

Benefits 591

Chapter 591: A Risk

As Autumn settled into the car, she leaned her head back against the seat and sighed, feeling the tears threaten to fall. Though she had no idea why she was feeling like crying. She'd already cried about the betrayal. Maybe because she just realized that Bianca had probably been the one who had helped Gregory Savoy fan those rumors about her.

She jerked when Gabe suddenly held her hand and she felt something cold on her skin. She opened her eyes to see Gabe applying burn medicine on the little red skin where the hot coffee had touched her. Unexpectedly, she giggled, making him look up at him.

When he looked at her questioningly, she pointed at the medication in his other hand and said, "How do you always have medicine? Is this an old habit or something you started since meeting me? This was so Deja vu..."

Gabe chuckled, his eyes twinkling. "Actually," he said, nodding towards the pharmacy across the street, "I ran over there and got it when I saw Bianca spill the coffee on you and you jumped back. Thought you might need it."

Autumn grimaced at that. So he had seen it... And then she narrowed her eyes, cocked her head and questioned him, "If you saw me getting hurt, shouldn't you have ridden in like a knight in shining armor and rescued me? Or maybe a CEO who needs to save his lover..."

Uh oh! Autumn realized that she was not his lover. Why did she have to go ahead and speak too much? She felt him looking at her and cursed herself some more. Come on, Autumn. Think up! You have to do something... The tension was rising in the room. As she looked for a topic in her head, which felt empty at the moment, Gabe started the car and murmured with amusement, "Why would I do something so useless, when you had everything under control? As you proved when I returned and saw you pulling off that tit-for-tat move. And from what I saw, Bianca is going to need more of that ointment."

Autumn felt a warmth spread through her chest at Gabe's words. His confidence in her and the lack of judgment for her actions touched her in a way nothing could. Gabe Frost was too perfect a man. He was a hero without needing to prove it.

"Thank you, Gabe. For not judging me," she said softly.

Gabe glanced at her, his expression softening. "Why would I judge you? You did what you had to do. Bianca needed to be put in her place, and you did it. In fact, I am proud of you, Autumn Frost."

Autumn's eyes widened at this. Did he call her Frost? She had not taken on his name officially but getting rid of that name Savoy was like a dream come true. Even if they were in a fake marriage, they were legally married. She could take on his name. Suddenly, Autumn felt even more energized. She would definitely take on his surname...

As she was lost in thought, Gabe had already started to drive towards their next destination. He chanced a look at her and cleared his throat. He had yet to reveal the things that Demetri had told him...

"Autumn... there is something you should know..."

Autumn turned to him then. There was something in his voice that warned her about this conversation. Instead of the quip about how there were many things she needed to know, she decided to remain quiet and wait for him to continue.

"Demetri actually came here with some news...Its about Gregory Savoy..." And then, he went quiet.

She gulped. "What is it? Just tell me."

Gabe sighed and clenched his hands on the steering wheel, and spoke, "Gregory Savoy has been investigating me... He's been using his connections within the police to get to know about me."

"I see." Autumn murmured but still wasn't sure what this meant. Other than the fact that he was probably angry about his invasion of privacy. But why did he look worried?

Gabe sighed..." I know you don't understand the implications.. Autumn, you have only one enemy, That rat. But I... I have more than one enemy. And if they were to discover my connection to you, then they would be more than happy to hurt you to get to me."

"Oh." Autumn murmured, having no idea what to say. Actually, she did know what she wanted to say but wasn't sure if she should say it. So she gulped and asked him, "Would they try to hurt Arabelle?"

Gabe's face tightened at that. "I won't let anyone hurt the either of you. For now, my brothers are blocking and misdirecting all the information. But I want you to know things about my past... There are things that might hurt you... About my wife Ar..."

"I don't care about your past. And didn't you just say that I can handles things myself. So, if anyone from your enemies tries to get to you by using me, then I'll show them I'm not so easy to use. In fact, I might just burn them!"

Gabe looked at Autumn in surprise. She had such a determined and fierce look on her face. She looked as cute as a little cub...

"What? You think I cannot do it?" Autumn asked with a huff. She was going to fight his demons with him, just like he was doing hers!

"I know you can do it, my little tigress! Sheath your claws!"

While Autumn was satisfied with his answer, Gabe murmured to himself, "I just hope you don't ever have to face them."

"What did you say?" Autumn asked when she saw him mumble something but he shook his head, "Nothing ma'am. And if I'm not mistaken, we are now at our destination..."

Autumn was about to argue with him when she realized they were indeed at the place where she had stowed Mrs Jenkins' things...

Chapter 592: Found At Last

Gabe looked around the stowaway place in surprise. This was not what he had expected. The nondescript building from the outside seemed unremarkable, but inside, it was a maze of narrow corridors lined with storage lockers of various sizes.

"This place is like a labyrinth," Gabe remarked, his eyes scanning the rows of lockers.

"Yeah, Mrs. Jenkins actually insisted on this place. The yearly payments cost a bomb as well, but she insisted on paying for it until she died. And she even took the huge locker that could actually fit me inside... I told her to at least discard some of the things she didn't need but she was almost a hoarder..." Autumn answered wryly.

Finally, a few nominal checks from the manager and they were allowed to access the locker. Autumn hesitated for a moment before opening the door, the rusty hinges groaning in protest. Inside, boxes and bags were piled haphazardly, a few almost falling on her the moment the door opened. Thankfully, they were caught by Gabe who raised an eyebrow at her..."I thought you said you'd put them here safely."

"I might have 'put' them haphazardly. At the time, I didn't know what it was okay, it just felt like she wanted to trouble me! I just tried to make sure that nothing fell or moved about if there was an earthquake..."

Gabe shook his head and rolled pretended to roll his sleeves as he carefully started to take out the boxes and muttered, "Let's get to finding the figurine... in this game of Jenga!"

As Gabe placed the boxes on the floor, Autumn started to rifle through each box. But only old clothes, faded photographs, and knick-knacks emerged from the depths and a lot of dust that made her sneeze. She checked each box eagerly but was soon disappointed.

