

Chapter 682 Shall We Go On Tonight (Part Two)

Jessie eventually found herself feeling out of place amidst the cozy dynamics of Marcus and Melissa, along with Shawn and Janet. She was struck by a pang of loneliness, pondering on a life that could have been with someone who loved and cherished her, imagining children of their own.

As Janet offered her more food, Jessie snapped out of her reverie, managing a smile despite the tears brimming in her eyes.

Retreating to her room post-dinner, Jessie lay on her bed, engulfed in silence, haunted by memories of Albert.

The thought of how swiftly she was expected to move on from their three-year relationship, which held moments as significant as her first intimate experience, seemed impossible.

Her phone's abrupt ring jolted her from her thoughts, displaying a reminder she had set a year prior— to congratulate Albert on a year without smoking.

The reminder starkly highlighted the distance that now lay between them.

Albert had moved on, leaving Jessie clinging to the remnants of what used to be her whole world. In her heart, Jessie knew she had been the one unable to let go, even as Albert had clearly moved forward, likely now sharing his life with someone new.

This realization deepened Jessie's self-reproach.

Amidst her reflection, she stumbled upon a single photo of Albert, the last piece of him she held onto.

As she looked at it, her emotions overflowed, and she wept.

Yet, life's demands didn't pause for heartbreak. Shortly, her mother

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would arrive at Melissa's, seeking Jessie, pulling her back from the
depths of her past and into the ongoing flow of life.

The evening had unfolded quietly, with Marcus and Melissa returning home early to enjoy a serene weekend. Yvonne was engrossed in her piano lesson under Melissa's watchful eye, while Marcus and Matthew shared a joyous time in the yard with the puppy.

The tranquility was shattered by the abrupt stop of a black limousine at their gate, heralding the arrival of Mrs. Green.

Mrs. Green's entrance was swift and her demeanor, grave and troubled. No sooner had she laid eyes on Jessie than she delivered a slap that resonated with years of unspoken reprimands, marking the first time she had ever struck her daughter in such a manner.

Jessie, stunned and hurt, covered her face as tears streamed down her cheeks.

Mrs. Green's voice, heavy with disappointment and anger, filled the room. "Shame on you! How could you bring such distress upon our family? Your father has been driven to his limits cleaning up after your mess, landing him in the operating room as we speak!" She continued, her voice laden with sorrow, "The whispers and stares, branding you reckless and naive, all because you chased after a lost cause to Heron, only to humiliate yourself further at his wedding."

"Jessie!" Mrs. Green's exasperation was palpable. "How could you do this to us? Do you not care at all?"

The commotion interrupted the piano lesson.

Yvonne, sensing the tension, drew near Melissa, who softly instructed, "Go and fetch Uncle Marcus."

Yvonne hurried off to comply.

Melissa tried to soothe Mrs. Green. "Please, let's try to remain calm."

Mrs. Green's gaze turned cold upon Melissa, seeing her as part of the problem due to her connection with Albert. "This is also on you," she accused. "You and that man must have influenced my daughter into making such foolish decisions. Her reputation is tarnished. How is she to

Melissa was left speechless by the accusation, finding no words to defend against the harsh judgment laid before her.

Throughout Jessie's relationship with Albert, she took care of everything from buying a villa to ensuring Jessie had all her necessities, a fact that only fueled Mrs. Green's anger.

As her tirade intensified, Mrs. Green raised her hand to strike Jessie once more.

It was then that Marcus intervened with a challenging question. "Mrs. Green, do you truly believe the man you chose for Jessie would bring her joy? What if he declared their marriage open from the start, showing utter disregard for the union and Jessie herself? Jessie rejected such a marriage. How is that wrong?"

Mrs. Green, momentarily taken aback by Marcus' intervention, paused her advance.

In the midst of this, Jessie, overcoming her initial shock, declared her intention to return with her mother.

She recognized the sacrifices her mother had made.

With her father's health declined, someone had to step forward and shoulder the family business. Jessie knew she had to go back. Melissa looked on, concern etched on her face for Jessie, hesitating to see her leave under such conditions.

Jessie offered a brave smile, acknowledging "I can't stay hidden here indefinitely. Melissa, I'm grateful for your kindness these past days. Yet, this is your home, not mine."

Melissa was about to protest, but Marcus' gentle tug on her arm stopped her.

He looked at Jessie, his expression softening. "It's commendable that you're choosing to face your responsibilities. Remember, you're always welcome here. Do come back for visits. Matthew and Yvonne are quite fond of you."

Jessie understood the subtext in Marcus' words all too well.

He was subtly assuring her mother that both he and Melissa supported her fully.

Despite this, Jessie felt she had earned her mother's rebuke.

She went upstairs to gather her things, dreading the goodbye with Melissa, who clearly didn't want to see her go.

With a sad smile, Jessie acknowledged, "Leaving was inevitable. Besides, it's time I took responsibility for my own life."

Their embrace was tight, filled with the unspoken acknowledgment of how much they had grown to rely on each other. Jessie, reflecting on their bond, felt her emotions swell. "We'll have to catch up soon," she managed through tears.

Marcus, ever the stoic presence, offered his support with a simple, "If you need anything just let me know," as he casually stood by.

Jessie thanked him softly, her departure marked by a bowed head as she walked away with her mother.

The house fell into a sudden hush after their exit.

Julie couldn't help but express her sympathy for Jessie, despite her wealthy background. "Such a sad situation," she mused, her thoughts inadvertently drifting to Albert and his past attentiveness towards Melissa.

Recognizing the impropriety of gossip, she quickly excused herself and the children from the room, leaving Marcus and Melissa alone in the silence of the living room.

After a moment's pause, Marcus broke the silence, his voice gentle. "Isn't there something on your mind?"

Melissa, puzzled, responded, "What are you expecting me to say?"

Marcus proceeded to prepare two cups of coffee, a deliberate act, before handing one to Melissa and settling down across from her.

Without mincing words, he addressed the heart of the matter. "Are you not considering informing Albert about Jessie's situation?"

Melissa was at a loss, prompting Marcus to clarify with a slight smile. "The Greens may seem well-off, but Jessie's father lacks the acumen for business and the hotel sector has been struggling. Jessie herself hasn't been involved in the business at all. The Green family's prospects are grim."

Concluding his point, Marcus noted, "Our ability to help is limited."

Melissa grasped Marcus' underlying message.

He believed Albert, given his history with Jessie, might lend the necessary support to the Green family, perhaps as a gesture to amend past grievances.

After careful thought, Melissa resolved to take action—