

Benefits 471

Chapter 471: The Truth of The Confusion

Olivia lay down on the couch with a sigh as she cast a final glance at the surroundings. Everything was perfect for the evening. Now all she needed was her husband coming home on time. All that fragrance had been making her so hungry that she was almost ready to eat a horse by now! It was as if the pregnancy had turned her stomach into a bottomless pit!

As she glance down at her slightly rounded stomach, she placed a hand there and gently caressed, talking to her babies, " Are you both going to be gluttons like your father? Always looking to eat something and then claiming that you're still growing? Hmm. Well, you can do that, but atleast do it when you come out into this world. If I keep eating like this, I'll be as fat as a cow by then. How will I use the beauty trap on your father then? Hmm?"

With a giggle, Olivia slid down even more and closed her eyes," Sigh. I'm thinking of all nonsensical things. What beauty trap? When you guys come around, our days and nights are going to be spent looking after the two of you. According to all the parenting books that your father has been foisting on me, I should catch my sleep as much as I can now. You guys won't be like that, will you?"

"Sigh! Maybe, maybe not. I can only prepare myself. But I am warning the two of you, when it comes to diaper duty, you have to be on my team and poop only when your dad is on duty to change. Understood? Remember, I've been your constant companion since you... came out of your daddy!"

Even as she continued talking softly to her babies, Olivia closed her eyes and slowly fell asleep, still mumbling sweetly.

It was how Seb found her on the couch. The house enshrouded in the dark, with little lights casting glow and shadows all over the place. He looked around at the table which had been laid out and the unlit candle and flowers there. She'd prepared so much for their little celebration. Thankfully, he'd come on time, unlike the last time when he'd been late.

However, just as he was about to call her name, his eyes fell on the little curled figure on the couch. Uh oh. She'd fallen asleep again. Looking at the little glow around her face, where it was cast in shadows, he felt all his worries melt away. The questions he had, the answers he needed, could all wait.

Casting aside his suit jacket, he unbuttoned the top two buttons of his shirt and rolled up his sleeves. Slowly, he got onto the couch, spooning up behind her so that his body was around her. He buried his face in the nape of her neck, his nose breathing in her scent, while his hands gently rested over hers on her stomach.

"Livi..." He murmured, placing a gentle kiss there as he closed his eyes and surrendered himself to the tiredness of the day.

Olivia woke up slowly, feeling too warm. As her consciousness returned, she realized multiple things, for one, she'd fallen asleep again, second, Seb had arrived when she was asleep... again. Third, this time, he had not left her a note but had simply climbed in with her.

Slowly, she turned around, feeling this urge to look at him. But she was trapped under his arm. What if she woke him due to movement? But she wanted to look at him.

First she would close her eyes so that if she did end up waking him, she could pretend that she was asleep. Then, carefully, so as not to disturb him, she began to shift her body ever so slightly, inching closer to him within the embrace of his arms, so that her shoulders would move slowly. Finally, after what felt like hours, she had turned in his arms.

With a triumphant grin, she opened her eyes, only to come face to face with his chest. She blinked and moved her gaze upwards, stopping on his Adam's apple and then to his slightly stubbled jaw and felt a sudden ache... He looked so...

Feeling a moment of madness come over her, she gulped. Should she do what her mind was telling her to do? Or should she... She bit her lip and looked up at his face. He was asleep. He wouldn't know if she kissed him, would he. And she could close her eyes this time too and pretend that she'd been asleep.

Her hands clenched over his waist, holding his shirt, tightly and she inched closer to him. There wasn't much distance between them anyway, her nose almost buried in his chest. All she needed to do was move a miniscule centimeters.

So, she gave in to the madness and kissed his chest, before quickly moving back, and looking at his face. And then she grinned. She'd kissed him without even him waking up. Her first victory lead her to

become more confident and this time, when her lips met his warm skin, she pressed them a little longer. And then, she wanted to taste him so she decided to take a small lick.

Suddenly, she felt his fingers clench and she moved back her head quickly, to look up at him. But his expression was still as serene as it had been. This made her bolder. This time, she slid her hands between them and carefully undid another button, sliding her hands, and feeling his muscles. Her naughty and searching fingers then encountered two small nubs and she instinctively pinched them, before scraping her nails over them.

The next moment, she was scandalized as she felt a thick thigh thrown over her and pulling her into him. She felt his hardness being flexed against her stomach and a moan escaped her. His hands that had been on her waist slowly slipped lower. Her eyes snapped up to look at his face and she realized... she'd awakened the beast... Uh oh.. She should be scared but why did she feel... thrilled?

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Her eyes darted upwards to look at his face and as she sensed a flicker of mischief in his eyes, she realized... she'd awakened the beast... Uh oh.. She should be scared but why did she feel... thrilled?

But as swiftly as the thrill came, so did the realization that she wasn't supposed to be caught. With a swift and deliberate motion, she shut her eyes tight, and pretended to sleep.

Seb's gaze lingered on Olivia, a playful smirk tugging at the corners of his lips. Was she really attempting to feign sleep? The sight of her pretending so foxily only fueled his desire further.

After all, he was not the one who had begun this. He'd been sleeping innocently enough when he'd felt her moving. She'd been doing that so carefully, so of course he played possum and let her move. How was he to know that she'd kiss him and then...

With a grin, he caressed her calves with his foot, tracing the arch of it before hooking his leg under hers and pulling her, so that her legs were now trapped between his. He heard her little, quickly suppressed squeak and his own grin widened. She tried to pull away from his, pushing at his chest, but she was well trapped.

He slowly slid his hand into her hair and with the other one, tugged at the neckline of her simple blouse, exposing her shoulder. "Are you still going to pretend to be asleep?"

