

Chapter 574 Alexis, I'm Worried About You

Before drifting into sleep, Alexis pondered that she might not be able to elude this night.

Although typically tender, she was also eager to conceive quickly. Consequently, once Evelyn had fallen asleep, Alexis took the initiative to quietly shift behind Leonel and tenderly embrace him.

A puzzled utterance escaped Leonel's lips as his gaze remained fixed on his daughter's countenance, yet his hands explored Alexis' form.

Silently enduring Alexis made no objection to the intimate contact.

She simply wished he wouldn't keep her up too late tonight.

After a brief interaction, Leonel ceased his tactile exploration of Alexis. Resting her face against his shoulder and back, Alexis inquired softly, "Is something amiss? Are you weary?"

"Yes, I'm a bit fatigued," responded Leonel.

Attempting to shift away to the opposite side of the bed, Alexis found her hand ensnared by Leonel's grasp.

In a gravelly tone, Leonel inquired "Where do you think you're headed?"

"Rest. We need to wake up early tomorrow and head to the hospital," Alexis responded.

Refusing to release her, Leonel retained his grip on her fingers, allowing her to clasp his waist. In the enveloping darkness, his voice took on an unusually gentle timbre. "Engage in conversation with me for a bit."

"What could we possibly discuss at this late hour?" Alexis queried.

Shifting position, Leonel gazed at her with unmistakable clarity in his eyes.

They enjoyed a rare calmness, with no fights or annoyances.

A sweet child, their shared offspring, was happily with them.

Leonel gently caressed Alexis' face as he engaged in casual conversation. "I've heard that you've picked up a peculiar habit lately. You enjoy bringing Ollie to bed."

Alexis offered an explanation. "He came to bed on his own accord."

Leonel's gaze lingered on Alexis for a brief moment before a gentle smile graced his features. Affirming, he concurred, "Indeed. He came to bed on his own and expressed a desire to sleep beside you. And guess what? So do I!"

Continuing his conversation, Leonel rolled over, drawing closer and pressing himself against her.

His intentions were not driven by a particular agenda. He simply engaged in kisses, tender touches, and intimate moments with her.

Eventually, Alexis whispered, "Didn't you mention being tired?"

Brimming with affection, Leonel gazed into her eyes.

Positioned beneath him, Alexis felt his gentle touch as he leaned down, planting a kiss on her lips. "Alexis, I'm concerned about you," he expressed with sincerity.

Both of them were eager to have a child soon.

However, Alexis wasn't feeling well lately, and Leonel suggested she take a break.

Additionally, he didn't want their intimate moments to be one-sided, where only he derived pleasure.

Considering this, he couldn't help but be concerned.

He asked her in a hushed tone, "Are you genuinely not feeling good when we do it?"

A moment of surprise crossed Alexis' face, comprehension dawning. Blushing, she encircled her arms around his neck and playfully nibbled his lips. "They are distinct matters," she teased.

Leonel sensed that she indeed felt good when they were intimate.

Perhaps the deep conversation had sparked some arousal in him, but mindful of her well-being, he refrained from going further. Instead, he contented himself with kissing and caressing to fulfill her desires.

Despite their marriage, tonight felt like a breakthrough. Even just a little, Alexis opened up to Leonel, and his excellent mood overshadowed any physical frustrations.

To ensure her comfort, he excused himself to the bathroom for personal satisfaction.

Afterward, Leonel returned to the large bed in the master bedroom. Glancing at the little girl between them, he grumbled, "When will Evelyn be old enough to sleep separately from us?"

Under the covers, Alexis tenderly grasped his hand.

She softly voiced, "I believe we'll have to wait until she's five or six."

However, by then, they might have a two- or three-year-old son, maintaining a trio in this bed.

Leonel sighed heavily.

He reclined and directed his gaze towards the ceiling.

In the dark night, the aroma of a woman's fragrance emanated from Alexis.

He had been without that scent for three years, and it frequently kept him awake. Now, finally, she had returned.

Alexis woke up early in the morning.

However, Leonel beat Alexis to waking up. Both he and Evelyn were already downstairs since Evelyn needed a fasting blood draw. Consequently, he opted to skip breakfast with her.

Ollie intermittently observed them while consuming his dog's food.

Upon realizing this, Alexis suggested gently, "Let's head to the hospital and grab a meal together later."

However, Leonel declined, opting instead to prepare a glass of milk and a sandwich for Alexis to consume during the car ride.

Evelyn looked at Alexis with anticipation.

Leonel lifted Evelyn, planting a kiss on her cheek. "Isn't it sufficient that I stay hungry with you? Your mom is another story. If she's hungry, we won't be having a new baby."

Evelyn expressed a desire for a new sibling

Scott constantly boasted that he would soon have a younger sister.

Observing Alexis' belly, Evelyn whispered to Leonel, "Dad, can you make it happen sooner? I'd like to have a younger sibling before Scott."

Leonel found himself momentarily speechless.

Knowing about Laura's pregnancy, he realized Evelyn couldn't have a sibling before Scott did.

Besides, he couldn't get Alexis pregnant with just a snap of his fingers or something. It wasn't that simple!

