

Chapter 564 You Used To Be More Responsive

At a leisurely pace, Alexis approached Leonel, dragging her suitcase behind her.

Leonel fixed a deep gaze on her before eventually taking charge of her suitcase, leading the way towards the parking lot.

Strolling alongside him, Alexis inquired in a hushed tone, "How did you find out my flight details?"

"As long as I'm diligent, I keep track."

With that, Alexis ceased her questioning.

In an instant, they reached the car, a black Land Rover. Opening the trunk, he placed her suitcase inside. After closing the door, he inquired, "Did you get any gift for Evelyn?"

Settling into the car and securing her seat belt, Alexis responded, "I got her a pair of sheep dolls."

Glancing at the ring on her finger, Leonel inquired softly, "And what about me? Got anything for me?"

Alexis was taken aback.

Unexpectedly, Leonel sought a gift from her, a request she hadn't anticipated, though it wasn't exactly unreasonable since they were now a married couple.

Leonel's tone softened. "It looks like I'm not in your gift plans."

Gazing out the window, Alexis murmured, "I'll make it up to you tomorrow."

In silence, Leonel absorbed Alexis' words.

She added, "Tomorrow, the guys from the law firm will be throwing a party to celebrate."

The car halted at the intersection with a red light. Leonel turned his handsome face slightly away, wearing a frown. "You've just returned.

◀ Chapter 564 You Used To Be More Respons... 🎁 +120 Points at most
Why are you heading out again?"

As Alexis prepared to respond, Leonel tenderly caressed her face.

"Are you avoiding me, Alexis?

Is the prospect of living together as newlyweds unappealing to you?

Does our marriage hold no significance? Do you still feel single?"

Alexis felt a hint of helplessness. "No, Leonel. If you prefer me not to go, I'll stay at home."

Recognizing her compromise stemmed from a desire to avoid conflict, Alexis acknowledged her limited strength.

Her focus was on Evelyn's illness, Calvin's health, and the impending arrival of another child. Managing a relationship at the same time seemed overwhelming.

She was simply hoping to embrace a peaceful life.

Unfortunately, Leonel struggled to grasp her emotional state. In his mind, Alexis remained a reflection of the past, and he failed to recognize the significant changes she had undergone.

With those words, Alexis reclined in her seat, embracing silence.

Leonel, too, fell silent.

An hour later, the car came to a halt in the villa's parking lot.

Peering through the windshield, they observed an excited Evelyn emerging from the house, her steps somewhat unsteady.

Asserting herself, Alexis queried, "Leonel, can we put an end to our disagreements?"

Concerned about shielding Evelyn from their conflicts, Alexis admitted to her weariness as well.

Leonel remained silent, offering neither affirmation nor denial. He opened the door, stepped out of the car, stooped down, and lifted Evelyn, delicately placing her on Alexis' lap.

Embracing Alexis, Evelyn softly uttered, "Mom."

In a tender moment, Alexis kissed Evelyn and inquired about her week in

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Sheepishly, Evelyn confessed in Alexis' ear, "It was wonderful!"

I really like daddy a lot."

Acknowledging Leonel's prowess in caring for Evelyn, Alexis noted that he surpassed even Calvin in attending to her needs.

But Evelyn longed for Calvin's presence. Upon Alexis' return, Evelyn could now request outings to visit Calvin.

Evelyn, being a straightforward child, harbored no ulterior motives in her words.

Retrieving the suitcase, Leonel overheard the conversation but remained silent. Tenderly, he reassured Evelyn, "Calvin is presently away from Duefron, but you'll have the chance to see him upon his return."

A tinge of disappointment shadowed Evelyn's expression.

Unable to resist, Alexis glanced up at Leonel. Despite his unchanging expression while lying, he efficiently handled the suitcase with one hand, cradling Evelyn in the other as they ascended the stairs.

Alexis remained momentarily stunned before exiting the car.