She nodded and whispered, "I am not pretending. I am asleep. I am exploring the dreamland."

"Really? Then you were 'molesting' me in your sleep?"

Her eyes snapped open at that and she looked at him with accusation, "How can you say that. I wasn't doing anything of that kind! I was asleep and my lips happened to graze against your skin. If you's slept with your shirt buttoned up, then this accident would not have happened!"

"Really? Are you going to be this shameless?"

"Let me let you know Mrs Frost, I unbuttoned only two of my buttons while your pretty little hands opened the third one. And your lips just happened to graze against my skin repeatedly? Accept it, you were taking advantage of me. And now I will return the favour!"

"Advantage? Shameless! You are the one who is taking advantage and being shameless. Whatever happened, it was because I was asleep! But you! You are the one trying to..."

"You're right, I am taking advantage of you. I'm going to kiss your fair shoulder Olivia..."

Olivia watched as his head dipped slowly, and as his warm lips touched her, she felt herself stiffen. Every nerve ending burning inside her.

"Your nipp*es are so sensitive, Olivia... Like little peaks..." Her hips rocked against him, grazing against his hard length. When did his hands slip there. Her eyes closed in pleasure as a moan escaped her... his mouth and hands, creating a havoc on her senses..

She surrendered to the need as his mouth moved lower, his face burying in her cleavage as he licked her, tasting her slowly... Her hands clutched his shoulders, unaware if they wanted to pull him away from him and push him at the same time.

And then all thought of pushing him away was lost as his hand gently moulded over her buttock, pushing her upwards so that her breas*s were now almost being offered to him. Had her ni**les always been

this sensitive, she thought randomly even as the thought was pushed out as his mouth closed around one engorged peak, his tongue licking her gently.

His hand, now free from caressing her, moved towards her bottom, tugging at the elastic so that it was pushed down, exposing her to his exploring hands. Mindlessly, she called his name, "Seb, Seb..." while he finally rolled her over so that she was on her back, while he leaned over her on his elbow, carefully keeping his weight off her...

Moving away, he finally stepped back totally, standing now, looking down on her with an unreadable look in his eyes. For a moment, she tried to think of how she must be looking to him, her clothing a mess, as she lay there staring at him with need in her eyes... She should have felt vulnerable, exposed. But instead the gaze made her feel powerful, sensual.

She raised her hand to him, calling out his name, softly, "Seb..."

In a swift motion, he pulled down the loose trousers off her legs along with her pantie*. Her blouse however suffered a worst fate as it was simply torn away and discarded.

"I want you, Olivia... I want to make love to you."

"Then take me, Seb... Make love to me..."

He knelt by her side, slowly kissing her lips, and she felt him ache. She felt his shoulders tremble with the force of holding back his desire. She knew he was scared... of hurting her, hurting their babies... but she needed him too...

"Come to me, Seb.... I'm aching for you.", she whispered the words in his ear, almost causing him to lost control as he quickly but carefully, place himself at her entrance...

A little while later, Olivia shifted lazily, the barely lingering aroma of their forgotten dinner reminding her that they had skipped dinner. Lazily, she traced a pattern on his chest, the place where she'd kissed

and started everything... and smiled, " So now I know what is better for Seb Frost... se* over food! And here I thought you were a glutton, only thinking with your stomach!"

Seb chuckled, " Food and se* is the only pleasure in the world... And se* with you... I'd be willing to give up food..."

Olivia laughed at that and looked up into his smiling eyes, " I'm so glad to know that I rate higher than even food!"

"Always, Livia." Seb murmured, causing her to shake her head and mutter something about sweet talkers.

She felt her stomach ache a bit from hunger but felt too lethargic to get up. Soon, she would need to feed herself and their little babies.

As she was lost in thought, she heard Seb ask quietly, " Why did you leave me Olivia?"

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"Why did you leave me Olivia?"

Olivia's heart skipped a beat at the unexpected question, her mind scrambling to catch up with the sudden shift in their cozy moment.

Blinking in surprise, she shifted slightly to look into his eyes, searching for any hint of what could have brought this on. It was a question she never thought he'd ask, one that had been buried beneath his stubbornness to leave the past undisturbed. She could tell him of course but she was curious

"Where did that come from?" she finally managed to whisper. Before he could answer her or question her again, her stomach growled loudly, breaking the cozy atmosphere even further.

Forgetting everything about his question, he quickly stood up and went to work, " I'll go and heat up the food for you..."

Olivia opened her mouth to speak, but he simply cut her off, "Just don't say anything now! At present the most important thing is feeding you." Olivia looked up at the way Seb was avoiding her gaze and sighed. Slowly, she slid off the couch, and grabbed his shirt. There was no way she was going to let him avoid this anymore.

As he moved around in the kitchen, she walked to him, gently sliding her arms around his waist as she placed her chin on his shoulder, "Sebbi, are you worried about the answer?"

She felt him stiffen and knew she'd nailed the truth. He'd mustered the courage to ask but wasn't sure of the answer. She couldn't blame anyone for this but herself. After all, she'd been so foolish the last time he'd asked her that question...

"You said it was because you didn't love me. That I'd projected and almost forced my feeling on you. You'd reciprocated because you..."

Olivia closed her eyes, "Don't repeat me foolish words, Seb. Just don't. I cannot tell you, how much I have blamed myself and regretted my words to you. I'll tell you..."

But Seb stopped her, "Eat first Olivia. The truth has already waited for a long while, we'll keep it on hold for now. We need to celebrate your future venture." Slowly, he turned around in the circle of her arms and caressed her face. "Let's go and eat first. I can't have the babies blaming their daddy for keeping them hungry."

Olivia nodded and moved away from him to sit at the table. Using the lighter on the side, she quickly lit the candles and started to move open the cold dishes that she'd set on the table while he brought the steaming pot of chicken curry to the table.