Finally, when she saw the last box left, she glared at it resentfully, having no hope for it now. Just as she was about to give up and walk away, Gabe's hand emerged from a box, clutching a small, intricately carved figurine., placed in a smaller box...

Her eyes widened in relief and she quickly grabbed the figurine, inspecting it carefully. She shook it carefully as she put her ear to the piece and could hear the faint sound of whatever was inside. However, she had no idea where to insert a key and where to find the place to insert the key or any kind of mechanism.

She passed the figurine back to Gabe, hoping he might be able to find it, but he also looked at it wholly, unable to find anything...

"Should we try to pry it open?" Autumn asked and Gabe nodded. He could see a small seam... Retrieving a swiss knife from his pocket, he inserted the thinnest blade into the seam and tried to move the panel. But it remained unmoved. He tried again, applying a bit more pressure, but the figurine remained stubbornly intact.

"Let's not force it. That might do more harm than good and damage whatever is inside. I'll tell you what, we'll take this to that man tomorrow at L&K and make him give us more information about the key. He did say we had to show him the figurine first."

Autumn sighed with frustration, "I know, you're right. I just hoped we could solve it right here. On the one hand, it seems as if everything is going so slow. We are getting held up at every turn and lead. On the other, the days are passing hurriedly and we have nothing to show against Savoy that would force the court to keep him away. I just want something palpable against him! Anything."

Gabe sighed and wondered if he should tell her what Demetri had stumbled onto. And yet, he knew that what they'd found out was making him sick. He couldn't dare to imagine it would do to Autumn. But despite all this, he was willing to tell Autumn everything...if only they had concrete evidence. Until now, all they had was circumstantial evidence and their own suspicions.

"We'll get there. Don't worry." Gabe reassured her but he too feared that this time, they might fail. And he was dreading that. How was that Gregory Savoy so smart as to not leave any evidence? Not a single mistake in all these years? There had to be somewhere that the man had faulted in hisiding away the evidence. He only needed to look closer.

Meanwhile, Autumn was carefully repacking the remaining items back into the boxes to put in the locker and making sure everything was secure before closing the door to the locker. She held the figuring protectively close to her chest as they walked away, fearing that it might disappear...

"Let's grab something to eat. You need to relax a bit."

Autumn managed a small smile. "Food does sound good right now."

As they waited for their orders, Autumn couldn't help but fidget. "I just don't understand why Mom would hide something so important without telling me more about it. Especially because this probably concerns me."

Gabe reached across the table and gently took her hand. "Maybe she wanted to protect you. Or maybe she thought you'd be safer if you didn't know everything right away. We can only guess at her reasons for now."

"I'm just hating this feeling of being left a step behind. I wish I knew these things. She could have left me a hint at least."

Gabe looked up at that. "I think she did."

Autumn's eyes widened with surprise. "What do you mean?"

"The photo where we discovered the figurine? There was a quote next to it.. Something that said, "Let the one who loved you most protect you with what he left behind..."

"But that could be a showpiece only, right?"

"I don't think so. I'm pretty sure that there was a reason why your mother chose that picture to be put on a nightstand in Arabelle's room. She wanted to leave you a hint..."

Chapter 593: The One Who Loves Most

"My mom always said that my father loved me the most... But I don't think I have any of his things with me! That man got rid of everything years ago. Mom said she'd put everything in the attic...But that place is full of spiders and what not! Where do I start looking?"

"So, Miss Autumn, you're scared of spiders?"

Gabe murmured near her ear as he stood behind her. They'd been standing here for ten minutes now, with Autumn talking to herself but not able to take a step forward. Finally, he knew why this brave little tigress was hesitating.

Autumn nearly jumped out of her skin as she felt his breath near her ear and tried to tell herself and him that her heart beating fast was because of fear and not his nearness, "Of course I am afraid of spiders! Who in their right mind isn't afraid of them?"

But even as she said that, she called herself a liar mentally... reminding herself of her dream. Which reminded her...why had Gabe kissed her? Shouldn't he have been kissing his lover? She knew Jacks had been keeping an eye on her, if though the man did not show it. Was it because he was worried that she would take Gabe away from him?

She'd almost confronted him directly but then stopped herself. She did not know what was going on between Jacks and Gabe. Were they lovers or friends with benefits or assistant-boss with benefits. It felt wrong to ask Jacks... especially after that dream she'd enjoyed. But asking Gabe should be okay...

"Are we going to spend the night standing here? Don't worry, if a spider rises to attack you, I'll bring out my weapon...I have it here."

She turned her head and giggled to see Gabe brandishing a broom as if it were a sword and squared her shoulders, " Alright, let's do this. But if I see a spider, I'm out of here. I don't care about your weapon..."

Gabe shook his head and sighed dramatically, " Oh ye... of no faith..."

"I have faith in the spiders..." Autumn murmured and walked inside, while Gabe followed her with a chuckle as he looked at the neat and tidy place.

"Your mother did not let any spiders live here, hmm.. How disappointing... there goes my chance to be your knight in shining armour..."

Despite the tidiness of the place, she was not relieved and gingerly moved further into the room. As she reached out to move a stack of old boxes, a sudden sensation on her neck made her jump. With a startled gasp, she stumbled backward, her hands flailing to brush away whatever had touched her. In her panic, she collided with Gabe, who instinctively caught her in his arms and she screamed and jumped him, " Spider spider!!"

As Gabe caught her, he couldn't help but feel his heart race. This was not what he had expected when he had ticked her with that thread... She was still clinging onto him, her legs around his waist... and his hands on her...better to not think what he was holding... no matter how firm and soft they were at the same time...and he wanted to squeeze them...

He tried to clear his throat and say, "Hey, hey, it's okay, it was just a thread... I was trying to prank you..."

It took her a moment but then she lifted her head from his shoulders and looked at him with wide eyes, "A prank?"

Gabe nodded sheepishly as he gestured to a small thread that had been hanging out of a box. "You scared the life out of me with a thread? For a prank?", she exclaimed and then lightly punched him on the shoulder when he nodded with a smug grin...