The early spring evening air carried a subtle chill.

Dim lighting filled the porch as a servant greeted Alexis and inquired, "Mrs. Douglas, shall we proceed with dinner?"

Despite her weariness, Alexis, mindful that both Leonel and Evelyn had yet to dine, instructed, "Go ahead; serve the food."

The servant promptly arranged the table.

Ascending to the second floor for a wardrobe change, Alexis encountered Evelyn descending the stairs.

Acting swiftly, the servant attended to Evelyn, urging, "Mrs. Douglas, please proceed with your tasks."

Alexis nodded affirmatively, pushing open the master bedroom door.

Spotting her suitcase in the parlor, Alexis observed Leonel indulging in a smoke on the sofa.

◀ Chapter 564 You Used To Be More Respons... 🎁 +120 Points at most

Closing the door behind her, Alexis inquired, "Why smoke indoors?"

"Not a fan?"

He remained seated, gazing at her, before extinguishing the cigarette.

Carrying her suitcase to the cloakroom, Alexis efficiently unpacked and switched into comfortable lounge attire.

The door creaked open, revealing Leonel.

Gazing at her quietly, he inquired, "Are you planning to visit Calvin?"

Alexis glanced at the clothes she held from where she had shed them.

After a moment, she questioned, "Are you seeking the truth or a fabrication?"

In a husky tone, Leonel asserted, "The truth."

Facing him, Alexis hesitated before speaking. "Calvin doesn't have much time left. He doesn't have any family around, and even if there were, they're only interested in his millions. Leonel... I won't justify the difference between Calvin and Serenity, but I want you to know I didn't wrong you during our time together."

Leonel inquired, "And now?"

He pressed further, "Now that we're married, will you continue..."

Setting aside the clothes, Alexis redirected the conversation. "Let's have dinner."

As she walked past Leonel, he seized her wrist, drawing her into a warm embrace.

Though he avoided intimate contact, he gently kissed her ear. "I believe in you."

A subtle tremor passed through Alexis' body.

Swiftly releasing her, Leonel spoke gently, "Come on. Dinner's ready. Let's head downstairs. Evelyn must be eager, and you're well aware of her temper. She's just like you were as a child."

Alexis offered a smile and trailed him down the stairs.

The meal proceeded without any hitches.

◀ Chapter 564 You Used To Be More Responsi... 🎁 +120 Points at most

After dinner, seeking to make amends for her recent absence, Alexis personally attended to her daughter's bath.

She then went the extra mile, tucking little Evelyn in and reading her a story until she fell into a peaceful slumber.

Leaning against Alexis, Evelyn murmured drowsily, "Mommy, you smell nice."

Alexis responded with a gentle smile, extending her hand to caress Evelyn's face.

Obediently, Evelyn shut her eyes.

Having also showered, Alexis, feeling a bit fatigued, leaned against the bed's headrest and drifted into sleep.

The room was dimly lit, and Alexis awakened after a while.

Encountering Leonel's gaze, she noted his freshly showered state from the guest room.

He inquired, "Is Evelyn already asleep?"

Maybe due to exhaustion or perhaps because it was the dead of night, his tone was remarkably tender.

He inquired about the child in a manner that mirrored an everyday father's natural concern.

"Yes," Alexis affirmed.

Without delay, Leonel lifted her delicate form, suggesting in a hushed tone as they walked, "Shall we head to the guest room?"

Alexis was no longer a naive girl.

Of course, she could discern his intentions.

Delicately tugging at his bathrobe, she uttered, "Today is a safe period for me."

Leonel carried her across the living room, swung open the master bedroom door, and strolled down the corridor. The warm yellow lights lining the villa's aisle emitted an intimate glow in the silent hours of the night.

Upon hearing her words, he gazed down at her and uttered in a husky

voice, "Alexis, do you believe that couples only engage in intimacy for the sole purpose of conceiving children? Are you suggesting that you won't allow me to be intimate with you unless there's a chance of pregnancy?"