"Mrs Frost, I think you need to add this shirt to your wardrobe. It looks much better on you than it ever did on me."

Olivia looked down at the shirt and shook her head, "Oh, I am going to seize it. It can act as a memento to our special night."

Even though they were successfully able to recapture the atmosphere, the air of tension lingered in the air, just under the surface.

Finally, Olivia sighed, and caught his hand, slipping onto his lap, as she stared into his eyes. Her hands gently cupped his cheek, "Sebbi, you don't know, how many times I have imagined this moment. When I would finally have the courage to reveal the truth to you. To let you know what a dum* little girl, I was."

Seb made a sound to protest her language, but she shushed him, "Be quiet. I know what you are going to say but remember, I threw away the most important thing in my life because I was foolish."

"I'll start at the beginning, alright? It was the time when you'd started working in the Frost Industries. I was preparing to go to the University. You were so smart, Seb. Well rounded in everything. But high school had been a nightmare for me. I studied so hard to keep up my grades and keep up with you so that I would be worthy of you... And you were always so proud of me. Slowly, my struggle with that started to affect me, making me fear that you would stop loving me because I was not as good as you. Not worthy of you."

"It was during those nights that I struggled with that and I would experiment with the coffee beans and my interest in being a barista started to develop. I thought if I could be successful as that, then maybe I would be able to stand by your side without making you feel ashamed. That is when Grandfather Elijah stepped in."

"He offered you money to leave me, didn't he? Was he the one who also reaffirmed your fears?"

Olivia stiffened. "Did you really think that? Did you blame him for it?", she asked, horrified that he would have had a grudge against that man. She'd begged Uncle Elijah to tell Seb that she had been the one to approach him and ask him to give her money.

"No. He denied it but he refused to tell me anything else. I knew that old man well enough that if he really had offered you money, then he would have had announced it to me. He only said that you took the money and I should look for you for any other explanation. And Demon had been gaining his reputation at that time, torturing grandfather and the others so I came to you..."

"And I... Seb, Grandfather Frost indeed offered me money. He..He'd come to see my mother about something one night and instead before he could go to see her, he found me hunched over a bench

crying. He was quite horrified that you'd probably broken my heart and offered to break your bones on my behalf."

Seb rolled his eyes at that. "Wow! Just goes to show whose side he was on! If I'd known that, I would have given him more trouble for making me go on all those blind dates..."

Chapter 474: The Truth (3)

Seb was silent as he tried to piece together the events of the past. Even now, he was missing something. The reason why she eventually left him was still unclear to him. If that old man had really approved of Olivia then what went wrong?

"You're wondering why then did I leave you? I didn't mean to, Seb... I told you, I was foolish. So foolish that sometimes when I look back, I want to slap myself silly. But there was something else as well. Do you remember Vivienne?"

Seb stilled at the name. Of course he remembered her. The woman who had always tried to keep him away from Olivia claiming he wasn't worthy of her. And then later when Olivia had left...

Olivia looked up at Seb's face as he was lost in thought and clicked her fingers in front of his face. "You don't remember her?" she asked with a frown. Vivienne was a sore spot for her. She was her sister and unlike most half sisters who created trouble for their sibling, she had not been like that... until she set her eyes on Seb of course. Who knew Viv would have fallen for Seb as well? But of course he didn't know that...

Seb shook himself out of his thoughts and answered, "Hmm? I do..She was your half sister...your only friend you called her."

Olivia grimaced at that. If only she had known the truth earlier... Viv indeed had been a good friend...

"Well yes. Anyway, she didn't like you and you know that. She was convinced that you would definitely cheat on me and step out on me. I know I shouldn't have listened to her, but she was always saying that... and somehow, I don't know when, I started doubting us. Maybe it was the repetition that you were always flirting, or how I didn't have a background as strong as you so you would definitely try to suppress me. I just don't know. But I fell for that gibberish. And didn't even know that I'd done that."

Seb widened his eyes at that. Vivienne had made no pretense about liking him and been quite vocal about opposing their relationship. But he'd never considered her a serious threat to their relationship. He'd always been secure in the love for each other.

Olivia shook her head and thought back to that fateful night, "Anyway that night, I agreed to take a loan from grandfather, promising him that I would return it when I started earning and he accepted. I was about to come to you when I met Vivienne on the way. She brought me to you. But the scene I saw..."

Seb frowned. What did she see? He would have remembered...

Olivia had a bitter smile on her face as she looked at his confused expression. "Of course you don't remember. But I do... it was like walking into a nightmare. I asked Vivienne to drive me to your dorm, wanting to share my news to you. Vivienne asked me why I was so happy but I did not tell her. I just wanted you to be the first. However, when I reached there, it felt as if every word Vivienne had spoken was true. There was a girl... she was hugging your waist and crying...claiming that she was pregnant with your child..."

Seb scowled at that. A girl had been hugging him? Pregnant with his child? How was that possible? Olivia didn't know that but she'd been his first. He'd been waiting for her to grow up... So how could...

And yet, he could faintly recall the scene. It had been a prank by his roommates. Because the girls were always flocking to him and he'd been easy going, everyone had always believed that he was a womanizer. So they'd decided to prank him, unaware that he'd been with only Olivia.

Olivia gave a bitter smile at that, "It was a setup, Seb. Vivienne had planned it long ago. That night, she had already intended to bring me there. She'd coordinated with everyone and...what happened after that was not good. When the shock wore off and I would have marched forward, she dragged me away to the car."