"Ow! Hey now, that hurt!" he protested, as he winced playfully.

She rolled her eyes, still half in shock but also starting to see the humor in the situation. "You're a hopeless knight, Gabe. Scaring damsels in distress instead of saving them."

"Well, I made the damsel laugh so I'd say I'm doing my duty well..." Shaking her head she punched him on the shoulder again, "You're hopeless... I should hit you more."

She was about to do just that when he swatted her bottom and threatened playfully, "Do you really think that you can do that without any repercussions?"

It was a playful, reflexive gesture, born in the heat of the moment but changed the atmosphere around them as Autumn realized their position...Gabe's own expression turned serious as he met her gaze, his hand still lingering where it had landed.

Autumn gulped and started to unwind her legs from around his waist but instead, found herself with her back against the wall. She was scared and yet, she could feel her heart beating in her chest, ready to jump out.

"Autumn..." he murmured her name, and she could hear the question in his voice... A question to which she had no answer to but only more questions..

"Gabe..." Her gaze went to his lips and she felt her own lips tingle as she thought of that night. She wanted to do it again.. She knew that. Accepted it. But did she dare to.

She saw in his eyes that he was about to step back. He'd accepted her silence for not consenting..She wanted to stop him... But had no words. So she panicked and did what she wanted to... She leaned forward, her gaze still on his and gently touched her lips to him.

She felt him go still, the tension in his body, letting her know that he was on alert. As their lips met, she waited for him to deepen the kiss, to take control like he had, but he remained still. Aggravated that he would make her do all the work, she gently nipped at his lips... like he'd done hers and his hands tightened on her bu**, pulling her even closer.

And finally, his lips parted and he returned her kiss, letting her explore slowly...

Chapter 594: Ohhh

"He's gay..." As the kiss deepened, Autumn's eyes snapped open at the thought. She felt his tongue trace her lips and she closed her eyes again, and yet, the inner thoughts continued to bombard her," Why am I kissing him? He's gay. This isn't supposed to happen. But the way he holds me, the way his lips feel against mine... it's like he's been waiting for this too. Is he just curious? Maybe he's confused, or maybe this is just some kind of experiment for him." But why was he experimenting on her... and was she okay with that? She felt a bit offended...

"Should she break the kiss and stop this experiment. But she didn't want to... She wanted to touch him."

While she was distracted by the thoughts, Gabe broke the kiss and this time, her eyes snapped open, even as her lips almost tried to seal the kiss again. She looked at him wide eyed, wanting to question him, why he stopped kissing her. Was he not enjoying it? Had his experiment failed.

"Why... Why did you stop?" she whispered, unable to stop herself, "Wasn't it good? Did I do something wrong?"

"Any more good and I would have torn your clothes right here Autumn." Gabe growled as he pushed his hips against her, letting her feel just how much he wanted the barrier of clothing to disappear from between them.

Autumn's eyes widened... She knew what this was...She waited for the revulsion, for the fear to set in but it didn't... all she felt was desire... But..."You're gay..."

She watched as his eyes widened incredulously before he laughed out loud, and shook his head. "Are you laughing at me?" She asked with a pout but instead of answering her, he leaned his head against the wall beside her face and sighed.

And that was when she realized that she was still clinging to him, her legs around his waist... She tried to straighten her legs and take them off from around him but his hands on her tightened, squeezing her
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"Gabe..." He turned his head and she felt his breath on her shoulder. It made her shiver and feel hot at the same time.

"Just stay like this, Autumn."

"But..."

"Hush.. Just for a moment.Let me just take a breath..."

"Oh.. okay..." She whispered in a small voice... She didn't really mind being this close to him...She closed her eyes and leaned in close to his head... wanting to inhale more of his scent.

"Are you scared, Autumn?"

"No.."

"Because I think you're gay..."

Autumn paused at that... Did he think she was not scared of him because he was gay... It had been true in the past but... "No... I'm not that innocent Gabe... I can..." She blushed at that but gulped and powered on, "I can feel you against me down there...and I'm no boy... So I know you're a bi..."

She felt him laugh at that. It was as if he was laughing with his entire body... she could feel him...She felt him kiss her shoulder then as he whispered, "Autumn, I have never wanted a man... Never been attracted to want to try being gay"

Her eyes widened at that even as words escaped her and she murmured, "Oh."

"But you.. I want you Autumn Frost... If you were a guy, I would have been gay for you..."

Autumn blinked at that. She wanted him too. And she wanted to be with him...but... "I'd like that..."

Gabe took off his hands from her body then, letting her slide down even though she was crushed between him and the wall. He leaned his head against her and asked, "You'd like to be a guy so that I can want you?"

Autumn's cheeks flushed, and she looked up at Gabe, her eyes sparkling with desire. "No," she said softly, her hands sliding up to rest on his chest, as she gently felt his pecs there with bravado.... "I mean, I'd like to be the person you want."

His smile widened at that and he nodded, while covering her wandering hand with his to stop her... She was purposely fanning his desire, "Oh, but you are Mrs Frost. Especially when you are being this brave and naughty."

She wanted to ask him then. What was he waiting for? Shouldn't he be taking her then... She tried to move her hand, towards his buttons but his hand on her tightened. She looked at him and then his hand, ready to pull hers away and get on with her mission when a glint caught her eye. She stiffened...And he reacted, "What is it?"

She caught his hand and looked up, "Gabe.. this ring...belonged to my father."

Gabe frowned at that as he looked at his hand between hers. It took him a moment to focus, his mind still muddled with desire for her, but then it struck him. He remembered the time when that man had been staring at his hand.

"You're right. This could be the key to the figurine..."

"Yes," Autumn agreed, her voice filled with a mix of excitement and urgency. "It must fit into the figurine somehow. It has to be the clue we've been looking for."

Gabe nodded, his eyes still lingering on her. And she felt it... The moment they'd just shared may have been broken by her finding the ring but the discovery that he was attracted to her and she to him, suddenly seemed to have made her hyper aware of him.

