

Benefits 511

Chapter 511: Stop

"Dam* it Demon! Stop the car!" Seb roared even as Demetri was already racing through the heavy traffic.

Casting a worried glance at Seb, he tried to reason urgently, "Seb..."

Without giving him a chance to say more, Seb had already jumped out of the car and jogged towards the driver's side.

Knowing they did not have much time to waste, Demon jumped out and raced towards the passenger seat. He'd barely closed the door, when he was pushed back against the seat as Seb raced through the crowded streets.

Demetri wanted to warn Seb to be careful, even as they almost crashed into a vehicle when they veered urgently but kept quiet.. Even though he knew his brother was an expert in racing, at this moment, his thoughts were totally occupied by Olivia. It was a dangerous combination. Grabbing the phone which was showing Olivia's direction on the map, Demetri could not help but frown. She was going too fast. Which was unlike her. Especially when she was pregnant...

"Seb. Are you sure that is Olivia?" he asked, even as his brother sharply navigated a turn, almost propelling him into the window.

Seb's hands tightened on the car's wheel as he cast a sharp glance at Demon, "What do you mean?"

"She'd moving too fast! Olivia would not take such a risk during her pregnancy."

Seb's jaw clenched and he gave a sharp nod, "Yes. She wouldn't... unless... someone was chasing her and she was trying to get away."

Demetri however, was not too sure. He didn't know why but his gut told him that they were on the wrong track. "Seb..."

Just then he noticed something and spoke urgently, " She's stopped. We're not far from her." Seb glanced at the screen and nodded before turning back his eyes to the road.

That is when Lucien called. Demetri quickly answered the call and Lucy's voice echoed in the car, " She went to Emma's house. I don't know how or when Emma got into the car. There were too many blind spots. But I do know that Olivia almost had an accident when she was on her way to drop Emma."

Seb inhaled sharply at that and was about to curse when Lucien continued, " She was okay. From what I can make out, she dropped Emma at her house and then went inside. And she came out a little while later, and raced out of there. But there is something wrong with that camera angle. Olivia looks as if she is running away.."

"She'll be fine as long as she is away from Emery! Just keep digging through the other matter, Lucy."

They rounded the other turn as quickly as that and that is where Seb noticed his car. The front had been totaled, crashed into the side of the highway. Two police cars stood to the side, blocking its escape. With his heart in his throat, Seb braked hard and raced towards his car. This sight was his nightmare incarnate.

He pushed past the officers who tried to stop him as he called out in a panicked voice that the person in the car was his wife.

Every second felt like an eternity as he raced towards the vehicle, his footsteps echoing in the hollow chamber of his dread.

His pulse thundered in his ears as he reached the driver's side, his hands trembling as he grasped the door handle. But as he leaned in, ready to pull Olivia to safety, a cold realization washed over him like a tidal wave.

It wasn't her.

His mind reeled in disbelief as he stared at the figure slumped over the wheel, clad in Olivia's clothes. It was not Olivia.

They'd been lead on a wild goose chase. Where was Olivia then. Feeling remarkably foolish, he turned around to march out and question the officers, when Demetri called out, " Seb! Lucy's found something. Get in."

It took him a moment to realize that Demetri had already guessed that the person inside was not Olivia but someone else.

This time, he did not rush to get into the the driver's side but slumped over in the passenger side, despair washing over him. Had he already lost his Olivia?

As they started to drive off, Demetri told him, " A few minutes after your car raced out from Emma's driveway, an ambulance arrived. Three nurses went in and carried someone out on a stretcher. Lucy is tracing them ambulance through the cameras and Ian has already started along on that route. We'll get there soon. Its in the opposite direction."

"Emma planned to send you after the car so as to make you miss out on this. Calm down Seb. You need to be thinking clearly at this time. Nothing will happen to Olivia or the children. Nothing. Just try and think of some place where they might have try to take Olivia."

Seb's mind raced, desperately trying to piece together the puzzle of Olivia's whereabouts when all he could feel was panic and fear.

Then, amidst the chaos of his thoughts, a realization struck him like a lightning bolt. His brow furrowed in deep concentration as he pieced together the fragmented threads of their investigation in the past.

Seb's gaze hardened with determination as he ordered Demon, " Demon, don't chase the ambulance. She is not there. Change direction. Now."

"You know something?" Demon asked sharply.

"Yes! I think they are sending us on another chase. I... I remember the first time I met Emery, I'd told them a short story in the seminar... about lookig for something right under their nose... Demetri, take the shortest route towards Emma's house."

He then quickly dialed Lucien and ordered, "Lucy, continue to keep an eye on Emma's house. Let me know if someone comes there or around the house again."

"But, Seb... didn't they take Lucy in the ambu..."

"No! I am very sure that the ambulance is a ruse too! I'm very sure, Olivia is in the house... at least for now..."

Chapter 512: Help Me!

"So, you are the girl that was his stalker a couple of years ago?", a voice asked incredulously.

Emery was jolted out of her memories as she frowned up at Olivia who sat there, tied to a chair.

"Has he told you about me? Now you know, he cares for me so much... There was this one time when I followed him from the office to a club..."

Olivia almost rolled her eyes as she looked at the woman. This girl... was she really that delulu? Uhh! Why did they have to meet so many wrong in the head people? There was Arabelle and then this...

Thankfully, while she was lost narrating her story, she'd been able to loosen the ropes behind the chair. Only one knot and her hands would be free. Whatever Emery was, girl scout adept at her knots- she was not.

But what she did not understand was why were they still here? She had kidnapped her and kept her inside her house? Did she not think that Seb would easily find her? And if she didn't then why not? Meanwhile, Emma or Emery as she'd said her name was, continuing her story...

"He was so good to me. He gave up on clubbing to ask someone to take me home. He even told them that they should report to him about my well being. Isn't that his way to show his love to me? Has he ever done something like that for you? He hasn't, has he?"

Olivia stiffened as Emery turned to look at her. The sudden movement caught her by surprise and she realized that she was almost caught. Emery was frowning at her. As she stood up to walk to her, Olivia knew she needed to distract her faster. What could she...

