

Chapter 716 Albert's Love (Part One)

After Shawn finished speaking a hush settled over the room.

Albert's expression soured. It wasn't easy facing his ex, especially with his laundry of appointments with urologists now aired out for all to hear.

It stung him to the core.

Marcus, however, remained unburdened.

He spoke the truth, plain and simple!

Initially skeptical, Melissa's doubts faded as she glimpsed Albert's discomfort. Marcus had hit the nail on the head, leaving her utterly stunned.

Jessie, too, found herself taken aback.

When Marcus broached the topic of Albert's manhood issue, Jessie couldn't help but ponder if it was a consequence of his age.

But with their past riddled with bitterness, she hesitated to pry into such personal matters. Instead, she just walked into Marcus' VIP room.

Quickly, Melissa ushered everyone to take a seat. The room hosted a married couple, a pair of former flames, and a relative.

Initially, Shawn contemplated waiting outside, but the unfolding drama convinced him to stay put.

Though Marcus lacked sight, his ears remained keen.

He caught Jessie's drift and inquired, "How are your affairs arranged? Got any issues with the assets settlement?"

Caught off guard in Albert's presence, Jessie flushed and questioned,

"Why the sudden interest?"

Without missing a beat, Marcus retorted, "Because you still owe me that much! Elsie's still under my roof! And I actually worried you might up and leave."

Melissa was rendered speechless.

Shawn stood there, utterly flabbergasted. It became unbearable for her to endure any longer!

Jessie simmered with frustration. Why did Marcus insist on dredging up these matters in front of Albert? Yet, she always harbored a bit of trepidation around Melissa and didn't want to spar with Marcus in her presence.

In a soft tone, she appealed, "Please, just look after her for me for now. I'll sort this out on my own when I get back."

Marcus was never one to bite his tongue. Blind or not, his words dripped with sarcasm.

He sneered. "Well then, don't keep us waiting too long!"

Everyone present caught the underlying implication in his words. Melissa subtly pinched his side as a gentle reprimand. Innocently, Marcus turned to her, querying "Did I misspeak? Melissa, you've misunderstood me. I was referring to Elsie, not Mr. Waston! Mr. Waston's already taken. It'd be quite improper for him to pine for Jessie. Besides, with his schedule filled with urology appointments, when would he find time for romance? It's simply out of the question."

His words nearly lit a fuse under Albert.

Initially uneasy, Jessie found herself chuckling as she listened. She reckoned Albert deserved a bit of ribbing from Marcus!

She lingered a while longer.

Observing Melissa tending to Marcus, cutting fruit into bite-size pieces and feeding him with care, Jessie couldn't help but feel a pang of envy.

Marcus indeed relished in Melissa's affection.

There weren't many pairs in this world like Marcus and Melissa, steadfast in their love over the years. Despite their past disagreements, they still held a soft spot for each other.

Plus, with their second child on the way, they had even more reason to stick together!

Albert lingered, unable to tear his gaze from the envy evident in Jessie's eyes, a twinge of sorrow tugging at his heartstrings.

As Jessie left, Albert trailed behind her. Along the lengthy corridor, he observed her slender form and softly called out her name, "Jessie."

Jessie shuddered.

Ignoring him, she continued towards the elevator, jabbing the down button.

Albert quickened his pace.

He caught up just as the elevator doors slid open, revealing an empty car. Jessie stepped in, moving to close the doors, but Albert's hand intercepted, holding them ajar. She averted her gaze, focusing on the ascending numbers.

In a hushed tone, Albert murmured, "Marcus isn't being truthful."

Jessie was momentarily stunned before grasping his implication.

She retorted, "That's none of my concern! It's something your wife should handle."

Albert met her icy demeanor with a solemn tone. "Let's not dwell on that. Melissa mentioned your plans to sell the hotel and go abroad. Where to and for how long?"

Tears welled in Jessie's eyes.

In the past, she would've engaged in a heated argument with him, but now, with each letdown, she found herself drained of the energy to be angry. Albert was now someone else's spouse, and Jessie refused to let him sway her emotions any longer.

After a beat of silence, she calmly responded, "Probably two or three years."

She kept her destination to herself.

Albert caught her drift. She wanted no ties with him, so she remained tight-lipped.

With a bitter smile, he remarked, "Don't fret. I won't pester you. Marcus is spot on. I'm a married man. It wouldn't be right to bother you."

Jessie offered no response, but she lifted her head slightly.

As their conversation wound down, the elevator chimed its arrival.

Just as Jessie prepared to depart, Albert halted her, saying, "Jessie!"

Turning slowly, she inquired "Is there anything else, Mr. Waston?"

Albert observed the slight reddening of Jessie's eyes, sensing her discomfort. Stepping out of the elevator, he approached her with deliberation, producing an envelope from his pocket. "Jessie, I know you harbor resentment towards me. Truth be told, I loathe myself too! But this is where we stand. I may not have much to offer in the future. Take this. Consider it my final gesture."

Jessie stood there in disbelief.

With a faint smile, Albert added, "Jessie, Happy New Year."

His words threatened to unleash her tears anew.

Unwanted, yet Albert insisted, pressing the envelope into her hand. He gently clasped her hand, locking eyes with her before briskly walking away.

Downstairs, a black limo awaited.

Albert boarded, and the vehicle rolled away slowly. Jessie remained rooted to the spot.

She understood this might be their last encounter.

Upon opening the envelope, she was greeted by a check! The staggering sum? A whopping 143 million dollars!

Jessie stared at the figures silently, tears gathering and distorting her vision. She never asked for this. She couldn't comprehend his motives.

Rejecting the check, she opted to return it.

News of the exchange swiftly reached Daisy's ears. Confronted with the sum on the check as well as its obvious deeper meaning, Daisy and Albert engaged in a heated argument, nearly resulting in a miscarriage. Their discord lingered, neither party showing restraint.

Throughout Heron, whispers soon spread of the strained relationship between Albert and his wife.

Marcus balked at the idea of Albert and Jessie departing.

After all, their presence spiced up his days in the hospital.

Melissa, though rendered speechless, couldn't help but be intrigued.

"How did you find out about Mr. Weston's visits to the urologist?" she inquired.

Marcus chuckled softly, and then redirected his gaze towards the door.

Rising to his feet, Shawn interjected, "You folks carry on. I'll keep watch at the door."

With his departure, the echo of the closing door resonated.

Marcus settled back against the bed, a faint smile gracing his handsome features. "During our gatherings, if ladies are present, we steer clear of such personal matters. But in all-male company, boundaries tend to blur. Besides, rumors concerning Albert's family affairs are rife, known to many. In Heron, they skirt around the topic out of respect. Yet here in Duefron, such matters serve as fodder for amusement."

Melissa frowned. "Are you seriously discussing this?"

Marcus chuckled. "Successful men are just like everyone else! Think they're all saints? Men gossip too. They're fascinated by sensual topics

and the like."

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