"All the way home, she tore into me about how I'd been the one who'd been blind, foolish to trust you," Olivia continued, her voice laced with bitterness. "She painted you as this deceitful, unfaithful man, and every word she uttered felt like a dagger to my heart. 'He's been playing you for a fool, Liv,' she'd said, her voice dripping with venom. 'Do you really think someone like him would ever be faithful? He's been laughing behind your back, making a mockery of your love.' Gosh Seb! I don't know what came over me that I did not stop for a moment to think. To ask you. But I was scared. What if all that was true? What if Vivienne had been right all along? And in that moment of weakness, I made the biggest mistake of my life."

Seb sighed. The pieces of their past puzzle were now coming together.

Cupping her cheek, Seb made her look at him, gazing into her eyes as he said, "Liv, I swear to you, I never betrayed you. You were the only one I ever loved, the only one I ever wanted."

Olivia gave a bitter smile. She knew that of course. The fact that he's used the past tense... he'd 'loved' her, made her ache but she tried not to think that. Instead, she cupped his face and placed a small kiss on his cheek, "I know that Seb. I discovered the truth too late. It was why I accepted the blame all these years. Even though you thought that the reason our breakup was my greed, the truth remains that we lost our way because of me. It was all my fault," she whispered her voice breaking with tears. "Back then, I let my insecurities get the best of me. I pushed you away when I should have held on tight."

Chapter 475: Naive Fool

Gently, Seb hugged her. They'd lost so much time because of their misunderstandings. But in this moment, he realized that he'd been at fault too. He'd been older than her. It was his responsibility to assure her in their relationship.

Rubbing his hands over her back, he sighed, "We were both foolish, Olivia. If I'd been more attentive to your needs this would not have happened."

Olivia gave a wry shake of her head, "Don't try to share the blame here. I doubt you could have done anything about it when I was not even aware of what I was feeling. Viv was really sly... She's been so careful with everything."

Seb wanted to say more. But at the moment, he needed more information on what Olivia knew of Viv. He realized, once again, that he had grossly underestimated the woman.

"Why did you not come to me when you discovered the truth, Olivia?"

Olivia paused. He really was going to make her lay open all her flaws. "Because I discovered it too late. After I reached home, Viv convinced me that I should leave for the Barista training immediately and not give you a chance to humiliate me or mock me for foolishly being in love with you. And I did as she told me. But that wasn't enough for Viv. Each day, she would tell me how you were unaffected by my disappearance. How you couldn't even be bothered to look for me. It was like adding fuel to the fire. I burnt with anger. At that time... I didn't know what she'd told you."

"When you came to me and questioned me directly, I was angry and said all those things to hurt you. I wanted my revenge." Olivia paused bitterly. She'd gotten her revenge alright... But it had been a punishment...

She'd been forced to accept his anger and hatred. She had to accept that while he had never cheated on her, it had been her who had ultimately pushed him into the arms of the other women.

She felt her back start to ache physically, and shook her head when he immediately and wordlessly guided her to their bedroom, laying her down on the bed. "We'll talk about it later, Olivia. Rest up. I'll go and..."

As she watched him hurry to leave, she knew she had to finish telling him everything... "I did come to you, Seb."

She watched him stiffen and turn back, stare at her from the door. "What do you mean, Olivia?"

"I think Grandfather realized something was wrong. Apparently, you'd been moping and creating havoc in the office. At first he thought that you were angry over my being away and missing me. So he let you be. But then you started appearing with all those women on your arm in the media so he was concerned and started investigating. And then, he came to you."

A fond smile covered her face as she thought back to the thunderous face of that old man. For the first time, she'd felt the wrath of that old man. Truth be told, she'd almost wondered if he was going to use capital punishment on her.

She watched Seb's expression carefully, and continued, "He made me talk. About everything that had happened and who had conspired to do what...I came back Seb, to meet you, apologize to you. I was prepared to get on my knees and beg if I had to. The six months we'd been apart, had been agonizing. But when I got there...You were with another woman. In your car...."

Seb closed his eyes as he thought back to that time and shook his head at their cursed fate. Six months... She'd returned after six months.. Of course he remembered that night. Not the woman. But that night. He'd been desperate to forget her. And that night had been the first of many... Different women,

different places, until he forgot that there'd been a time when he'd made love and not just fu*ked. They'd really been starcrossed.

Olivia gave a pained smile. That scene was etched into her memory. She'd been nauseous and sick for days after that, unable to close her eyes. Even when she'd believed that he'd cheated and made another girl pregnant, there had been a seed of hope in her that she was wrong. But that night made her realize that she'd lost him completely.

"I almost strangled Viv after that the next time she came to me. She didn't know that I'd been told everything. That she'd tried to seduce you and how you'd thrown her out, even when you'd been drunk. If only I'd known that Viv was so obsessed with you, I would have distanced myself from her."

"She was not obsessed with me." Seb spoke suddenly, breaking through Olivia's thoughts.

Olivia was puzzled at that, "Yes, she was. She did everything in her power to break us apart. She then sent me away. Later, she tried to make me keep hating you by showing pictures of you with other women. Then she tried to seduce you herself. And when that did not work, she lied to me again. She was obsessed with you Seb. And she wouldn't have stopped pursuing you if not for grandfather intervening. She was as good as Arabelle was for Demetri! Totally Delulu!"

But Seb shook his head and stared at her intently. She really did think that Viv did everything she did because of her obsession with him.

"Olivia! Vivienne was not obsessed with me! She was way too interested in someone but that someone was not me!"

"Then who was it?" Olivia asked in confusion.

Had she missed something more due to her foolishness?

Seb took a deep breath and finally burst out, "Vivienne's obsession wasn't with me, it was with you, Olivia. She manipulated situations, created misunderstandings, and drove a wedge between us because she couldn't bear the thought of you being happy with anyone else."