"No, he has never sent anyone to drop me home." Olivia agreed but she knew that Emery was focused on her. She needed to say something that might shock her.

"But he came to see me off, everynight. Even when we were not together." Olivia answered slowly, sending her a challenging look. As expected, Emery shot her a look, moving to sit back down as she scowled, "What do you mean? He came to see you everynight?"

"Hmm. He'd never finish his day until he'd seen me. Sometimes I was so late, it would be quiet. But there was never a time he did not come." She watched that settle in and then suddenly had another idea. It was a lie of course, telling her that he came everyday. She knew he'd come sometimes. She'd see him standing far off, staring inside but never coming in. It used to make her feel guilty and yet safe. And she would have kept that knowledge a secret all her life if anyone were to ask her.

But, she needed to keep Emery agitated. Only if she was worried about Seb's feelings for her, would she be distracted enough for Olivia to undo the last knot.

So what if she had to exaggerate a little? At least she was right about Seb's feeling for her inlike Emery who's built all those feelings based on circumstances.

"You didn't know this, Emma. Did you?"

Emma's eyes hardened as she sent her a glare, "Yes! You're right. I didn't know this. In fact, I did not even know he had feelings for you, or I would have long interfered. His brothers all treated you like a sister so I thought that you were their sister! Never in my reports was it said that you were anything more to him!"

Olivia felt her mouth dry. So, she'd left the country but sent spies to keep an eye on him? Were they those people that Seb had caught previously. They'd be changed and sent a new one every few months? As she understood this fact, another change came over Emery.

"Sigh! Lot of good it did me. But it's okay. Now I have my chance to take revenge on him."

Revenge? Olivia frowned. Was this some kind of a plot twist? What revenge? Hadn't she just been telling her about how she fell for Seb and he for her? And all those death notes warning everyone about how he only belonged to her? What the heck was going on?

Emery chuckled as she saw the look on Olivia's face. "You're shocked, aren't you? I did so many things to keep the women away from his life, you must think that I love him and this is why I did all that..."

Emery's chuckle turned into a sinister grin as she leaned closer to Olivia, her eyes glinting with a manic intensity.

"You see, Olivia, I have someone else to love now. Someone who loves me unconditionally," she whispered, her voice dripping with venom. "But Seb, oh Seb... he took everything from me. Forced me to leave the country, away from my parents. They died, Olivia. Died without me by their side, without me getting the chance to say goodbye. Believing that their daughter was a stalker."

"So what if I followed him around? Couldn't he have been more patient? Did I harm him? Did I ask for his attention? All I wanted was to be close to him!"

"And so, I returned. This time to give him a taste of what stalking is really like. I wanted him to fall in love with me though. That would have been so much sweeter when I finally destroyed him. But once again, I couldn't get his love. Even when I caused such a big accident for myself, he could only show concern. But then I discovered Vivienne.

I thought, this woman would definitely be able to help me gain my revenge. But that failed too. Apparently, her hate was not stronger than her lust for his secretary. However, I was okay with that too. But then, I was told that Seb had you. And you were pregnant."

"How was I to let that go? He was the one responsible for making me lose my family but I should let him have his family and live happily?"

"Now, the fun is going to begin..."

Chapter 513: Revenge Served Cold

Olivia shuddered at the malice on Emma's face. Until now, she had been worried about Emma being a threat but suddenly things felt much more real. She'd guessed that Emma had been behind the accident and behind that oil with the poisoned fumes. Of course she had also given her something just now to make her dizzy.

She needed to escape. Finally, the knot on her hands had come undone which meant that she would have to take action before anything Emma realized what to do. Carefully, she wrapped the rope around her and started to think of an escape plan. At the moment, they were too close to each other and Emma stood between the escape route and her.

With her pregnancy, she would not be able to run fast so she'd need to make sure that Emma couldn't follow her immediately. Adrenaline surged through her as she lunged forward, her fist connecting with Emma's face with surprising force. Emma stumbled backward, stunned by the sudden blow. Seizing the opportunity, Olivia pushed her into the nearby chair, restraining her arms behind her back with the rope and tying it much more securely than Emma had tied hers.

"You won't get away with this, Olivia!" Emma spat, her voice laced with venom. Do you really think he is going to come here to rescue you? I've set up a few distractions for him! He must be running around the city looking for you! And when he ultimately finds you? Its going to be too late! Just like it was too late for me and my parents!"

Ignoring Emma's threats, Olivia raced towards the door. They were in a basement so of course there were no windows. The door was her only way to escape. However, as she reached it to turn around the handle, she realized that it was locked...She jiggled the door handle, praying desperately that it would open by some miracle. But it would not budge. There was no key hole, nothing that would tell her how to get this open.

She could still hear, Emma's gloating voice echoing in the room," It unlocks from outside, Olivia. You see, I could not risk something like this. You're going to be trapped in here with me, forever... or Until 'the end. Your end.'

Ignoring her, Olivia pounded on the door, desperately screaming," Help! Is somebody there?"

Even if no one could hear her, she would not give up and go down without a fight. Even if she had to scream until she could no longer make a sound.

Just as Emma continued to gloat, and Olivia felt more and more hopeless,

a faint knocking sounded from the other side of the door, causing Olivia's heart to leap with hope.

"Mrs. Frost? Is that you?" came a voice from beyond the door. It was Detective Davis. The woman was in charge of this case! If she'd found her, then she would inform Seb as well.

Olivia's breath caught in her throat as she recognized the familiar voice. Relief flooded through her, washing away some of the fear and uncertainty that had consumed her moments before.

"D-Detective Davis!" Olivia called out, her voice trembling with emotion. "Please, help me! I'm trapped in here with Emma! Please call Seb!"

There was a moment of silence from the other side, before the Detective's voice came through again, "Mrs Frost, step back! I'll try to break open the door."

Hurriedly, Olivia stepped back, being careful to keep some distance between herself and Emma as well. The woman seemed to have gone as she tried to extract herself frantically from the chair.

Just then, the sound of the door clicking open sounded and Detective Davis stepped in. Olivia almost slumped back in relief at the sight of the woman.