Even as she walked out, she could feel him looking at her, and it gave her a special thrill that she had the power to make him look at her like that.

As they reached outside, they moved to pick up the figurine together, their fingers brushing against each other. Autumn pulled back her hand hurriedly, feeling shy...while Gabe picked up the figurine... Carefully, Gabe picked up the figurine, now trying to figure out if the wedding band on his hand would somehow fit onto this... And then he found it...Carefully, he slid off the ring and slipped it over the figure's head onto the neck, making it a perfect necklace... As the ring fit onto the neck, they heard a small click...

Chapter 595: A New Friend

"He is not gay."

The words resonated in her head as Autumn continued to do the design for the proposal in her office.. She shook her head and tried to focus on the task at hand. It was quiet tonight but that did not help her. She didn't know why the fates were intent on taking her on an emotional roller coaster ride, giving her hope one minute and killing it on the other.

First, they'd been looking for the figurine, then the key and now that they'd finally found the key and the USB drive hidden inside, it was still disappointing. There was an error on the drive and Gabe had sent it to his brother to help retrieve anything on it. And instead of worrying about what might be found on it, since her mother had gone to such lengths to hide it from that man, she was worried about Gabe not being gay.

She knew she should feel cheated or maybe betrayed that he was not. That was the only thing that had made her feel safe. And now that she knew he was not gay and she was not scared, she was at a loss.

If only she could talk to someone. But she had no friends... As she sighed in disappointment, she suddenly remembered a conversation between Nora and Isabella and the others when they had visited. Nora had insisted that she be added to the 'Frosty Girls' group chat, even if she was a 'Frosty' in name only...

"We Frosty girls need to stick close and be best friends. Or these boys would roll all over us..." Nora had murmured to which Isabella had snorted, "But we like our boys rolling over us... or us over them..."

"We like that for sure! But still, girls need girls. So, Autumn, anytime you feel the need to talk, just hop into the chat."

Autumn hesitated for a moment before pulling out her phone. The "Frosty Girls" group chat was something she hadn't really engaged with, not even reading the chats, but tonight, she felt the need for talking.

She ignored the previous messages and started typing out, "Anyone around for a chat?"

But then hesitated and quickly backspaced. Retyping, "Hi everyone. This is Autumn..." But then she deleted those too. And quickly placed the phone aside. That was just wrong. How could she discuss her thoughts with a stranger. And those women were just that... strangers... even though they somehow did not feel like it... Also, it was the middle of the night so no one would be awake now...

Just then, her phone rang and she almost jumped out of her skin. Her eyes widened at the caller id. It was Olivia Frost. She had never met Olivia... the woman was pregnant from what the others said but they'd insisted that she save her number... She hesitated. Should she answer... Olivia was even more a stranger...

While she was hesitating, the call came to an end and she sighed in relief only to widen her eyes when a message came in, "Stop staring at the phone and answer it. I saw you typing something on the group chat and not sending it..."

She flushed. Uh oh. She'd been caught. And needed to come clean. Maybe it was for the best. As the phone started to ring again, she decided to pick it up immediately... and answered hurriedly, "Hi. This is Autumn. I'm sorry for not answering previously. I... Actually, I was just confused and didn't know who to talk to, so I thought of talking to someone here... GABE IS NOT GAY!"

She stopped breathlessly after almost screaming the last part and then realized that the other person was totally silent... had she shocked Olivia into silence? "Hello?" She asked into the phone uncertainly...only for a dril voice to answer her, "And pray tell, how did you make that interesting discovery? Did you inspect the 'goods' yourself?"

She froze, her mind racing to make sense of the situation. "Uh... who is this?" Autumn managed to stammer out, her cheeks flaming with embarrassment.

The voice on the other end chuckled softly. "Hey there, Autumn. This is Seb, Gabe's brother. I can understand your disappointment over this fact. Don't worry, you can tell me more about this. So, how did you discover this interesting fact?"

Autumn wanted to die... Or at least bury herself somewhere. How would she face any of the Frost brothers now...

Before she could think of something to get over the embarrassment, she heard someone in the background speak up, "Seb Frost! Do not try to tease Autumn! Give me the phone, right now!"

"I will not. With your grip, you might crush it." She then heard him sigh and speak into the phone, "Sorry, little sis. Olivia is in labour now and she is being a bit scary at the moment. I don't think she can talk right now."

"Oh.. That is good.. I mean all the best to her and you... I'll tell Gabe...Bye..." She answered awkwardly, thankful that they had not continued the previous conversation...

But before she could end the call, she heard Seb speak into the phone, "Autumn, now that you've discovered that he is not into men... what do you plan to do about it?"

"Plan to do?" Autumn croaked, unable to even comprehend...

"Hmm.. Now that you know your husband is a 'straight' working model, shouldn't you be getting some benefits?"

Autumn flushed at that and hurriedly ended the call, patting her cheeks to calm down... Her mind was already coming up with 'benefits' that Seb had mentioned... How audacious!!!

Meanwhile, the Frost Cousins group seemed to wake up from dead as Seb sent a message: I have two news: One- Autumn has just cleared a misunderstanding she had about Gabe...That he is not gay. My question is- how did she think @Gabe was gay... and how did she discover that he is not..."

The Second news is that you guys need to rush to the hospital if you want to see your Godchildren anytime soon."

As expected, the group exploded with messages from the others," Congratulations to Gabe on not being gay! And we are on the way to the hospital!!"

Chapter 596: A Shock

"Did you know he was married?" Gragory Savoy entered the office as he gently closed the door behind him, locking it with a soft click.

Autumn stiffened and looked up, at the man who was walking towards her desk as if he owned the place. She narrowed her eyes and instinctively started to search for another escape route, as her fingers tightened on the folder she was holding it. She would smack him with it if she needed to protect herself.

"How did you get in here?" she demanded, her voice tinged with a mix of caution and irritation. "And why the hell did you lock the door?"