Chapter 476: Eww

"Vivienne's obsession wasn't with me, it was with you, Olivia. She manipulated situations, created misunderstandings, and drove a wedge between us because she couldn't bear the thought of you being happy with anyone else."

Olivia blinked at that. Was she hearing wrongly? What did he mean Viv was obsessed with her?

"You mean she hated me and wanted me to be unhappy?"

Seb sighed, running a hand over his face, "No! She wanted you to not be happy with anyone else. She wanted to be the one to make you happy Olivia."

As Olivia heard the words, she wondered if something was really wrong. Even though she understood the words that Seb was uttering, she could not make a comprehned what he was trying to say.

Biting her lip, she spoke, "Seb, she tried to seduce you because she believed herself to be in love with you..."

Seb walked back to Olivia, knelt on the floor and took her hands in his, "She tried to sleep with me because she wanted to make sure we would never get together. She knew that the misunderstandings would clear someday so she needed to make sure there was at least some irreparable damage. You can overlook my past flings because you don't know any of them. Viv would have been different though. And for one moment, if we thought that you would have overlooked that, even then she would have always been around to rub your face in it until you broke up with me. Viv was in love with you and wanted you to only be with her!"

A moment of silence passed before Olivia made a disgusted face, "Eww... Seb! I didn't think you had such twisted thoughts on Viv. That statement is wrong on so many levels..."

Seb chuckled at the look on her face and rolled his eyes before flicking her nose, "What are you thinking? I don't mean the physical ince*tous way. Just that you were her family and as far as she was concerned no one was good enough for you whether as a life partner or as a companion."

Olivia stared at Seb for a moment before slowly leaning back on the bed. She wanted to ask him how he knew whatever he knew, but she could feel a headache coming on. She was having an information overload. She shooed Seb away for the first time, "Go go go. I need to think...I listen to the rest, later."

Had she been wrong all along? She knew Vivienne of course. The girl had been a mix of vulnerable and strong at the same time. She'd clung to her when their father had first brought her here and they'd become good friends. But... slowly she'd realized that Viv had no other friends. It was why she had encouraged her to go out and date some people so that her horizons would open up... And she'd said, "Why would I need someone else when I have you? You'll always be with me, won't you?"

Olivia shuddered once again. Suddenly, the words that had sounded so silly and loving to their sisterly bond now sounded scary.

She rubbed her temples, trying to process everything that had just been revealed. Ever since she'd asked Vivienne to never see her again after discovering her deception, she'd believed that Viv had been in love with Seb. But this was.. How was she so blind...

Stressed from the weight of these new revelations, Olivia's tiredness won over, and she succumbed to sleep, her mind still swirling with her thoughts from their past memories.

Seb entered the room a little while later. Looking at the passed out 'lump' in his bed, he could only shake his head. He'd believed that once Olivia told him the truth, things would be alright. But now... he had to warn her about Vivienne's return. Then the rumors about him and Emma. How they'd come to circulate.

Suddenly, he wanted to go back in time and extinguish those rumors the moment they started. How hurt must she have been to believe that he'd been cheating on her. Even if now, she was willing to completely entrust him, he could not have anything that might endanger their relationship.

Discarding his clothes, he slipped into bed and gathered her in his arms, as she mumbled something in her sleep. From now on, there would be no misunderstandings between them. As for Viv, he'd handle her too.

Vivienne stared at the bright moon outside as she slowly took a drag of her cigarette, watching the smoke curl around her. Her assistant stood there with her head bowed, wondering what punishment she was going to get.

"Are you going to keep standing there with your head hanging? Do you not understand instructions?"

The assistant shook her head, "Young miss. I swear to you, I'd explained to the driver that he was only supposed to run her off the road! I gave him money accordingly as well! I don't know why he continued to slam into the car even after it had crashed into the tree."

"Where is the driver now?" Viv asked coldly.

"He's been taken away by Seb Frost's people. But..."

"Why did you not tell me that Emma was so serious? That woman is lying in the hospital fighting for her life and death and like a fool, I hinted that I was the one behind her accident! My motive to order the accident was just to find out if that man was as concerned about Emma as he would have been for a woman he loved! I don't need him to come and attack me, dam* it! Someone has definitely used me to get rid of that Emma and I am not going to rest easy until I find out who it is! Go and search for anyone who has a vendetta against Seb Frost!"

She needed to find Olivia and take her sister back with her. This place and these people had never been worth of her! She would definitely take her away from them and let her live a pampered life.

Chapter 477: Please don't

"I shouldn't have told you everything!" Seb grumbled under his breath his frustration evident as he watched Olivia meticulously preparing for her upcoming meeting with Vivienne. At least then he wouldn't have worried about her being in danger. Why did he have to open his big mouth?

Olivia paused and looked at him in the mirror, gently applying a layer of foundation as she said, "Its better that I meet her now, Seb. At least my pregnancy isn't showing too much. If like you said, she really is possessive of me, then chances are that she would not take the impending arrival of our babies too kindly or happily.

"But for now, she thinks that you are not around..." Seb sighed, running his hand through his hair, though he was tempted to pull them out of sheer frustration.

"And she'll keep looking until she has seen me. So isn't it better to just handle this now?"

"But what if it's too risky? What if she tries something? Olivia, this is a crucial time to take a risk..."

"That's precisely why I need to handle this now," Olivia insisted, her voice firm but tinged with concern. "I can't keep hiding forever, and if there's a potential threat, I need to face it head-on before I am further along and more vulnerable. And you are sending your security team with me, aren't you?"

Seb nodded but his mind was occupied with worry. The problem was he didn't know how far Vivienne could go. While she'd pulled off those shenanigans when they were young, she had never resorted to physical violence. But her admission that she'd been the one responsible for Emma's accident chilled him.

