

Chapter 575 Leonel's Overwhelming Possessiveness

Serenity's gaze shifted from Leonel to Darwin.

With a persistent tone, she inquired "Where did you get your money?"

Darwin, sensing Leonel's presence, realized hiding things was futile.

It struck him that Leonel must have been covertly observing both him and Serenity, a realization that brought a tinge of desperation. He spoke out. "Leonel, is there no escape for us?"

Directing his attention to Serenity, Darwin declared, "Look at her. She won't survive much longer. Yes, she's naive and lost in her fantasies, but I assure you, she won't trouble you again."

Leonel's response was a faint smile.

He casually retrieved a cigarette from his pocket.

A nurse at the doorway noticed it and moved to intervene, but Leonel's bodyguards held her back.

Lighting the cigarette, Leonel asked coolly, "You vow she'll stay away, but why did you go to Alexis?"

Darwin found himself speechless.

Leonel, with a cigarette elegantly poised between his fingers, paced the room, deep in thought.

After a brief pause, he stopped and addressed Darwin, "I admit, Serenity and I were seeing each other for a brief period of time. However, our separation was very clear. No one coerced you into marrying her, even with her injuries. You could have left after the divorce, but your foolish insistence on caring for her led to your downfall. Her current state is all your doing."

Disdainfully, Leonel muttered, "Fools, both of you."

Extinguishing his cigarette, he proposed, "Here's my offer. I'll grant you a substantial sum. Take Serenity away from Duefron, and never let me see

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you guys again, much less Alexis."

He then produced a checkbook inscribing the figure of ten million dollars.

This sum was ample for Serenity's peaceful death and Darwin's potential fresh start.

Darwin, stunned by the amount, accepted the check.

Leonel adjusted his attire, instructing "Keep Alexis unaware of my visit. Also, cease all contact with her."

Preparing to leave, he paused as Serenity's desperation surfaced. Seeing the check, she misconstrued Leonel's lingering affection. Otherwise, how could he spend ten million dollars?

"Leonel, you love me, don't you?"

I don't want to go with Darwin. I just want to be with you."

Serenity's plea, laced with madness, disregarded her husband's presence.

Darwin had become numb, realizing that their three years together dissolved in Leonel's mere presence.

Serenity, overwhelmed, knelt and begged.

Leonel, devoid of sympathy, rebuffed Serenity with a dismissive kick. As she wept on the floor, she lamented, "I cannot fathom losing to Alexis. You once pursued me, claimed to love me."

Leonel's reply was merciless. "No, I never loved you."

My interest was merely to see if I could move on without Alexis."

His words were a brutal testament to his ruthless nature.

In his youth, Leonel's foolish pursuit of the so-called freedom came at a high cost. Now, determined to protect the life he shared with Alexis, he wouldn't allow anything or anyone to jeopardize their peace.

As Leonel departed, his slight nod conveyed a silent command to his bodyguards.

Approaching Darwin with a veneer of politeness, they informed him, "Mr. Larson, we must escort you and Mrs. Larson away by tonight"

They would follow and their watchful eyes would shadow the couple

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Darwin, resigned to his fate, murmured, "Leonel is crazy." After saying that, Darwin smiled bitterly.

Meanwhile, at the Exceed Group headquarters, Alexis took Evelyn to a playful interlude in the lounge, complete with toys and children's favorite treats prepared by Leonel's secretary.

Evelyn, however, soon found herself missing Ollie.

Being away from home, she was uncertain whether Ollie would behave obediently or not.

Then she also missed Calvin.

She looked up at Alexis, her voice tinged with longing "Mommy, when can we see Calvin again?"

Alexis offered a reassuring smile. "Soon, darling. Calvin is receiving treatment in Braseovell. Once he's better, we'll visit him."

She gently placed Evelyn's hand on her belly.

"There's no baby here at the moment, so we can still fly."

Evelyn asked softly, "Babies can't take the plane?"

Alexis smiled. "No. If the baby is too young flying is not an option."

Evelyn beamed with pride. "Calvin told me I used to fly around when I was a baby. I'm better than other babies."

Alexis stroked Evelyn's head and smiled gently.

"What are you talking about?"

Their moment was interrupted by Leonel's entrance. Alexis, surprised, raised her head. "Is the meeting over?"

Leonel walked over and picked Evelyn up.

"The meeting will continue in the afternoon. I want to have lunch with my girls."

Evelyn, delighted to be in her father's arms, reveled in the joy of being a child.

Leonel walked ahead.

With his jacket in her hand, Alexis trailed behind observing Leonel. He didn't need to learn at all. It appeared as though he was naturally destined to be a father.

In the confines of the elevator, Alexis asked, "When did you learn how to be a father?"

Leonel said, "I've been studying for quite some time now. I was flying around the world and searching for you when you first left, so I didn't have the chance to learn, but after returning to Duefron, I enrolled in numerous classes. I've acquired all the knowledge that an expectant mother should have."

Furthermore, Leonel had a knack for learning quickly, having taken care of the younger Fowler siblings when he was a child.

After uttering those words, he added in a soft tone, "I've learned so much. It almost feels like a missed opportunity not to raise one myself."

Evelyn didn't really understand his words, but she couldn't help but feel joyous.

She clenched her tiny fists and encouraged Leonel. "Good job, Daddy!"

Leonel smiled gently.

Alexis couldn't help but feel a bit helpless. Since Evelyn had recently picked up a lot from television. Moreover, she didn't filter her thoughts much and simply blurted out whatever was on her mind.

It was a terrible genetic inheritance.

Leonel tenderly held Alexis' hand and reassured her, "There's nothing wrong with this."