Gragory raised an eyebrow, his demeanor unapologetic. "I like to ensure privacy when discussing sensitive matters," he replied smoothly, moving closer to her desk. "You understand, I'm sure. The last time I failed to lock the door when we were together, it did not quite go well for me, as you must remember..."

Autumn froze. She knew quite well what he was trying to get at. The last time, she had been barely an adult and... He was trying to intimidate her. Did he really think that she would be the same scared little girl.

"I remember quite well." She watched as his eyes gleamed with satisfaction over her acceptance of this and then she continued, "I remember the urge to claw your eyes out and feed them to the birds... Would you like to help me fulfill the wish?"

Gregory Savoy stiffened as he stared at the girl in front of him. She even dared to threaten him, "Tsk tsk. You always were a violent girl. But don't worry. I'll teach you to be docile."

Autumn scoffed at that and watched as he sat down. She could feel the fear inside her. The cold sweat running down her back and her shivering legs reminded her that she still feared him. She wanted to pick up the phone and call Gabe. Not for help. This time, if this man tried to do something, she was determined to kill him. What she needed was to hear his voice and calm herself...

"Don't look at me like that baby. It makes me want to hold you and do things. Anyway, I am not here to discuss the past. I came to discuss the present... in truth your husband- Gabe Frost."

"Gabe is none of your concern," she snapped, her voice low but steady, masking the turmoil within.

Gregory leaned back in his chair, a smirk playing on his lips. "Oh, but he is my concern now, isn't he? Considering he has something that I want. Something I've been wanting for a while..."

Autumn's grip tightened on the folder, her knuckles turning white. "What are you getting at?"

"Nothing. I'm just wondering if he's taken his pleasure yet... The one you denied me..."

Autumn clenched her teeth and bit out, "Get out of here."

"Tsk tsk. I'm not going anywhere. Anyway. Since you seem angry, I won't talk about the past. So, did you know your dear husband was married?"

Autumn clenched her teeth. "It is none of your business. But as a matter of fact... I knew that he was married."

Autumn watched as his smile disappeared and continued, " Whatever game you are thinking of playing, I am not going to let you win. So, don't waste your time here and get out."

"But you're underestimating the gravity of the situation, Autumn. I don't understand."

Autumn met his gaze defiantly, refusing to flinch under his scrutiny even as she cut him off. "I don't underestimate anything, Gregory. Least of all you."

He leaned forward again, his tone lowering to a dangerous whisper. "Did you really fall in love with that man? Is that why you are not bothered..." And then he paused as if something seemed to have struck him suddenly, " You don't know."

Autumn said nothing as she stared at this man. What was it that she did not know. Gabe had warned her that Gregory was looking into his past. And today, Gregory had come in asking her about Gabe's previous marriage.

"You're not saying anything. It means I'm right..."

"I don't care if you're right or wrong. Just get out, Gregory."

"I will. But let me finish."

"Your dear husband was married to his childhood sweetheart. The girl he lived since he was a young... much like you are young... and like him... But their match was not ordinary, you know. Soon after their marriage, his wife fell sick and he disappeared from the public eye, with his wife."

"And then he reappeared in the public a few months ago... a grieving widower."

As he said this, Gregory threw a few pictures on the table. Even as she tried to not look at what he was showing her, her gaze fell on the pictures. The first that caught her eye was an engagement picture...another one seemed to be of a wedding and then the last picture made her beat still. It was from a funeral. She could feel the despair in the picture even from here. And the contrast. How happy he looked at the time of the engagement and how devastated he looked in the last picture. He'd even lost weight and seemed to have aged suddenly.

Even from here she could feel his pain. So engrossed was she in the pictures that she almost forgot that Gregory Savoy was still in the room.

"I see you can see the picture too. How desolate he looks. What I find hard to believe is a man like Gabe Frost who looked as if he would rather be buried with his wife, suddenly turned around and married you? There had to be a catch... And guess what I found it..."

Autumn stood up now. Her patience at an end. "Get out. I don't want to listen to your prattle."

Savoy stood up as well. His short height, though did nothing to make him intimidating as he looked up at Autumn and smirked, "Don't worry. I'm leaving. The next time we meet, will be when you come crawling to me... But just as a sort of my well meaning advice to you... Ask Gabe Frost his wife's name..."

Autumn watched as he stood to leave and breathed a sigh of relief. But it had been too soon for the man paused at the door and turned back, "Gabe loves Arabelle a lot...And I don't mean my daughter Arabelle..."

With that, Gregory Savoy left the office, leaving behind a shocked Autumn and the echo of his evil laughter.

Chapter 597: Glances

Gabe glanced at Autumn with a puzzled frown before turning his eyes back onto the road. She seemed to be troubled, her gaze distant and posture tensed. He'd tried asking her but received a non answer.

At first, he could not help but wonder if this was because of what had happened between them. Was she uncomfortable now that she'd had time to accept that he was not gay. Did she see him as a threat.

He knew that she'd definitely tried to talk to someone from the Frosty girls. So, she must have been bothered. And then Seb had probably teased her... he'd already received the information from him. But even Seb had mentioned that she'd not sounded worried about it.. Embarrassed yes... but not scared.

So, what happened between her speaking to Seb and him about the happy news and then this morning. She'd even tried to get out of going with him while just early this morning, before coming home, she'd seemed eager to see everyone in the family. This tension emanating from her worried him.

He wanted to push her to tell him everything. However, a single glance in the rearview mirror told him that he needed to be quiet for now. If they were going to have an argument, then the little girl should not be listening to it.

"Keep your eyes on the road instead of the backseat," Autumn snapped making him glance at her with narrowed eyes. What was this poisonous tone for?

Sigh!At this rate the drive back to the city was going to be really long...

Arabelle seemed to have noticed her older sister's tone too and she asked happily,"Mister Gabriel, did you leave your toys everywhere? Is that why Auti is angry at you?"

Gabriel smiled at that and rolled his eyes," Miss Arabelle, I most certainly did not. I have no idea why your sister is angry at me. Can you help me ask her?"

"Of course." Arabelle replied before turning back to the doll she was playing with.