Olivia looked at his face and the deep worried frown and sighed. Finishing the application of her mascara, she stood up and walked to him, hugging him gently, "I'll be really careful Sebby. There is no way I would endanger myself or our babies. I am pretty sure of her motives. And once she has assured herself that you and I are not together, she will step back. How is Miss Emma doing? Are you going to go see her today?"

Seb nodded. "Yes, I'll go in the evening. The swelling in her brain has come down so according to the doctors, she could wake up any time now. Once she is awake, I'll discuss the other plan with her."

Olivia smiled when she heard the distaste in his voice. Of course he was not happy with the plan that she had come up with. But, as Vivienne had said, that she wouldn't leave the country until she saw him married to Emma, then there was only one solution to it. That he would marry Emma.

Of course it would be a fake marriage. She was going to take a page out of Nora's book. When Nora had discovered Antonio's treachery, she had continued with the wedding plans while already marrying Demetri on the sly and hiring a fake priest for her wedding with Antonio. Her and Seb were already married so they just to proceed with the rest.

"Stop scowling so much, Sebby! What if your face gets stuck with this expression? What will we do then?"

Seb chuckled at that, and instead of replying, caught her neck and gently pulled her down for a kiss. The kiss started out gently but soon turned fierce as he sucked on her lower lip. Laughing, she pushed him away, scolding, " Sebby! I's just applied the lipstick!"

Seb wiped his lip with his thumb, grinning unashamedly, " Give it to me. I'll reapply it for you... though I like this slightly swollen lip look... I should kiss you more often..."

Olivia rolled her eyes at that and pushed at his shoulder, "Sebby! Kiss me more often and our lips might as well be glued together! You're anyway kissing me all the time!"

"I like the idea of sticking to you."

Shaking her head, Olivia pushed away from him, muttering something about someone being clingy...making him laugh as he called out, " I am clingy!"

Even though she had assured Seb repeatedly that she would be fine, she felt nervous in her stomach. What if Vivienne discovered something? What would she do?

She straightened her back and walked in, reminding herself that she couldn't back down. As she scanned the cafe, she immediately spotted Vivienne sitting at the back, staring at her coolly. With her chin raised, she walked close to her. But when she would have stood up and come to her, she gave her a warning look. Just because she had agreed to meet her did not mean she was willing to forget the past.

She watched as Vivienne sat back and took a drag of the cigarette in her hand, letting smoke out. The smell made her want to throw up. Sending a look of distaste, Olivia snapped, " I can wait a little further away until you've finished your cigarette."

Vivienne stared at her for a moment, before stubbing it out and smiling at her, " There. Is that okay?"

As she sat down, Vivienne sent a smug smile at her, "We haven't met for so long and you can't even spare a hug for your sister? No air kisses? Nothing?"

"I don't think we parted on good terms, Vivienne. So, why would I want to hug you? I heard you were looking for me. What is it?"

Vivienne grimaced, "I actually wanted to give my condolences over Aunty's passing away. I'm sorry for your loss, Olly... I know what it feels like to lose the one closest to you..."

Olivia stilled. Of all the things she had thought, this was not what she had expected. And she should have. She nodded her head, accepting the sympathy, "Thank you."

A moment of silence passed between them, as each woman stared at the other, waiting for the other one to break the silence.

Eventually, Vivienne sighed again, "Olivia, come back with me to country J..."

Chapter 478: Things...

Eventually, Vivienne sighed again, "Olivia, come back with me to country J..."

Olivia shook her head stubbornly to refuse, "Vivienne..."

"No, Olly, you need to hear me out." Vivienne spoke in a voice that held a hint of desperation. "In the past, I understood why you wanted to stay here. Auntie was here, and you couldn't bear to leave her. But now, it's just us. You've sold your business, Auntie is gone, and even Seb Frost is moving on with his life. We're all each other has left, Olly. The only blood family remaining, and we need to stick together."

"Family? Family does not stab you in the back and break up a relationship you cherish. Family doesn't push you down when you are already drowning. I have no family left, Vivienne. Least of all you."

Vivienne's eyes widened with hurt as she reached out, her hand trembling slightly when Olivia pulled away her hands instead of letting her hold them. "Olly, please, let me explain," she pleaded softly, her voice laced with desperation.

Her eyes glistened with unshed tears, her shoulders slumped as she continued, "I know you've always believed that I betrayed you. But even after all this time, do you not see that everything I did, every decision I made, was out of love for you. I was protecting you, guiding you toward what's best. Look back at the past and tell me that you are not better off!"

"Look at Seb? He is almost known as a man-who*e! If you'd remained with him, then would you have had this successful business? Would you have been independent? No! He would have married you, kept you at home raising children while he continued to sow his wild oats outside! Your life would have been ruined while his would have continued as it is now!"

"You didn't know that! Are you some kind of a foreseer who can predict the future Vivienne? You'd made yourself clear that you did not approve of him. Wasn't that enough? You had no right to ruin this for me. To take the decision out of my hands while doing something so despicable. You have no right to point fingers at him when the only person to blame in all this is you."

"Can you not let go of the past? Did you not hear what I said? He has already moved on! In fact, he'd moved on a long time ago but you insisted on believing that in the end he would come to you! But now he is even marrying someone else."

"I know about his marriage, Vivienne." Olivia spoke quietly. "And I've accepted it. But you need to accept that every action has a consequence. It doesn't matter what the end result is. You broke what we had, and I have no intention of repairing it. So go back and don't ever look for me again."

Vivienne shook her head, "I won't give up on us, Olly! I will take you back! That Sebastian Frost...he is responsible for..."

"Seb is not responsible for anything!" Olivia snapped at Viv, finally.

Vivienne stared at her after the outburst carefully, "You are still in touch with him? Was he the one who told you about his marriage? Did he want to hurt you with the news?"