"Are you okay?", Detective Davis' voice sounded in concern.

Olivia nodded and leaned against the wall, and nodded slowly. She opened her mouth to question the detective about Seb when she realized that the Detective was walking towards Emma.

Olivia tried to warn the Detective about Emma's heightened state, but then froze in shock at the scene before her.

Instead of apprehending Emma or even moving to arrest her, the detective was untying her from the chair. Confusion and disbelief washed over Olivia as she struggled to make sense of what was happening.

"Detective Davis, what are you doing?" Olivia exclaimed, her voice trembling with disbelief. They needed to call for back up before that. What if Emma attacked the detective?

But before she could receive an answer, Emma threw herself into the detective's arms, her body racked with sobs. Olivia's breath caught in her throat as she watched the unexpected scene, her mind reeling with confusion.

And then, the detective, wound her arms around Emma and started to console her in a soft voice.

"She hit me, Rachel! This woman hit me! I want to hurt her but I didn't! I was not strong enough! Hit her Rachel!"

As she heard Emma's words, Olivia stiffened in shock. This couldn't be! Detective Davis and Emma? How could it be...

But now was not the time to think this. She'd let down her guard and now she was faced with not one but two opponents. She slid along the wall, hoping to make an escape before the women turned their attention to her.

Just as she reached the door, Olivia cast a quick glance inside, checking to see them, but froze in horror at the sight of the gun pointed at her. "Mrs Frost. You would do well to not move an inch. Or else, I will be forced to use this gun. And mind you, I can use it quite well."

Fear coursed through her veins as she met Rachel's steely gaze, her mind racing with a million thoughts and possibilities. She was truly trapped.

Slowly, she felt the doors of opportunity closing on her and felt despair take place of hope. Would she really never see Seb again?

Chapter 514: Fired

Even as she lost hope, Olivia could not wrap her mind around the fact that Emma and Officer Davis were in cahoots. How was this possible? She'd guessed from the lady's attitude that she did not like Seb. But would she be so ruthless as to help Emma do something like this? Why?

Detective Davis seemed to understand her unasked question. She grinned and even as she continued to keep the gun pointed at her with one hand while the other caressed Emma's head, she spoke, "You thought you could outsmart us, didn't you, Mrs. Frost? But you underestimated us. You see, Emma is not alone in her quest for revenge against Sebastian. I have a beef with him too."

Olivia's heart pounded in her chest as she struggled to maintain her composure. She couldn't afford to show weakness, not now. "Why?" she managed to choke out, her voice trembling with fear and anger. As long as she was alive, she had a chance to escape and her children a chance to escape. She would find a way. She was so close to the door as it is.

"Because Emma was my best friend. The girl I had always loved. I was the one who convinced her to go to that seminar you know. I watched her fall in love with Sebastian and offer her heart to him. I know she was in the wrong when Seb did not accept it. But did he have to be so cruel about it? I kept an eye on him after that. And I saw, how he was cold to every woman he dated. But you, you my friend are different."

"The two of us want Seb to suffer the same way he has made us suffer. And you, my dear, are the perfect leverage."

But even as these words sank into her heart with a chill, Emma's voice echoed in the small room, "This is going great. Even better than we imagined. He thought he could have it all, didn't he, Olivia? A loving wife, a beautiful family, a baby on the way. But now, it's all slipping through his fingers."

Seb jumped out of the car to race into the house but skidded to a stop as he noticed the police car sitting in the driveway. Demetri frowned when he noticed the car as well.

"Is the police investigating inside already?"

But Seb shook his head and gestured for Demetri to be quiet and pointed a bit further down the road.

As they slinked away, Demetri asked in a hushed tone, "You think the detective is involved with this Emma woman?"

"I have my doubts. She's sent police cruisers behind the car and the ambulance but no one here. She was not quite shocked when I revealed Emma's picture in fact I thought she was concerned. Which was odd since she'd been hostile from the beginning. I asked Rosie to look into it before we left. But her presence here confirms it."

Demetri nodded, "Call and ask him." He then pointed towards the open door, "They're pretty confident if they've left the front door open."

"Or its a trap for us to barge in..." Seb completed. "We need to get them out."

In silent understanding, Demetri moved slowly towards the house, intending to check for other doors or entry points while Seb called Rosie to order, "Call Detective Davis. Tell her that we have suspicions that Emma is hiding Olivia inside her house and we are now going there to check. Give her an ETA of ten minutes."

"She is with Emma?" Rosie asked quietly.

"Yes. She's already inside Emma's house."

"Mrs Frost will be alright, Seb. Don't worry. I'll call her right away."

Seb disconnected the call and reminded himself that Olivia had to be fine. She would be fine. Repeating the words like a mantra, Seb called Demetri, who answered immediately, "The windows are all barred so there is no way she can use those. I'm going to check the back door. I'll let you know if there is any movement..."

Soon, he received a call from Demetri who spoke, "It's unlocked. I'm staying near."

Meanwhile, Rachel had already received a call from Rosie. Olivia struggled to scream as Rachel answered the call but her mouth was covered by Emma who wouldn't let her move.

Once the call was disconnected, Rachel spoke hurriedly, "We need to make a move, Emma. It seems he has discovered our ruse faster than we expected. At least he doesn't know about me. His assistant called me and told me that he will reach here in ten. We need to get out of here now."

"So, we just shoot her?" Emma asked with excitement in her voice. Olivia started to struggle in earnest as she heard this, tears streaming down her face. NO!!! She couldn't let this happen. She was so close to escape! She needed to save her babies.

"No, Emma. We cannot shoot her." Rachel said finally.

"Why? Why can we not kill her. It will be just perfect. When he comes here, he will find her bleeding to death. It would be the perfect revenge. Are you feeling pity for her, Rachel?"

Rachel Davis shook her head and instead answered her, "No, Emma, we planned to kill her and we will. But we'll need a change of plan."

"Change of plan? What for? No no! Just let us kill her here and then we can sit in your car and run away."

Rachel, however, was already walking towards the door, looking outside. Since the door was directly opposite the front door, she had purposely kept it open, to be able to see anyone who entered. Thankfully, no one was here yet. They needed to make haste."