Indeed, that was precisely Alexis' intention.

Yet she couldn't bring herself to utter an affirmative response.

The alternative would drive Leonel to madness this night.

Casting her gaze downward, she murmured, "I'm feeling a bit weary."

"In that case, we'll take it easy," he suggested.

Subsequently, he swung the guest room door open, striding purposefully toward the bed.

He gently positioned Alexis on the expansive, plush bed. The deep hue of the bedsheet accentuated her slim and delicate form.

Perhaps due to Leonel's prolonged abstinence, he allowed no time for hesitation. Grasping the back of her head with one hand, he steadied himself on the bed's edge while passionately kissing her.

Overwhelmed by desire, he swiftly engaged in intimacy with her.

Resting her head against the pillow, Alexis endured his advances, gently biting her lip.

After a while, Leonel sensed a tinge of disappointment as he observed her resilience. Whispering in her ear, he queried, "Are you not enjoying this? You used to be more responsive."

In the past, Alexis had enjoyed sharing a bed with him.

However, she now shook her head gently and, in a husky tone, uttered, "It's fine."

Leonel's concern extended beyond his own emotions; he now sought to ensure Alexis' comfort and kept edging her. But no matter how hard he tried, she continued to stay passive.

Leonel reached a breaking point, unable to contain himself any longer.

He exerted himself intensely, causing her to finally break into tears.

He clung to him, wrapping her arms around his neck, pleading for mercy. After half a night of intense moments, he reluctantly released her.

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◀ Chapter 564 You Used To Be More Responsi... 🎁 +120 Points at most

Having eaten her out, Leonel felt extremely satisfied.

Following a shower, he returned to the bed and gently inquired if she wished for a shower too.

Lacking the strength to even lift her hand, Alexis yearned to rest in this state, yet her commitment to sleeping with Evelyn prevailed. The thought of disappointing Evelyn weighed heavily on her.

Eventually, Alexis, gritting her teeth, voiced, "I'll shower on my own."

Leonel's amused laughter reached her ears. Having labeled him as insufferable, she endured the lingering discomfort and made her way to the bathroom. Subsequent to shutting the bathroom door, Leonel's gaze intensified.

Extracting a cigarette from the bedside table, he leisurely smoked, reflecting on the recent intimate encounter.

Recalling their prior encounters in the apartment, he speculated Alexis' passiveness might be linked to his mention of Calvin, making her hesitant to fully engage.

Three years had elapsed, and so much had changed.

Leonel felt that he should have let go of the thought of Calvin's existence.

If Alexis wanted to take care of Calvin, then let it be so. Calvin was destined to remain out of their lives.

Leonel chuckled at his own expense, recognizing his self-awareness.

This magnanimity, he understood, was merely a facade.

With newfound clarity, his mood improved considerably. Upon Alexis' emergence, he had extinguished the cigarette. Approaching her, he embraced her, inhaling the fragrance behind her ear and remarking, "You smell delightful."

Alexis grinned. "Aren't we sharing the same body wash?"

Clearly, Leonel had a different intention.

He pushed her to the wall, his hand sliding into her robe. His voice, husky, demanded, "One more time."

Exhausted, Alexis couldn't muster the energy to respond.

◀ Chapter 564 You Used To Be More Responsible +120 Points at most

Leaning against his shoulder, Alexis resisted in silence. Yet Leonel proceeded slowly. This time, an unusual tenderness marked his actions, navigating her body with familiarity.

Alexis experienced pleasure, and in her arousal, Leonel leaned down, engaging in a deep, passionate kiss.

Bathed in the light, two bodies intertwined...

The following morning, Alexis awoke in the spacious bed in the master bedroom. Neither Evelyn nor Leonel occupied the space beside her.

Alexis glanced at the clock, realizing it was already ten.

Sunlight poured in.