Suddenly, Olivia felt the urge to laugh. Of course she was still in touch with him. And he had indeed been the one to tell her about his marriage. Even though she was the bride.

"Yes. Seb will always be dear to me, Viv. I grew up with him and his brothers. They are wonderful people who have always treated me like family. So, even though we might not be dating, we have kept in touch. And he was the one who told me about the marriage! And your interference in a certain someone's accident!"

As Vivienne's eyes shifted away guiltily, Olivia's hands clenched. The biggest reason she had come here today was to indeed find out if Vivienne had been the one responsible for the accident. And it seemed she was definitely involved...

"It wasn't me, Olly. I swear. Look, I... I did pay someone to run her off the road but that is it. I simply wanted to test if the rumors about him and that lady were true. Just to check if he would rush to her or not. But I didn't know that his lover was that hurt and someone had crashed into her repeatedly. I only boasted in front of him in the hospital because I thought that was all that had happened!"

Olivia stared at Vivienne in horror and disbelief. She thought pushing someone off the road was alright? What was wrong with this girl! "Vivienne! Listen to me carefully. Stop going after Seb! If you ever want to have a normal relationship with me, hurting people around me will not make it happen!"

"Then is there a chance to make repairs? I'll do anything you say, Olly. I just want my sister back. I miss you, Olly. Please..."

Olivia's heart wavered. Yes, Vivienne had made many mistakes but she'd always held her welfare in her heart. In the past, she had been taken in because Vivienne had betrayed her. But if she forgave her, and slowly tested her out, maybe she would have a sister back. For now, she would have need to get some time until they had figured out everything.

"I'll... I'll think about it," Olivia finally conceded, her voice tinged with uncertainty. "But for now, I need some space. I need to figure things out on my own. So please go back..."

Vivienne's shoulders slumped, her gaze downcast with a heavy weight of disappointment. "I understand," she murmured, her voice laced with resignation. "But please, know that I'll do anything to make things right. Anything to earn back your trust. I'll wait for you..."

Olivia stiffened at that. Why did that last sentence sound more like a threat? "Go back Vivienne."

Chapter 479: A Friend

"Emma. You've finally woken up?" Seb smiled as he stepped into the hospital room.

With a quick smile, he scanned her pale face, her head wrapped in thick bandages. At least the swelling had gone down considerably.

Emma looked at the man and the flowers in his hand. Even with the pain and fatigue that seemed to be hitting her, she managed a small smile for him. "Hey, how are you?"

Seb chuckled as he placed the small bouquet of flowers on the table and answered, "I'd say I should be asking that question. How are you feeling?"

"Honestly? like I've been hit by a truck," Emma answered wryly.

Seb laughed at that. It was good to have humor in situations like this. Still grinning, he quipped, "Miss Emma! You're not far off in your feeling."

Settling into the chair beside her bed, he leaned forward slightly, his gaze intent as he studied Emma's face. "Did you see anything?" he asked quietly, his voice tinged with concern. "The driver who did it, anything?"

"You sound like the police officers who just came to interview me.." Emma complained softly before sighing as she took in his determined expression.

She shook her head slowly, her brow furrowing in concentration as she tried, once again, to recall the events leading up to the accident. "I... I don't remember much," she admitted, her voice tinged with frustration. "It all happened so fast. One moment, I was driving happily but somehow I felt as if something appeared in front of me and I lost control of the car. And then, a truck rammed into me from behind..."

Her voice trailed off, her expression clouding with uncertainty and some fear as she struggled with the memory.

Seb gently patted her bandaged hand, "Its alright, Emma. You'll be fine soon. You're safe and thats all that matters, right? Now, do you want me to call someone from your family. I couldn't find any information about you..."

Emma shook her head, "I don't have a family." Suddenly, she turned her hand and caught his hand in hers, her fingers curling around his, "Seb, thank you for everything. When I first woke up in this empty room, I thought that I wouldn't have anyone to care for me. But, you coming here, bringing these flowers, I don't feel so lonely. I feel as if I still have someone in this world who cares for me.."

With a gentle yet decisive motion, Seb slowly withdrew his hand from Emma's grasp, his expression polite but distant. "Emma, I's sure there are many people who care for you. Don't let such thoughts bother you."

Emma looked at his hand which he had withdrawn and looked at him with vulnerable eyes, letting him know with her eyes, the feelings that she had, making Seb feeling distinctly unomfortable.

With a sigh, he looked away from her and spoke softly, "Emma, I know this might not be the right time but..."

"If you feel it is not the right time, then why say it now?" Emma cut in softly.

Another sigh escaped him. Nope. It was urgent to make things clear, lest Emma too start believing in the lies and rumors that her modelling agency was spreading.

"Emma, I'm here for you as a friend and business partner," he said gently and sincerely. "But I want to make sure we maintain a professional boundary, especially in moments like this. I know your agency has been spreading rumors about us, hoping to get you back into lucrative modelling contracts and I've not said anything because it's business. But..."

Her expression faltered for a moment, a flicker of disappointment crossing her features before she nodded in understanding. Though she longed for more, she knew she couldn't challenge him. Downcast, she looked away, "Thank you for being my friend, Seb. And for yuor honesty. I... understand."

Seb stared at her intently. He knew they'd planned to ask Emma to act as his fiancée but her expression had warned him that asking for such a favour would be wrong for her. He could see the budding feelings in her eyes and he did not want to use that. He'd simply have to look for another way to handle Vivienne.

With a nod, he stood up, "Rest well, then. If you need anything, you can call Rosie."

Emma nodded, looking away. However, as his back turned, she looked at him and spoke softly, "I like you, Seb Frost."