Noticing Leonel's expression, Evelyn pouted and remarked, "Well, Scott's father seems to be better than mine."

Leonel's pride took a hit.

Placing Evelyn in the back seat, he glanced at Alexis and cleared his throat. "Let's put in some extra effort tonight, making sure we don't lag too far behind Edwin."

Alexis found Leonel's comparison childish and questioned its relevance.

Despite this, Leonel, in high spirits, grinned. Seated in the driver's seat, he initiated the car's engine.

Thirty minutes later, the car arrived at the hospital, where they already had a scheduled doctor's appointment.

Evelyn received an injection and had blood drawn.

The little girl, being sensitive to pain, nestled her head in her father's arms, resisting emergence.

Tears welled up as she received an intramuscular injection.

The nurse, noticing the resemblance to her father, commented with a smile, "The little girl strongly resembles her father."

Leonel offered a subtle smile, causing the nurse to blush. Aware of his status as Duefron's most sought-after young affluent individual who recently married, the nurse was surprised to learn that his child was already almost three years old.

During the wait for lab results, Leonel treated Evelyn to breakfast, with

Alexis opting not to join them.

Instead, Alexis stayed to talk to the doctor, got Evelyn's prescription and waited on a bench within the hospital.

After a considerable wait, a shadow appeared in front of her. Assuming it was Leonel and Evelyn returning Alexis looked up. To her surprise the person standing before her was none other than Darwin.

Since her return, Alexis had maintained no contact with him.

Deep down, she harbored a dislike for Darwin.

Darwin appeared more disheveled than in Alexis' last encounter with him, with unkempt clothes and unwashed hair. Wiping his face, he asked Alexis, "May I take a seat?"

Alexis remained silent, prompting a bitter smile from Darwin.

He glanced at his worn and tattered clothes, acknowledging the current disparity between their worlds.

Initially reaching for a cigarette, Darwin reconsidered and extinguished it.

He then inquired "Could you lend me some money?"

Alexis found herself genuinely surprised—not by Darwin's predicament, but by the unexpected request he made.

Acknowledging her attention, Darwin spoke with self-deprecating humor. "You're the wealthiest acquaintance I've ever encountered, Alexis. Truthfully, Serenity is facing an incurable disease. Additional funds would ease her passing. I have no ulterior motives; I simply wish to ensure a dignified farewell for her."

Abruptly lowering his head, Darwin expressed remorse, saying, "I failed everyone I've ever cared about. If I can now do something nice to at least one person, it's a positive deed."

Alexis didn't share his sentiment.

Darwin smiled and continued, "Could you lend me the money? I considered borrowing from Leonel, but meeting him seems impossible. Actually, meeting even his third secretary is a challenge. He's deeply engrossed in a significant business venture. It actually makes sense that you return to him."

Alexis chose not to offer an explanation but demonstrated a willingness

to lend money to Darwin.

It wasn't that she was a nice person, but rather due to the fact that the Larson family had been torn apart by Leonel. Alexis, not inclined to corner people and push them over the edge, agreed to do this small favor for Darwin.

"I have limited cash in hand. Let's head to the bank across the street."

Darwin was mildly taken aback.

He hadn't anticipated that Alexis would really be willing to help him.

Without further words, she proceeded to the ATM near the hospital, withdrawing \$200,000 from multiple bank cards. Whether or not he expressed gratitude didn't concern her.

The wealth of the Fowler family could sustain them for countless lifetimes, rendering \$200,000 insignificant.

Darwin gazed at the money, sighing with a mix of emotions.

He believed Alexis now saw him not with sympathy but with disdain.

Once an heir to a wealthy family, he cast it all aside for Serenity, losing both family and dignity. Borrowing money marked a further descent.

"Alexis, am I useless?"

Alexis responded plainly, "It's not that you're useless. You tend to be a pushover and but also a male chauvinist. If you were more discreet, perhaps the Larson family wouldn't be in such dire straits."

This constituted her entire response.

As she strolled back from the bank to the hospital, sunlight bathed her, causing Darwin's eyes to sting.

In a hoarse voice, he thanked her, and Alexis casually waved her hand.

Darwin and Serenity became collateral damage in Alexis and Leonel's relationship. While Alexis and Leonel emerged unscathed, Darwin and Serenity endured considerable suffering in their interactions.

A sigh escaped Alexis.

Ultimately, Darwin lacked the cruelty exhibited by Leonel.

If Darwin possessed even half of Leonel's ruthlessness, his circumstances might not have unfolded in this manner.

On the hospital's second floor, Leonel silently observed the scene from a window.

Darwin sought financial assistance from Alexis. Naturally, Leonel comprehended the purpose behind the borrowed money since he ensured continuous surveillance of the couple. Leonel also wondered if Darwin might be too ashamed to disclose the lack of privacy with Serenity to Alexis.

In fact, Alexis lending money to Darwin took Leonel by surprise.

Did Darwin hold a place as a friend in her heart?

Leonel grappled with the thought of him pushing her friend too far. Would she harbor resentment against him for it?

Was there a possibility of renewed contact between Alexis and Darwin?