She groaned, "Indulging in too much pleasure is a nightmare."

Recalling the morning meeting at the law firm, she pondered her excuse.

Now faced with the dilemma of being late, should she inform her secretary that she overslept due to an intimate encounter the previous night?

The secretary called at that moment, sweetly inquiring, "Miss Fowler, the meeting's in ten. Have you made it to the law firm?"

Frustrated, Alexis shut her eyes.

Damn it! She had no desire to get up.

Clutching the phone, she cleared her throat and said, "Postpone the meeting to tomorrow at ten."

Worried, the secretary queried, "Miss Fowler, are you unwell?"

Alexis vaguely responded, "Yeah, not feeling great. Let's discuss it tomorrow."

Regarding the celebration party that night, Alexis likely wouldn't attend.

Leonel could be quite a jerk.

Tossing the phone away, Alexis clutched the pillow, eager to resume sleeping. She assumed Leonel took Evelyn to the company, leaving her alone at home.

A bit of extra sleep wouldn't hurt.

◀ Chapter 564 You Used To Be More Responsi...

120 Points at most

The bedroom door creaked open gently, revealing the entrance of Leonel and Evelyn. Alexis feigned sleep, keeping up the pretense as they entered the room.

Bending over the bed, Evelyn whispered, "Why hasn't Mommy woken up?"

After a pause, Leonel explained, "She's tired."

Evelyn looked up, blinking her large eyes. "Why's Mommy tired? Was it the plane yesterday?"

Leonel coughed. "Yeah. Jet lag from the flight."

Evelyn nodded and rested her head on the bed's edge, studying Alexis.

Eventually, she couldn't resist reaching out to touch her.

Alexis resisted the urge to react.

Observing her eyelashes tremble, Leonel figured she was awake, prompting a gentle smile.

At that moment, a servant arrived, announcing that she had prepared some snacks and would take Evelyn downstairs for a treat.

Leonel instructed Evelyn to head downstairs first.

Eventually, only the two remained in the room, and Alexis, on the bed, continued to feign slumber.

Leonel recalled that summer when Alexis had her first menstrual period, hiding away like an ostrich as she was doing now. She displayed a timid and adorable demeanor back then.

Unable to resist, Leonel leaned over and whispered in her ear, "Did you enjoy last night?"

Unable to keep up the act, Alexis opened her eyes.

Leonel, resting against the headboard, caressed her face, whispering, "You reached climax multiple times last night."

Despite Alexis' resilience, she found it challenging to endure such a dialogue.

Sitting upright, she tousled her hair. "What's the time? I need to head to the law firm."

◀ Chapter 564 You Used To Be More Responsi... 🎁 +120 Points at most

She preferred attending a meeting at the law firm over subjecting herself to his vulgar remarks.

However, Leonel preempted her.

Casually, he remarked, "Your secretary called a moment ago. I informed her that you're fatigued and won't be attending work today. It's surprising, isn't it? Didn't she contact you?"

A brief pause ensued.

Leonel found Alexis endearing in her moments of embarrassment.

Lying back on the bed, she gazed at the ceiling and stated matter-of-factly, "I require a minimum of a week to recuperate."

"Why do I sense a decline in your physical vigor?"

"I'm of the opinion that you're even more insufferable than before."

Leonel remained calm, gazing at her in silence.

Alexis, turning her back to him, uttered, "I'm going back to sleep."

He tenderly tugged at her slender shoulder, resting his chin upon it as he whispered softly, "Evelyn really likes the sheep dolls you brought back. She's been playing with them all morning. And I also appreciate the person you brought back. I spent the entire night with her, but it still wasn't enough. What's your suggestion for the predicament?"

Alexis lifted the quilt to conceal her face, finding his audacity amusing.

Leonel chuckled softly. After a brief pause, he sighed and whispered in her ear, "Let's put Calvin behind us. From now on, let's focus on living our lives, alright?"