She watched as he stiffened and started to turn towards her. But she shook her head, "Don't turn around. And don't say anything. Just listen to me. For the world, I am a model who is aging. Even though as a woman in her prime years, I am already old news in the modelling world, reduced to acting as an escort to survive in this cruelty."

"Ideally, I am only supposed to partner up with men for events like the one you hired me for, so that I would remain visible in the lime light, maybe someone would look at me and find me suitable... but the truth is much more disgusting than that as you're well aware, I'm sure. I know you've never treated anyone like that... you're kind of famous among the girls for that... You only take them to events, send them back with huge gifts. I did not know this earlier, but when I came to know, I... I think it was around that time my admiration and respect for you turned to something more..."

"I just... I understand if you are not interested in me. I just want you to know that if you ever need a friend, you will have one in me. As for my feelings for you, I promise to never speak of them again. I just wanted to get things off my chest so that there would be no regrets. You can go now."

Seb heard her words and sighed. "You'll find someone much better and deserving than me, Emma. I'll treat this conversation as if it never happened."

Chapter 480: A Saviour

Seb's grip tightened on the steering wheel, as he concentrated on the road ahead. The entire place was deserted for some reason and he was not comfortable with this. Adding to that, the news that Rosie had just given him was even more worrying.

"Rosie, are you sure?"

Rosie continued to flick through the papers, scanning the documents carefully, and nodded, "Yes, sir. Miss Emma's accident was not related to Vivienne Dempsey. The guy she bribed spilled everything. He was to drive her off the road and then call you in a panic. But before he could reach her, things had already gone bad."

"So, Vivienne was really not behind it?" Olivia was right, then. After meeting Vivienne last week, she had insisted that Vivienne was not lying, and she had not caused such a major accident. But then, who could it be?

"Are you sure this is not some ploy by her? Maybe she hired two people and..."

"Seems unlikely, Sir. Miss Dempsey seems to be a trust-fund baby. So, she has no other source of income or anyone she might be paying in any other way. We've checked reports of all her transaction and even those of her closest employees."

Seb's jaw clenched, frustration evident in his expression. "Damn it. We've hit another dead end. Rosie, I need to find out who caused that accident? If it is not Viv, then who?"

Rosie leaned back in his seat and looked at Seb thoughtfully, 'I don't know. I've checked all your previous lovers and as a matter of fact some of them have indeed received threats to break up with you. And you usually break up with them withing a specific time frame, so things have never escalated. But Miss Emma received a death threat after you visited her in the hospital."

"What about THAT girl?"

"Yeah," Rosie sighed, "I told you. That Girl is out of the picture too. Studying abroad, apparently after you threatened her parents."

Seb shook his head, disbelief mingling with disappointment. "Great. So, who the hell is behind all this?"

Before Rosie could respond, a sudden commotion ahead caught their attention. Seb instinctively slowed down the car, turning off the head lights as they approached the scene. They had not yet attracted the attention of the goons.

A Rolls Royce stood in the middle of the road, its path blocked by a large nondescript van. One need not be Einstein to discover what was going on. This was either a robbery or kidnapping. His eyes narrowed as he looked at the people on the other side. A woman stood with her back against the car as a few men surrounded her. It was clear by the weapons in their hands that they were not going to be easy to deal with.

Without a second thought, he threw the car into reverse, thankful that his car was as silent as the night, and they were not attracting attention. He could feel his assistant turn to look at him and just as he asked, "Sir, are we not going to help?", he accelerated forward..

With a sudden burst of speed, he veered back onto the path, the headlights blazing as he aimed straight for the assailants. As the light flooded their vision, the men faltered, stumbling back to shield their eyes from the glare.

He stopped the car between the woman and the assailants. In that split second, as Seb glanced at the woman who had also closed her eyes, and cursed some more. Vivienne! What was she doing here?

Even as he realized this, Rosie had already flung open his side of the door and pulled her into the car swiftly. In the next moment, they drove off, with Vivienne's scream still echoing as she gasped for breath.

He floored the accelerator as the would-be kidnappers realized what had happened and moved to start the chase.

Vivienne on the other hand was still in the grips of panic as she started to plead, "Let me go please! Let me go! I have nothing to do with him!"

Rosie had also recognized the woman in his lap by now and even as he caught her wrist to stop her from clawing, he cast a helpless glance at Seb.

"Vivienne! Vivienne! You are safe now! Open your eyes and look!"

As Vivienne continued to try and escape, her vision clouded by fear, she heard a familiar cold voice. His words pierced through the haze of panic, reaching something deep within her. She froze, as her breath caught in her throat and turned to face him, her eyes wide with disbelief.

"Seb?" she whispered, "Seb Frost?"

Seb gave a wry grin at the disbelief in her voice and nodded, "The one and only. Are you angry that I became your saviour? Do you need me to slow down or turn around and send you back to those people?"

Rosie cast a look at his boss. Even now he was in the mood to joke. He could feel his heart still thundering after what happened just now.

The person in his lap seemed to have a similar reaction as she almost wildly tried to lunge at Seb, 'You! I'll kill you! It's all your fault!"

Seb's jaw clenched at this, "Vivienne Dempsey! I just saved you! How is that my fault? Do you really think everything that happens in this world is my fault?"

"I don't know about the world. But whenever something goes wrong in my world it is your fault!"

"Hey! You can't blame me for..."

But before he could finish, Vivienne reached into her pocket, her fingers trembling as she withdrew a crumpled photograph and threw it at him, "They gave me this! They were going to beat me up and wanted to leave this with me as a reminder that I should stay away from you!"

Seb's anger evaporated in an instant. Keeping one eye on the road, in case they were being followed, he glanced at the picture. It was when she had come to the hospital. They'd been arguing, standing toe to toe but they looked close in the photograph as if they were talking intimately...