"Emma, we don't have the time for this discussion. Our plane leaves in an hour. That means we need to keep her alive until then. If he finds her dead now, then we will have no one to protect us. We have to use her as our shield. Only then we can make a safe escape."

Before Emma could protest or even say anything, Olivia was roughly grabbed by Rachel and being dragged outside. Olivia tried to fight her. If they were going outside then chances were she could escape still. Once she was taken away... Soon, her hands were held behind her back and Rachel grinned, "See, these are the pros of having a police car. Now, you can try and scream as much as you can. I'll just tell everyone you are a criminal trying to escape. Here, let me put on the handcuffs. I hope you don't want me to read you your rights? But for you, I'll say this- you have to remain silent."

Sebastian immediately jumped as he watched Olivia being dragged out of the house, with a gun to her head. The sight of that weapon pointed at Olivia, made his blood boil. Thankfully, Demetri had also come around the house and was now close to them.

Even at this moment, he wanted to lunge at the two and grab Olivia from them. But with the gun pointed at her, he dare not take any risks. He had to wait until they were in the car and then...

Once the handcuffs were in place, Rachel was still determined. Fishing in the pocket of the backseat, she fished out a hobnle belt and tied Olivia's legs securely, "I have to make sure you don't escape, don't I? You really think you can escape us. I can see even now, you are looking for an escape route. You won't get any Olivia. I'll make sure."

Emma raced around to sit in the passenger seat while Rachel jumped into the driving seat. With a flick of her wrist, Rachel started the car, stepping foot on the accelerator pedal, only to be met with silence.

Rachel scowled and tried again, pumping the gas pedal in a futile attempt to coax the engine to life. But still, nothing. Panic began to rise in her chest as she tried repeatedly to start the car, each attempt met with the same result.

"Come on, Come on..", she kicked the car in frustration while Emma questioned in

"Why is the car not starting?" Emma asked in confusion.

Rachel swore and jumped out of the car, popping the hood in a single movement. And swore. The car had been tampered with. That meant...

Shutting the hood, she screamed, "Emma, we need to go back inside! They are already here!"

There was no way they would be able to escape now in the car. They would have to use Olivia as a human shield and negotiate for a car.

As Emma heard the words, her entirety was focused on harming Olivia.

Quickly she grabbed the gun and turned towards the back, ready to fire. She just needed to kill Olivia and everything else would be worth it. If they lost at the last minute, after coming this far, losing would be such a waste...

Chapter 515: Unravelling

Seb sat outside the operation theatre, with his eyes tightly shut. Even those who were merely passing him by in the corridor could see the malice emerging from him. He was not just worried about the person inside the room. He was on the edge. His palpable aura of seething anger, barely contained beneath the surface worrying anyone.

When Erasmi had burnt Lara and her lover alive, he'd understood the reasoning behind it, supported it even, but he had not understood the desire. He admitted he had wondered more than once what kind of hatred Erasmi held to be able to do something so cruel. However, sitting here, waiting for news about his wife and children, he acknowledged the desire that burnt within him. To kill. And to kill in the way that would torture those two women!

He felt a firm hand on his shoulder and without even opening his eyes, he knew who it was. Demetri. He shuddered. He'd done everything to protect Olivia. He'd tampered with the car, before they came out to prevent them from escaping. And yet, Emma had fired the gun at Olivia.

"She's going to be fine, Seb. They both are. The bullet barely grazed her arm."

Seb shuddered. "But what if you hadn't jumped her and flicked the gun away at the last moment? She would have... I feel like such a failure... Am I even... what is the point of forcing her to marry me if I was

going to cause all this? It would have been better if she had gone away or even not married me! Its all because of me Demon."

"Shut up, Seb. Do you really think that? Did you lose your brain cells in that fight with Davis?"

Seb shook his head and kept his eyes closed. He knew Demon would not agree with him, but he'd already accepted the fact. He'd been reckless. In his desire to make sure Olivia stayed by him, he missed some obvious hints about Emma. What if someone else from his past came to haunt them in the future? What will he do then? No, as soon as she was well, he would make preparations for them to separate. He could not live in the bubble anymore and convince himself that everything would be alright.

They'd probably work out something for him to spend time with the children. Maybe visitation over the holidays and weekends.

"You really need to stop thinking, Seb." Demetri spoke sharply, jolting him out of his reverie as he looked up in shock. Had he been talking? But then, as he felt the water on his face, he realized he was crying....

"Demon, I...."

Before he could say more, a weary looking doctor stepped out, Seb's heart leaped into his throat as he rushed forward to meet him, his hands trembling with fear.

"Doctor, please, how is she? Is my wife okay? And the babies?" His voice cracked with emotion, even as he almost pleaded with the doctor.

The doctor offered him a sympathetic smile, "Mr Frost, your wife is out of danger, and so are your babies.."

In that moment, he felt as if the world was ready to stop. They were safe. That is all that mattered in this world. He felt his knees give way and he would have keeled over if not for Demon holding him up. In a choked voice he tried to thank the doctor but his words seemed to escape him so he could only give him a grateful look... which the doctor understood and nodded.

Demetri on the other hand looked at the doctor, knowing that the man probably had more to say and the doctor continued, "However, your wife is still in shock, and she will need extreme care in the coming days. We need to ensure that nothing causes her undue stress or anxiety."

Seb nodded and asked in a whisper, "When can I see her?"

The doctor hesitated for a moment before replying, "We'll be bringing her out to you shortly. But please, Mr. Frost, remember that she needs rest and quiet. No stress." Seb nodded as he watched the doctor leave and then slumped back on the bench, ready to wait some more to see Olivia.

The relief he felt at the doctor's words was such that he could barely catch his breath and the world seemed to be spinning out of control for him. Demetri slipped a glass of iced tea into his hand and ordered, "Sip this slowly and drop whatever notion is going on in your head, Seb. The doctor has warned against causing Olivia any stress."

"I know. I know. I won't talk about the di...about anything right now." Seb murmured with his eyes closed, already steeling himself to be shameless and face Olivia.