The Exceed Group wasn't too far from that restaurant they were headed. It was only about half a mile away.

Leonel didn't drive.

Perched on Leonel's shoulders, Evelyn felt an overwhelming sense of happiness. The sun bathed her in its warm glow, creating a particularly comfortable and cozy sensation.

She felt especially close to her father.

After a leisurely stroll lasting about 20 minutes, they reached the restaurant. It was relatively empty during the lunch hour in workdays. As

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they entered, a waiter approached with a friendly greeting. 'Hello, is it just the three of you?'

Alexis looked up.

She was taken aback. She didn't personally know this person, but she was aware of his identity.

Alexis knew what happened between Marcus and Melissa; and although she didn't voice her concerns, she later sought out Marcus' secretary, Sylvia. Alexis was determined to continue her investigation and uncover Melissa's past.

It turned out that Melissa had a boyfriend who had been sick for two years.

She sold the bracelet Marcus gave her and used the money for her boyfriend's treatment.

Alexis now recognized the man standing before her. It was none other than Melissa's boyfriend, Ryan Jenkins whom she had seen in a photograph.

Ryan was undeniably handsome, and it was rumored that he had attended a prestigious university. After his recovery from illness, he had diligently worked his way through college. After paying for his medical bills, the remaining money he received from Melissa had been used by him as a down payment for an apartment.

Alexis sighed contemplating the complexities of human nature.

Alexis had heard about Melissa's departure from Duefron and her breakup with the man standing in front of her. She couldn't help but empathize with Melissa, knowing that she must be going through a difficult time.

However, the young man standing before Alexis appeared remarkably youthful and full of energy. There was no outward sign that he had ever battled a serious illness.

There was even less indication that he had ever been the object of affection of a young lady.

Ryan exuded an air of ambition and enthusiasm.

Perhaps it was because of Alexis' straightforward gaze, her height, and striking beauty. Even though she was married, there was still a flicker of male vanity kindling within Ryan.

He believed that Alexis might have developed an interest in him.

The moment the manager spotted Alexis and Leonel, he greeted them respectfully, saying, "Hello, Mr. Douglas, Miss Fowler."

The manager turned to Ryan and informed him, "These are the son and daughter of our owner."

Son and daughter?

They weren't a couple? Ryan thought they were.

However, Evelyn cried, "Daddy, it's so hot outside. I want to go to the bathroom."

Leonel immediately gave Evelyn to Alexis.

In a gentle tone, Leonel instructed, "You take her to the bathroom. I'll go ahead and order the food for us."

Alexis nodded.

Once the two had departed, Leonel selected a seat and settled in, perusing the menu casually. Ryan took charge of placing the order.

Leonel placed an order in French for several dishes and requested a child's meal for Evelyn.

Apologetically, Ryan said, "I'm sorry, sir. I don't understand French."

Leonel raised his eyebrows.

He proceeded to list the dishes slowly in English, one by one, and then asked, "Can you hear them clearly now? You work in such an upscale French restaurant, yet you don't understand any French. This is kind of unacceptable."

Ryan's face flushed with embarrassment.

Leonel's initial comment might have come across as teasing, but he then offered a gentle smile and clarified, "By the way, she's my wife. I'm actually the adopted son of my wife's parents."

Ryan's face grew even redder, his embarrassment deepening.

He couldn't help but feel that his thoughts were all laid bare before this gracious man. But what did it matter? Maybe they didn't truly love each other. Weren't the wives of wealthy individuals known for maintaining

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secret lovers on the side?

Contemplating this, Ryan couldn't help but feel a sense of self-disdain.

How could he entertain such thoughts? Even if the affluent lady harbored affection for him, he couldn't compromise his self-respect for wealth, much like Melissa, who had become a plaything for a wealthy man for money.

In his heart, Ryan held a strong hatred for Melissa.

He resolved that once he achieved wealth in the future, he would repay Melissa the \$800,000, ensuring he owed her nothing.

Of course, he understood that he would need to wait until he was financially well-off to fulfill that goal.

He was determined to put in the effort now, focusing on completing his studies and securing a respectable job. He had no intention of enduring a life of poverty any longer. Losing his girlfriend over \$800,000 had left a deep impact on him.

As Alexis emerged from the washroom, holding Evelyn in her arms, she couldn't help but notice the grim expression on Ryan's face. She cast one more glance in his direction before rejoining the table.

With casual nonchalance, Leonel inquired "Do you happen to know him?"

Alexis smiled and replied, "No, I don't know him. It's our first meeting."

Even though Leonel had been cruel, he was well aware that Alexis wouldn't be interested in this young man. Alexis was the pride of Waylen's eye, and she could have any handsome man she desired if she wished.

In the past, numerous celebrities had pursued Alexis.

Gazing at the menu, Alexis inquired what Leonel had ordered, and then she nodded and said something in French.

Ryan's face flushed once more.

Alexis was momentarily taken aback and then responded calmly, albeit somewhat curtly, with a simple, "Thank you. That's all."

After Ryan departed, Leonel took a sip of his ice water.

Leaning against the chair's backrest, Leonel asked with a smile, "Why has

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the standard for hiring temporary employees here been lowered? I recall that the previous requirement for even temps was to be capable of holding a basic conversation in French."

Alexis smiled and replied, "Perhaps the business isn't doing well. The economy hasn't been favorable in recent years, and high-end consumption has clearly dwindled," Alexis remarked. "This restaurant has been open for 30 years, yet it still manages to attract a steady stream of customers. Let's not be too hard on the manager here."

Leonel chuckled. "Am I too harsh on the manager?"



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