When she was quiet for a while, Gabe rolled his eyes and spoke," I thought you were going to plead with your sister for me. Why are you not saying anything, Miss Arabelle?"

"I'm waiting for her to cool down. She seems really angry at the moment. I can see that even from the back."

As the two laughed in tandem, Autumn closed her eyes against the sound and tried to ignore them. She really needed to get her head together.

She knew why Gregory Savoy had mentioned that detail to her. What it was he was implying. But the truth of the matter was that she was in a dilemma. She remembered Nora and Evana's expressions when Arabelle had been introduced. She'd not connected the dots then.

Even Gabe himself had tried to warn her about this. But she'd cut him off, claiming that she would be able to handle things. How foolish could she have been. Why did he not tell her earlier? He mentioned his wife, yes. But why not tell her that the woman he loved shared the same name with her little sister?

Another thing that bothered her was her own reaction to that picture of Gabe that Gregory had left on her table. Gabe had indeed looked like a ghost.

Like a fool, she had researched about her own husband when Gregory had left. Though most of the information about him was protected when searched by name, she had used his picture to find him... And found a lot of pictures from random admirers...

Gabe Frost was nothing like he was now. The man was known to be a party animal, having his finger on the nerve of every ongoing thing in the celebrity world. And then, she'd seen the discussions that people had been having when news of his engagement had broken out. There were many who had come onto say that his wife to be was not a good woman but she'd been blinded by his love for her.

Lost in her thoughts and confusion, Autumn failed to realize that the car had come to a stop. Arabelle called out her name and so did Gabriel but when her eyes remained close, they looked at each other and shrugged.

Finally, Gabe jumped down from the car and helped Arabelle get off, before sending her into the little supermarket. And then he went around to the passenger side and opened the door.

He stood there for a moment, watching her, noticing how deep in thought she seemed.

Gently, he shook her shoulder, his touch light yet firm enough to rouse her from her thoughts. Startled she looked at him with those wide eyes of hers and tried to sit up quickly but was immediately restrained by her seatbelt, causing her to jerk back against the seat.

As her head banged against the seat, she winced and Gabe gently rubbed the back of her head, chuckling, "Whoa, easy there." He then leaned over her, into the car, and she widened her eyes further.

Her breath caught in her throat as she felt the warmth of his body so close to hers again. She could smell the faint scent of his cologne, mixed with the fresh air that drifted in from the open car door and she was reminded of the time when she had buried her face in the crook of his neck... This scent was almost imprinted into her memory...

And no matter how foolish she felt, an inner voice inside her snidely pointed out that she would never have been able to get close to this man if it had not been for his wife's death...

She did not like this thought. Or the anger she felt as she thought of all those girls on the internet oohing and aahing over him... and those who claimed to have slept with him. As he unbuckled her seatbelt deftly and started to move out of the car, she finally accepted a truth about herself... She was the jealous type. The possessive type... when it came to Gabe Frost. She was envious of every woman who'd been with him in the past and any woman who would be with him in the future.

She, Autumn Frost, wanted her husband Gabe Frost all to herself...

Chapter 598: Hospital Waiting Room

"Looking at that, I would never want to have a baby," Evana murmured, her eyes wide with a mix of fear and fascination. Nora nodded in agreement, her expression mirroring her friend's. "Yep, it does look scary."

"What are you girls talking about?" Isabella asked, joining the conversation with a curious tilt of her head. "Childbirth is messy, sure... But Olivia is being brave, isn't she? If she can do it, so can we."

Nora shook her head and playfully bopped Isabella on the arm. "I'm not talking about what's happening in there. Olivia is too much of an inspiration. She's already been in labour for a few hours and is still holding on like a champion. I'm talking about those guys over there. Look at Seb. He looks ready to faint, and he's not even the one in labor. I think by the time the two babies make their entrance into the world, Seb will be unconscious on the floor."

In unison, Evana, Nora, and Isabella turned their heads to the other side of the waiting room. There, stood Seb Frost, the man known for his unflappable demeanor in the face of any crisis. Today, however, he looked distinctly green, his usually calm and composed face betraying a rare display of nerves.

As they watched, Seb shifted uncomfortably in his seat, his eyes darting anxiously towards the delivery room door every few seconds. His hands were clasped tightly in his lap, knuckles white from the pressure. The sight was almost comical when one thought of how usually carefree he was.

"Actually, look at Lucien, he looks a bit sick too... Just by watching this scene, I want to try having a baby, you know. I'd like to see how sick he'll look when I'm the one there." Evana whispered causing Isabella and Nora to chuckle loudly, attracting the attention of their respective men.

"You are right actually. I'd like to see Demon..." Nora sighed, suddenly feeling a bit of longing. Until now, they had not even thought of having a baby. She was too young. But sitting here now, watching her husband being all calm and cool, it made her wonder how their baby would be.

She'd seen pictures of baby Caius so their baby would probably look like that. But what would Demon be like as a father? He was so patient and playful...

Just then, she received a swat on her arm and she turned to Isabella with a frown as she rubbed her arm, "What?"

"You're getting the baby fever! And giving off the pheromones! And your husband is looking ready to help you make a baby! Don't do that. You'll give ideas to the others!"

Nora chuckled and purposely sent a teasing wink at Demetri before turning away to look at Isabella and Evana, "Don't blame me. Blame Evana. She's the one who started this."

"Hey! I was only thinking of ways to torture my Lucifer. Getting pregnant to see that expression is too much! I can just pretend to get sick and then he'll turn green with worry."

Just then, the door to the waiting room swung open, and Gabe walked in followed by Autumn.

"Hey, guys," Gabe greeted, his voice steady and warm. "How's everything?"

Evana, Nora, and Isabella turned their attention to the newcomers, their previous conversation momentarily forgotten. "Olivia is doing great," Nora said, her tone full of admiration. "Seb, on the other hand is feeling sick."

"He always was a coward." Gabe nodded as he hugged and greeted the girls while they snickered.