Demetri stared at the top of his brothers' head and sighed! To have a guilty conscience of all the times. And he was actually thinking of divorce? Why? Why was he blessed with such idio*ic brothers? Did they not know that once you found love, you stuck to them like glue. Not letting go?

Just then, he received a message from his assistant, Nina and his eyes hardened. It seemed digging deeper had indeed helped them. While Emma and Rachel were in custody, waiting for their 'punishment', Rached had tried to contact someone to help her escape. Someone who should have had nothing to do with her...

With a single swipe, he forwarded the image and the number to Gabe. He would be the one to handle this the best. Elena Winthrop really thought that they would continue to be lenient towards her, despite everything. And they could have been... if she'd restricted herself to business. But she'd made the mistake of interfering with the family...

As he watched Seb drink the tea, he narrowed his eyes. Well, he'd need to do something to handle his brother's lack of intelligence. So he called his better half- Mrs Nora Frost. Repeating the name in his head with a smile on his face, he spoke when she answered, "You can come to the hospital now. Mother

and children are both well. She's going to be moved to the ICU soon. Also, make sure that Seb takes care of her. Do not let him escape or let him be in the same room with Olivia alone."

Nora raised an eyebrow at that instruction even as she agreed, "Okay boss husband. I'll do as you say."

Chapter 516: Elena's Nightmare

Elena Winthrop seethed with frustration, her foot connecting forcefully with the table in a burst of anger. Another failure, another setback. It was maddening. All she had tasked those women with was a simple mission: eliminate Olivia and hurt Seb. It would have struck a significant blow to him and subsequently to the other brothers, which would have been perfect. But those incompetent fools had not only managed to get themselves captured but were now determined to drag her down with them.

She had meticulously planned her return to the country, painstakingly avoiding detection and keeping a low profile. Yet, with one reckless phone call, everything she had worked for was now at risk of unraveling.

Even though she had used an alias to handle them, that Detective Rachel knew about her. And she would definitely use her to strike a deal with the Frosts. She would have to put a contingency plan in place. Carefully, she wiped traces of every phone call, message and transactions that could tie the two of them to her. Even if now, someone tried to connect them to her, they would find nothing.

She'd barely leaned back in her seat, when the pounding on the door started, making her jump! No. It couldn't be those persky Frosts, right? They would not find her so soon, would they? She'd received the phone call from that Rachel only an hour ago...

But the pounding on her door got fiercer and she cursed under her breath. Dam* it! She couldn't face them now. Not when her husband had completely withdrawn his protection. Trembling, she walked to the door, and asked in a shaky voice, "Wh.. Who is it?"

Suddenly the pounding stopped and there was only silence left behind. Somehow, though she should have been relieved, but she wasn't, a knot of apprehension tightening in her chest. The silence on the other side was oppressive. She tried to peer through the peephole but there was no one.

Summoning every ounce of courage she possessed, Elena cautiously unlocked the door, the creak of the hinges sounding deafeningly loud in the stillness of the night. As she cracked it open, a sudden jolt ran

through her body as a hand slammed onto the door with a forceful knock, causing her to stumble backward in shock.

She stepped back as the door was forcefully pushed open all the way and then, saw Gabe walk in. What was he doing here? She'd made sure to ask around and been informed that Gabe was not around. The way he'd retaliated in the past had scarred her and scared her.

"G...Gabe.. What are you doing here?"

Gabe smiled thinly as he greeted her, "I've come to see my mother-in-law, of course."

She shuddered at the words and shook her head, "Look Gabe. I've just come here for a little time. I don't want any trouble."

"Then you shouldn't have created any, Elena Winthrope.", he answered menacingly.

Elena gulped and stared at Gabe, steeling herself and reminding herself that this man was responsible for killing her daughter. "What do you want?"

Gabe's lips curled into a chilling smile, a hint of amusement dancing in them. "Oh, Mother in law, you know exactly what I want," he said, his voice dripping with venom. "I want you to leave us alone. To stop meddling in our affairs."

Elena's jaw clenched as she fought to maintain her facade of indifference. "And if I don't?" she challenged him, even as her insides tremored.

His smile widened at this, "Then we will have some problems, Elena."

She raised her chin. The smile on his face enraging her. How dare he smile when her daughter was dead?

"What sort of problems, Gabe? Do you think I care about the so called problems? When you killed my daughter?"

She watched as her barb hit the mark and felt triumph! It didn't matter how much he tried to scare her. What mattered was that she could still perturb him with Arabelle's name. Maybe that was the key... She would have to use Arabelle...

Even as these thoughts echoed inside her head, Gabe had stepped forward, with his hands around her throat, he'd thrown her against the wall, as he threatened, "I don't care about your problems or your opinion", his voice cold and unforgiving. "All I care about is protecting what's mine. And if you continue to pose a threat to that, well... let's just say I won't hesitate to eliminate the problem."

Elena's breath caught in her throat as she stared into Gabe's steely gaze. She knew he wasn't bluffing. The man standing before her was capable of unspeakable acts, and she had no doubt he would do whatever it took to ensure his own survival.

But Gabe wasn't done yet," And if you think you can use Arabelle's name to hurt me then you are a fool, I would never leave myself vulnerable to the likes of you. The only way you ever had a chance was if Arabelle was alive. But she is gone...So, it would be safer for you to be gone and stay that way. Am I clear?"

Elena nodded or at least tried to nod, with his hand still warpped around her neck, as she looked at Gabe in fear. She knew if she wanted to live another day, she would have to tread even more carefully.

Seeing her nod in agreement, Gabe let go of her and walked out of the apartment without looking back, having gained what he needed.

As the door closed behind him, Elena crumpled to the floor. She'd been too quick in wanting to harm him. She needed to wait more and plan more. But she would definitely have her revenge. She would show Gabe Frost that it was not going to be easy for him to live after killing her daughter. She may have once again lost a battle but the war was far from over. She would wait and lie low. And strike when they were at the weakest.

Chapter 517: Shock

"You know I finally understand now why those old homes had odd paintings on the ceiling. If a person had to spend so much time looking at the blank space there, they'd probably go crazy..." Olivia murmured as she continued to stare at the plain white ceiling! She'd give anything to find something interesting up there. At this moment, she'd even accept a creepy crawlie insect over there, that's how bored she was.