A soft pull on Leonel's pants drew his attention downward, revealing Evelyn's desire for him to pick her up.

Additionally, she yearned to observe the beautiful clouds outside.

As Leonel gazed at his innocent daughter, a sense of gloom lifted from his countenance. Upon Alexis' return, he reverted to his customary appearance, exuding maturity and gentleness.

Presenting Evelyn's lab results, Leonel assured, "She's in good health."

Alexis scrutinized the document attentively. Eventually, she tenderly hugged and kissed Evelyn, who reciprocated with a kiss.

Later, Leonel had a scheduled meeting at the Exceed Group. Upon entering the car, he secured his seat belt and proposed, "Why don't you and Evelyn come with me to the company? After the meeting, I'll treat you to lunch."

Excitedly, Evelyn applauded and exclaimed, "Daddy is taking Mommy on a date."

Amused, Alexis inquired, "Where did you pick up these phrases?"

Gazing at Alexis with intensity, Leonel questioned, "So, what do you say? We're heading to a French restaurant. They offer excellent options for children as well. Indeed, it's the restaurant your mom owns." Looking at

Alexis in the eyes, he suggested, "Won't you play the piano?"

Reflecting on the past, Alexis asserted in a straightforward manner, "I have no interest in playing it."

As Leonel initiated the car, navigating the hospital's exit, he wore a renewed smile. "How many years has it been? Why are you revisiting that? Frankly, her piano skills didn't match up to yours."

Alexis was taken aback.

She understood that when Leonel mentioned Serenity, it was a subtle attempt to gauge if she still harbored resentment.

However, at this juncture, Alexis didn't attach much significance to it.

Perhaps Evelyn's birth had consumed too much of Alexis' time and energy over the years, leaving her with no energy to make a fuss about such matters. Alexis even believed that in situations where she caught Leonel cheating on her, she would stay calm and simply advise him to exercise caution and use protections.

A soft laughter escaped Alexis as her own thoughts amused her.

Turning his head, Leonel inquired about the reason for her amusement. How could she really tell him? Realizing something, Leonel cast her a warning glance. "Mrs. Douglas, I won't betray you. It's in your best interest to abandon such thoughts."

Alexis found it amusing

Following a brief pause, Leonel posed a sudden question. "I didn't spot you in the hospital earlier when I came back from breakfast with Evelyn. Where did you disappear to?"

Alexis mustered a smile and responded, "I experienced stomach discomfort and visited the restroom."

Unperturbed Leonel maintained his composure.

He advised in a gentle tone, "In that case, steer clear of spicy dishes for lunch later."

Alexis concurred with a simple, "Okay."

Within the hospital's inpatient department, Serenity received a pleasant surprise when Darwin reappeared with \$200,000. Given their current circumstances, the money undeniably represented a substantial sum for

them.

Initially anticipating death, her glimmer of hope for life now resurfaced.

The infusion of \$200,000 fueled optimism that, with another attempt, the doctor might successfully treat her illness.

Urgently, she clutched Darwin's hand, pleading, "Darwin, please, let's give it one more shot. How about exploring another session?"

Darwin exhibited indecision.

Eventually, he ambled toward the French window, engaging in silent contemplation while toying with a cigarette.

Acknowledging the incurable nature of Serenity's illness, he grappled with the realization that further treatment would only intensify her suffering.

In truth, he harbored resentment toward her.

Yet at present, they find themselves relying on each other like two destitute individuals trying to survive.

A distorted and unsettling sentiment compelled him to believe that if Serenity perished, life held little purpose for him. Despite lacking genuine affection for her, his emotions towards her were tangled in a web of confusion and negativity.

Observing his reticence, Serenity rose from the bed, approached him, and clutched his waist. "Darwin, I implore you. I don't want to succumb to death."

Darwin recognized Serenity's unyielding hope in Leonel's return.

Serenity clung to the belief that, in the absence of Alexis' change of heart, Leonel would choose to be with her.

However, Serenity was only so delusional. Given Leonel's status, he had the capability to attract any desirable woman.

The question lingered—why would Leonel desire a woman without a uterus, incapable of bearing children, and marred by the ravages of cancer? A woman he didn't even care about?

Darwin consistently perceived Serenity's perspective as severely deluded.

Left without words, Darwin faced the swinging door of the ward.

In a surprising turn, Leonel entered.

Following the escort of Alexis and Evelyn to the company, Leonel returned to the hospital and stepped into this particular ward.

The entrance of Leonel evoked a blend of shock and delight among the occupants of the ward.

The one taken aback was Darwin.

Over the preceding years, Darwin harbored an intense fear of Leonel.

Conversely, it was Serenity who reveled in joy. Assuming Leonel's visit was for her, she released her grasp on Darwin and exclaimed, "Leonel."

Serenity attempted to hold him, but two black-clad bodyguards swiftly intervened, dragging her away. "Mrs. Larson, please conduct yourself appropriately," one of them urged.

Bewildered, Serenity eyed the \$200,000 and questioned, "Didn't Leonel provide this money?"

The origin of the funds raised a perplexing query for her—where did Darwin acquire the money?