But Seb was not one to be outdone, "I was always straight too. Unlike a certain someone who might be gay. Now, get out of my way." Ignoring Gabe, he then made a beeline towards Autumn, standing in front of her with his arms open wide. "Autumn, my newest sister, the one and only person who treats me as a confidant and trusted brother. Come give me a hug! I am the most dashing Frost brother so I apologize that I was taken, and you had to make do with this hermit crab. "

For a moment there was silence as Seb stood in front of her with his arms open. And then, just when Gabe wondered if she was uncomfortable and was about to interfere, that Autumn giggled, stepped forward and wrapped her arms around him in a warm hug. Instantly, she felt a sense of comfort and ease, as if Seb's humor and confidence were contagious.

"Feeling better already," Seb declared with a grin, giving her a gentle squeeze before releasing her. "You have magical healing powers, Autumn. While I am extremely sad for you, I have to say that this Crabby brother of mine, turned out to be lucky in getting you as his wife."

"It seems you are feeling quite well all of a sudden. Why don't you go back inside to Olivia for now?"

Seb nodded and rolled his eyes as he moved to go back, "Just keep some bone specialist at the ready. I have a feeling that my bones are going to be crushed when I come back. Olivia has gained the strength of Hulk seemingly."

Gabe chuckled, shaking his head at Seb's dramatic flair. "Always the drama," he said, watching as Seb headed back towards the delivery room and his other brothers moved to meet Autumn who was now comfortable meeting them all thanks to Seb.

As they settled back into the seats with the boys all sitting quietly on one side and the girls chatting on the other, Autumn could not help but steal glances at the others. They all looked so relaxed and yet so powerful. They were intimidating to look at but their welcome had been the warmest. It was almost like she was with family.

Watching the Frosts was a bit of an enigma. As she watched them just sit there quietly, occasionally staring at their women, she realized how out of place she was. The Frost women were all strong and vivacious while she was... not.

Was Gabe's wife also like this? It made her curious...

Chapter 599: Does He Know

"Arabelle..."

Autumn and Nora spoke up at the same time, then looked at each other. Autumn wondered if Nora had some sort of sixth sense. How did she know that Autumn was thinking about Gabe's first wife and wanted to talk about her?

She looked at Nora eagerly, hoping for any information, while Nora stared back at her with the same anticipation. This made Autumn frown. Why was Nora looking at her like that?

"What about Arabelle?" Autumn asked curiously. Would Nora tell her that Gabe was probably missing his wife at this time? He hadn't even looked at her once since coming here. She had read rumors that his wife had been pregnant when she passed away. That would have been so painful.

Nora's eyes widened slightly before she spoke while looking at Autumn carefully. "I was actually asking about your sister- Arabelle. I'm sure you didn't leave her in B-town. So, where is she?"

Autumn gave an embarrassed smile. "Oh, right. We left little Arabelle at the daycare downstairs. She was really tired and needed some rest."

Nora's expression softened. "That makes sense. She must have been exhausted after all the travelling."

"Yeah, she was," Autumn replied, relieved but also worried that the conversation wasn't about Gabe's first wife after all. She glanced at Nora, feeling a bit more at ease. "I'm sure she'll be full of energy again after a good nap." And then looked away.

It was why she missed Nora sending a considering look her way and staring at her carefully. Nora noticed the slight tension in Autumn and the way she kept darting glances at Gabe with that confused look on her face...

Nora then looked to turn at Gabe who had yet to look at Autumn even once and then... a small smile graced her face. So, something was bothering Autumn and it was probably related to Arabelle. And Gabe knew something was bothering his wife. He was keeping an eye on her... or at least on her reflection from the glass on his side. Idiotic but also smart.

And then it struck her... Arabelle! Autumn had not known Gabe's dead wife's name the last time they met. And knowing Gabe, he'd probably not taken the name for any reason. But now... Autumn knew...

"Autumn? Can I ask you something?," Autumn turned her head to look back at Nora who'd called out her name and raised her brows.

"Hmm.. Arabelle..." Autumn stiffened. Usually she was happy to talk about her sister but just now she was too antsy... However, Nora seemed to be unaware of her turmoil and continued, "The name is quite uncommon, isn't it?"

Autumn nodded but then shook her head. How was it uncommon. Gabe knew two people by the same name. She looked at Nora carefully and realized that the woman knew. And that look gave her the courage to blurt out, "How is it uncommon? Gabe's wife also had the same name."

Nora smiled then, a beautiful smile that even had Autumn blink as she put her arm through Autumn's and leaned in conspirationally, "So, you do know her name."

"Did he tell you about her? Has he opened up?"

Autumn shook her head, "Someone else told me that his wife shared the same name with my sister... They implied that... the name was the reason he is..."

Nora's smile disappeared at that as she questioned Autumn quietly, "I see. And what did Gabe say when you questioned him about this?"

"I didn't."

Nora breathed in deeply then. So this was what the tension was about. "Why not? Do you also think that the implication is correct?"

Her head snapped up at this and as she looked at Nora, she shook her head, "No. I didn't think that. When we met, he had not known that Arabelle was my sister."

"But now you think that could be the reason he is staying together? That he is so intent on protecting her?"

Slowly, Autumn nodded her head. "I see. But isn't that why you married him in the first place? For Arabelle. So why are you uncomfortable with Gabe having the same sentiment. He has formed a bond with your little sister and even if he is part of this temporary family because the little girl shares her name with his dead wife, what is wrong with that?"

"Nothing is wrong with that..." Autumn answered with irritation. What was wrong of course. It was wrong somehow, she wanted to scream!

"Actually, I think something is wrong with that thinking..." Nora said and as Autumn turned to stare at her, she continued, "The reason for the marriage matters, of course it does. But you said yourself he married you not because of Arabelle. So of course reducing his decision to just this because of a name is wrong. He cares about you as much as he cares for the little Arabelle."

Autumn blinked at this as she tried to understand what Nora was saying. But, she whispered, "How do you know he cares for me?"

"Because he hasn't taken his eyes off you for a single moment."

Autumn scoffed at that as she looked at Gabe, whose head was even now turned away as he was talking quietly to Ian.

