! You can see I'm in pain and you still ask if I'm okay?"

"Ahh..."

"We need to go to the hospital now."

"Huh? Why? Are you—"

"I think your child wants to come out."

"What?" he asked, astonished, his eyes wide.

"I told you—your baby wants to come out of my belly! We need to go to the hospital right now!" I shouted, while he just stood there, frozen.

“Ah, shit, shit, shit! Let’s go, then!” He seemed to panic whenever he got scared. His eyes went wide as he moved to lift me, but I remembered something important I’d left in our room.

“Wait!”

“What?”

“You need to get the bag.”

“Which bag?”

“The one with all the baby’s things—diapers, everything else! It’s in the drawer... Ahhgg!” Another wave of pain cut me off.