Her days in the hospital had been alternating between staring at the white ceiling or the white door. She wanted to see Seb. But he was avoiding her. And that made her want to cry. So, she decided that she would have to look at the ceiling. No crying. She'd cried those first two days when she'd realized that their babies were safe. He'd held and they'd both cried tears of relief. Being alive was one of the biggest blessings.

In that moment, she'd realized that they'd come closer than ever. She'd been thankful for his presence, his generous unconditional love for her. But something she'd said had somehow set him off. She knew what it was, of course. She'd felt something was off the moment he had the expression on his face and had raced out of there as if he were a thief. But all she'd said was how lucky her and their babies were for having him in their life.

She wanted to cry again but shook her head. She couldn't let the hormones get the better of her. The children were alive and kicking and that was all she wanted. As for Seb's problem, she would figure it out.

Looking at the time told her that Seb would be here any moment now. And she realized that she needed a battle plan. She needed to get the Seb who was with her the first two days. Oh no. She wanted the one who was as raw and worried as she'd been.

Just then the door opened and a nurse spoke up, "He's here. Get ready."

Hurriedly, Olivia closed her eyes and pretended to sleep. She'd bribed the nurses today so that they would inform her of when he arrived. He'd been taking care of her diligently, visiting her during lunch and dinner, spending the nights, etc. A perfect husband. But she knew that he was also doing things to avoid them talking alone. And he was hiding something from her. She just needed to know what.

She heard the door open and took a deep breath. She was to be asleep. She heard him pause and knew the moment he started to tread carefully, making sure to not make a sound.. It made her feel smug and soft on the inside at his thoughtfulness for her, though she had to be very careful not to show it on her face.

She felt him walk close to her, and almost flinched and broke her cover when she felt his hand on her cheek. She fought the urge to nuzzle into his palm, before deciding to take the risk. She could nuzzle him while asleep, couldn't she? Keeping her eyes closed, she sighed and turned her head. Felt him pause, maybe he looked her over, before he gently took back his hand. She felt a tug of disappointment as the warmth of him was taken away. But in the next minute, she felt his breath across her cheek as he leaned down to kiss her cheek while tucking the blanket around her.

Just as he was about to turn away, she caught his wrist, her voice barely above a whisper as she pretended to stir from sleep. "Stay," she murmured, making sure to slur her words with feigned drowsiness. She sensed his hesitation, but with another soft mumble, she tugged at his wrist, "Come, I'll sleep better."

She watched him from under her lashes, as he looked at her carefully, assessing if he would cause any discomfort before getting onto the bed with her. As he carefully got into bed with her, she took the opportunity to quickly snuggle into him, burying her face into his chest as she inhaled deeply.

Since she was pretending to sleep and had the prey in her arms or was in her prey's arms, she could not begin having a conversation immediately. That would reveal her ruse. So, she would continue to pretend to be asleep for a little while and then question him about what was on his mind. She'd like to see him try and escape from her arms then!

As she lay nestled against him, the sound of his heartbeat steady against her ear and his warmth almost lulled her into sleep. Thankfully, just before she could fall into a deep sleep, she heard him move. She flinched a bit, realizing that she'd almost lost the opportunity. Just as she was about to open her eyes and look at him, she felt his arms tighten around her as he whispered near her ear, "Sorry."

His voice was barely audible and if he hadn't moved and woken her up, she would never have known he said something. She felt a myriad of questions race inside her but kept quiet. She just needed to wait.

Seconds seemed to stretch into hours as she waited for him to continue until his voice broke through, filled with a deep sorrow and regret.

"I'm sorry," he began, his voice barely above a whisper, "for putting you and our babies in danger. I never meant for any of this to happen. I've been so selfish in wanting to keep you and them by my side that I ended up almost causing you your lives. But I promise I'll correct this..."

"In the future...", Seb paused and Olivia knew that whatever it was he was gathering courage to speak, was something she would not like. " In the future, I'll keep my distance. We'll... divorce and you can live your life happily. I won't abandon you and the kids I promise that but.. I won't stop you from... loving someone else who is more deserving of you."

Chapter 518: Nora's Visit

As Nora rushed into the hospital room, her eyes widened at Olivia's tear streaked face. Worried, she quickly raced to her and hugged her tightly, wanting to know if she was okay.

Olivia nodded and as Nora stepped away to look at her, she even tried to give her a faint smile as she said, "I'm sorry if I scared you with the sudden call. I called you as soon as Seb left. I didn't know what to do..."

Nora patted Olivia's back gently, " There. There. Aunty Nora is here. What do you want to talk about?"

Olivia gave her a watery smile. Nora was too young to be anyone's Aunty let alone her.

With a sigh, she said, " I'm falling more in love with Seb each day...He's just too..." After making her confession, Olivia burst into tears again.

Nora stared. Of all the things she had expected to hear when she rushed here, after hearing Olivia crying, this was not what she had expected... She was crying because she loved Seb? That wasn't news, right?

Looking at Olivia's crying face, Nora asked in a bit of confusion, " Uhh.. do you want me to beat him up? For making you fall more in love with him?"

Nothing else could have caught her attention as Olivia looked up in confusion, " What did you say?"

"Well, I asked if you want me to beat him up?" Nora asked seriously while Olivia giggled, forgetting her tears.

"No. I don't want you to beat him up..." Olivia murmured and Nora relaxed at the sight of her smile but then she continued, "Even though he wants to divorce me..."

Nora frowned. "What did you say?"

Like a dam bursting, Olivia started the entire story about how Seb had been taking care of her but also making sure that they wouldn't have any important conversation, she had sensed that he was somehow avoiding her even though he was physically present with her. How she then pulled off the ruse of sleeping and how he confessed to wanting to divorce her, assuming that she was asleep...

Nora heard the entire story and frowned. No wonder Demetri had said that his brother was a fool. Seb really was planning to divorce Olivia? Sigh! The man needed to get an X ray and look for his brain! It seemed to have floated to his toes!