"Unless he's got eyes on the side of his head as well, he hasn't looked at me even once."

"You're wrong, babe. He's been keeping an eye on you from that mirror on the opposite side. You want to bet?"

"You're wrong. Okay, I'll bet." Autumn decided, somehow taking up the challenge that Nora had thrown her way.

Nora nodded and quickly laid out the terms, "If I win, you'll ask him about Arabelle tonight itself. And if you win, I'll tell you about her. Agreed?"

Autumn barely thought for a moment and nodded, "Agreed. But how are we going to know..."

She'd barely finished talking when Nora subtly pinched her on the arm causing her to jerk her arm away. She was about to question her about what that was for when a shadow fell over her, "Are you okay? Why did you pull your arm suddenly? Is there something..."

Chapter 600: Babies

Never in his life had he imagined he would say these words to anyone other than Olivia. And yet, as he stood there in the delivery room, holding two perfectly wrinkly and beautifully ugly babies, he declared to them, "I never thought I'd say this, but I think I love you two more than anyone else in the world... just a little less than your mom, but more than I ever thought possible towards anyone else."

He leaned down and kissed each of their foreheads gently before turning to Olivia. She lay on the bed, exhausted but radiant, her eyes filled with love. Seb walked over, bent down, and kissed her tenderly on the lips. "Thank you, Olivia. They are so perfect! Each day you make me happier."

Gently, he placed the babies on her chest and watched as they snuggled a bit as she held each close to her. They were so tiny...As she held them in her arms, she smiled contentedly, "It is you who makes me happy each day, Seb."

Seb smiled and gently kissed her lips. "Now that these two are here, you can catch some rest instead of having to rush to the bathroom every minute."

Olivia chuckled weakly and then told him, "Take them outside and show them to their uncles. They're probably climbing the walls by now."

Seb nodded and carefully, he gathered the twins into his arms and headed toward the door. As he stepped into the hallway, he saw his brothers sitting there anxiously, looking as if they were in the middle of the most important deal of their lives.

Looking down at his two well swaddled babies, he walked outside and carefully raised them a bit higher and announced, "Ladies and gentlemen, may I present to you the newest members of our family," he announced with a broad grin. "Meet Innocenza Frost and Vincenzo Frost."

As everyone saw the babies, their faces lit up with a mixture of surprise, awe, and pure joy. There was a moment of stunned silence, followed by an eruption of cheers and laughter before Ian clapped his hands, "Come on, cough up!"

Seb raised an eyebrow, curiously, "Cough up what? What bet? Did you guys wager on my children?"

Ian laughed, waving the bills triumphantly. "We had a little wager going. Erasmi and Lucien here thought it would be two boys, Gabe and Demetri were sure it would be two girls, and I bet on one of each."

"I can't believe you guys bet on my babies!" Seb scolded them with narrowed eyes, causing the others to look at him in concern.

"Are you going to be offended?" Ian asked cautiously. He wasn't much worried though. If Seb was offended, they would simply wait till he was not holding the babies and then bash him up. Give him something real to be offended about.

Meanwhile, Seb shook his head and complained, "You should have told me. I would have upped the stakes."

"Nah! You can't be in on the bet. That is the rule for the next generation."

"Rule for the next gen?"

As Ian was about to explain, Nora interrupted, "For the love of! Ian Frost! We are waiting to hold the little babies! You guys want to talk business, get out!"

"Well, Isabella! We want to hold the babies too but they are too tiny..."

"They won't grow up in the next few minutes so you're going to have to hold them now or get out of the way!"

Ian laughed and moved aside, waving everyone else to do the same. "Alright, alright. Nora, you go first."

Nora turned to Seb with a grin, her eyes sparkling with excitement. "Give me one of them, Seb."

Seb carefully handed over Innocenza to Nora, watching as her face softened with a wistful smile. "Meet your God-daughter, Innocenza Frost."

Nora's eyes widened, "God daughter?" Just then, Demetri came behind her, holding her and little Innocenza in his arms as he smiled down at the little baby, smiling softly, "We're honoured, Seb. Thank you."

Gabe on the other hand snorted, "I'm horrified! Poor Ines! She is going to suffer for having a father and Godfather like you. And what about our Vincenzo?"

Seb smiled and then handed Lucien the little baby, "Vincenzo, meet your Godfather Lucien. You can harass him all you want and create havoc in his life."

Lucien's eyes widened in shock as Seb carefully placed Vincenzo in his arms. He looked down at the tiny baby, his hands trembling slightly. "Godfather? Me?" he stammered, his voice barely above a whisper. "Seb, are you sure about this?"

Seb chuckled and nodded. "Absolutely, Lucien. You're going to be an amazing godfather."

Lucien's expression was a mix of horror and awe as he looked at the baby as if it were a ticking bomb. "I... I don't know what to say," he admitted, his voice quivering. "I'm honored, really, but... what if I drop him?"

The room erupted in laughter then as Gabe clapped Lucien on the back, nearly making him jump. "Relax, Lucien. Babies aren't made of glass."

"Easy for you to say," Lucien retorted, still looking down at Vincenzo with wide eyes. "I once dropped a plate of spaghetti on my foot and needed five stitches. Don't you guys remember that?"

Seb snorted. "My baby isn't a plate of spaghetti. Also, if you drop him, I will kill you."

Lucien glanced up, looking even more horrified. "But what if he starts wriggling? Or sneezes? Do babies sneeze this young?"

Gabe rolled his eyes. "Yes, Lucien, babies sneeze. Just hold him like this," he said, adjusting Lucien's grip slightly. "See? Not so scary."

Lucien's grip relaxed slightly, though he still looked like he was handling time bomb. "Okay, Vincenzo," he said slowly, "just... don't explode or anything."

"Support his head, support his head," Lucien muttered, as if repeating a mantra. He looked down at Vincenzo, who yawned widely, and his face softened. "Okay, maybe you're not so terrifying after all."

However, he didn't have much time to hold the little babies as they were soon oohed and ahed over.