"Then you do need me to beat him up! Just you wait, I'll get Isabella and Evana to come and bring a few bats. We'll bash up his precious racing cars and then bash him up as well. How could you just stay there and pretend to be asleep? You should have clawed his eyes out! He was even within range and would not have expected that..."

Olivia laughed at that, forgetting her sadness for a moment, "My gosh! You are a blood thirsty one! No! I couldn't have clawed his eyes out because I am going to pretend that I don't know anything about his plans."

Nora paused at that. "What do you mean you're going to pretend? You're not an ostrich, you know. And this is not a good time to pretend being one. You need to let me beat some sense into him."

"I'm not being an ostrich, Nora. In fact, I am trying to not be an ostrich."

"Okay. I think our wires are somewhat crossed. It must be your pregnancy brain... unable to communicate properly."

Olivia gave a tired smile and said, "This entire ordeal has taught me something about myself. Something I never knew. I've been an ostrich all these years, refusing to see Seb's love for me due to my own guilt and feelings of inadequacy. I made mistake after mistake but did nothing to rectify it, only scared to take

a step but also somewhat angry at him for not doing that. And now that I see Seb doing the same thing, I have clarity like never before."

"Some things are not in our hands. The past is already gone. He feels guilty and his solution is to separate himself from me. Exactly what I did in the past while he continued to show me his love by protecting me silently. And now, he's making the same mistake I did, blaming himself."

"Having a conversation with Emma also gave me a shock. I've never done anything actively to strengthen our relationship, Nora. To show my love to Seb, I have never taken the initiative. Look at Emma. She did everything she could to get Seb's love, didn't she?"

Nora looked at Olivia as if she has sprouted a different head," Emma was delulu..."

"I know. But I've realized that sometimes, delulu is the only solulu..."¹

Nora stared in horror at Olivia. Was insanity an infectitious disease? Or had Seb's talk of a divorce pushed her into shock?

Olivia smiled and shook her head," Nora. I need your help."

Nora nodded her head this time. She had no idea what kind of a help but yeah, she'd do anything for her friend.

Olivia's eyes glinted as she gestured Nora close and started to outline her plan. As Nora heard this she nodded in agreement. Oh yes. She could get on with this kind of a program. Rubbing her hands together, she shook her head in admiration and murmured," You're going to be my idol for romance inspiration."

Olivia shook her head at Nora's flattery and finally leaned back, caressing her stomach. The little ones were getting active by the day and as she felt their tiny movements, she knew that very soon, the last bit of the barrier between their parents would be gone.

He wanted to divorce her? As if she'd let that happen...

Nora rubbed her hands together and quickly leaned in and pecked Olivia on the cheek, "Seb is not going to know what hit him! I never would have expected something like this from you! Wow! You've managed to impress me, Olivia Brown Frost... I'll get to the preparations...."

Chapter 519: Sour Taste

Seb grabbed the packed lunch box, ready to head out, when the housekeeper stopped him with a question, "Sir, when is ma'am expected back home?"

Halting at the door, Seb turned around and replied, "She'll be discharged tomorrow, Miss Mari. I've already written down the things for you to prepare tomorrow. They are there on the table."

Mari glanced at the list and nodded, "Of course, Sir. I'll make arrangements for it right away. Do you need me to prepare dinner for you before I leave in the evening."

"No. Thank you." Seb answered before leaving decisively. Mari tsked. It was the missus who'd been injured but it was Mr Frost who looked like a zombie ghost. Taking a look at the dishes Mr Frost had asked to prepare, she frowned, before tearing up the list. That man needed someone to look after him the way he looked after his wife. But she was here to do that!

As she started the preparation for tomorrow's special dishes, she hummed along to an old song, before realizing that she had completely forgotten something. Hurriedly, taking out her cell phone, she made the call, "Mr Frost has left the house. No, of course, he doesn't suspect anything. All right. Bye. I'll take care of tomorrow's plan. Don't worry. He won't know..."

As the call was disconnected, she returned to her work, nonchalantly, unconcerned about anything going wrong.

Seb reached the hospital feeling like a guilty wreck. It was a feeling he had become familiar with in the past few days when visiting Olivia. He wondered if she would be sleeping today like she had been yesterday. That would be a relief. Maybe he could snuggle again and hold her once more. He knew the moment he told her everything, he wouldn't be allowed to touch her again.

As he reached the door, however, his thoughts were interrupted by the sound of her laughter and he stopped midstep. Freezing at the sound, he felt his heart, beat faster. It seemed like eons had passed since he'd heard her laugh so openly. It was as if he'd felt the spring rain after a long, dry, frozen, winter. Was Nora visiting again today? She was the one who could make Olivia laugh like that or Lucien probably...

Smiling, he stepped inside, eager to look at her laughing face when he couldn't help but frown. She was still smiling widely, but the person inside was not Nora or Lucien. In fact, it wasn't anyone he knew. But he seemed to be familiar with Olivia, considering the fact that he was holding her hand.

His eyes narrowed dangerously, a surge of jealousy running through him. Just then Olivia saw him and paused. Did he see her smile dim a bit? Surely that was the play of light. She wouldn't be displeased to see him, right?

With a smile, he walked forward and placed the lunch box onto the table as he questioned Olivia, "Who is this friend?"

Nora's smile faltered for a moment, before she quickly introduced, "Seb, this is James, an old customer from the coffee shop. James, meet my husband, Seb Frost."

James offered a friendly nod in Seb's direction, his expression amiable. "Nice to meet you, Seb. Olivia and I were just catching up. I saw she was in the hospital and thought I'd come by to say hello."

Seb returned the friendly smile as he answered, "You brought beautiful flowers. Thank you."

The man glanced at the red roses sitting on the table and smiled, "I just brought them to cheer her up, brighten the room. I hope you don't mind."

"Of course, he doesn't. Thank you again, James. I love them."

James laughed at that, before making an excuse, "I'll leave now. I'll see you when you return to work. Come back soon. Morning coffees are not the same without your smile."

As the man continued to flirt with his wife, right in front of his eyes, Seb wondered what it would be like to have some laser shooting from his eyes. and straight into this man.. Turning back to the lunch box, he started to unpack it as he made a face and repeated, " Coffee is not the same without your smile. As if you are adding her smile into the coffee."

Olivia and James both turned to look at him and he raised his eyebrows, " What?"

James shook his head, " Did you say something?"

"Nothing. Just that, I hope you have a good day." James shot him another odd look. Well, so what if his voice held a little bit of venom. The man was flirting with his wife right here in front of him. Was he expecting him to talk in sugary ones.

Feeling the hostility radiating from the man behind him, James shot Olivia a look and excused himself, " I'll see you later..."

Seb watched as James made his exit, his jaw clenched tight with a mixture of irritation and uncertainty. Turning his attention back to Olivia, he found her gazing at the flowers on her bedside table with a soft smile lingering on her lips. It irked him, the way she seemed touched...

And the fact that he had not thought of getting her flowers was even worst! Why did he not think of something so basic? He should have been the one to make her room brighter. Fool. That was what he was!

With a sigh, he moved closer, serving her lunch to her and helping himself to a plate. The lunch was a silent affair with Olivia lost in her own thoughts and Seb lost in his. It was only as he finished the lunch that he realized the sour taste in his mouth was that of jealousy.

As he stood up to clear the plates, Olivia asked him, " Are you leaving for the office? You don't have to worry about me today as well. Nora and Isabella are coming over. And James mentioned he'd visit again in the evening. So you don't have to rush through your work today..."

Chapter 520: Sour Taste

"So you don't have to rush through your work today..." Seb narrowed his eyes at her eager tone and thought of the irony of life. Why did she seem so eager to leave him all of a sudden?

With a sigh, he picked up her empty plates and carried them to the bathroom, before returning. " There is no rush to leave for the office. These past few days, I had to handle the mess left by Emma for the new launch so I had to leave you everyday. I'm going to be relatively free today. I'll just work from here."

Olivia widened her eyes at that and gulped. Well, that was not done! She needed to talk to Nora about the success of their plan and the next step... How was she going to do that?

"Ohh.. Okay. You do that. I'm feeling sleepy, so I'll just catch a nap." Before she could slide down, comfortably, Seb walked close to her and leaned down, and pressed a kiss to the top of her head, his lips lingering for a moment before he straightened up. But then, as if driven by a sudden impulse, he turned back, his hand cupping Olivia's cheek as he leaned in to capture her lips in a tight, possessive kiss.

Olivia's eyes widened in surprise at the sudden intensity of his kiss, but she melted into it, a soft sigh escaping her lips before Seb straightened again and went to sit in a corner. Or rather sulk but she wouldn't call it that.

Hurriedly, she slid into bed and caught her phone, she needed to warn the girls about Seb... Raising her phone to face level, she typed out a message to Nora, only for Seb to ask, " Why are you using your phone like this? It will put a strain on your eyes and even your shoulders."

Olivia rolled her eyes at the tone as she clicked the sent button and placed the phone on her side, " I was just sending a short hello to James. He gave me his number but I didn't give him mine. So, I had to..."

She cheekily turned her head to look at Seb whose face looked kind of black with anger and continued in a grave tone, " Stop being a worrywart, Daddy. I'm not going to strain myself. Here. The phone is on the side and I am about to..."

Just then the phone dinged with the sound of an incoming message and she quickly grabbed it, ready to read it, " Oh. Its James. He's replied. He was wondering if I would ever share my number with him. Lol. He is so funny, isn't he?"

When she simply received a stare in reply to her smile, Olivia quickly put down the phone on the side table and slowly turned away from Seb, lest he see her smile. She had to forcefully stuff her fist to escape the sound! So predictable. What did he say yesterday? He won't stop her from finding love with

someone else in the future? Yeah right! The man was more jealous than a possessive puppy guarding its favorite toy.

She suppressed a chuckle at the thought, knowing she couldn't afford to let him know that James was just an actor that Nora had hired on her behalf. Sigh!

Seb's expression remained unreadable as he watched Olivia's back, a mix of emotions swirling within him. He couldn't shake the feeling of unease that had settled in the pit of his stomach, fueled by Olivia's seemingly innocent interactions with James. He had no right to be jealous. Hadn't he promised himself that once the divorce was final, he would keep away from Olivia so she would find another partner?

Another voice within him, however raised its head and growled, "Yes, but the divorce has not been final yet. In fact, there had been no talk of a divorce. Not even a separation yet."

"But what if Olivia is attracted to James? Wouldn't it be less hurtful for her if they were to separate at a time like this? Maybe you need to look into James background, do some investigation. That way, you can make sure that your children have a good step father..."

"Step father!" The other voice in his hear argued back, "Why would his children need a step father when he would be there for them?"

"But you're planning to leave Olivia. Did you forget?"

With a growl of sheer irritation, Seb stood up and paced the room. He didn't need his own mental voices to confuse him with his own feelings.

As he tried to distract himself, he thought of this time yesterday. He'd been sleeping so peacefully beside Olivia. Maybe he should try doing that. Having her in his arms would make him relax and then he would have a clear direction of thoughts.

Purposefully, he walked close to Olivia and caressed her face, hoping she would wake up like last afternoon and invite her to sleep with him. Alas, that didn't happen and he could only stand by the bed, with a confused look on his face.

With a resigned sigh, he lowered himself onto the edge of the bed beside Olivia, careful not to disturb her. As if drawn by an invisible force, he leaned in closer and inhaled the familiar scent of her hair, the warmth of her body comforting him in ways he couldn't explain.

With a sigh, he shifted closer, wrapping his arms around Olivia's sleeping form and pulling her close. She stirred slightly in her sleep and turned towards him, her breath soft against his chest as he nestled her against him.

Closing his eyes, he felt a sense of peace wash over him as his tense muscles loosened and he fell asleep.

It was a long while later, when he'd slipped into a deep sleep, that Olivia opened her eyes. Turning her face, upwards, she looked into his restign face and sighed, promising, "Seb Frost. Tomorrow, I am going to make you realize that you cannot let me leave. You love me too much for that."