

Football 206

Chapter 206 Awakening

[24/09/2018, time: 23:50 St Georges Private ward,]

The lights in the private ward held a dim light illuminating the people in the room. There were two beds in the room one shared by 3 girls around the age of 17 and the other where the figure of a boy lay. Despite his bandaged right side, his expression was rather peaceful the definition of serenity.

Next to the boy's bed, was a comfy sofa where a blond woman rested her head laying on the bed. She had dozed off at some point as the tiredness called pulling her into dreamland. The last soul in the room was in the form of a handsome yet rugged man dressed in a navy suit that had seen better days.

Ben hadn't stopped moving since the day of the shooting too busy organising everything for his family. From making sure the children got the best treatment possible to taking care of his Wife. Arguing with the Doctors who were all so happy to take on the surgery of his son seeing it as a good chance to gain experience.

As the Man of the house, he has never really assumed the role of head of the family. Preferring to let his wife do the planning for their trips and laying down the law for the kids. He got things done once his wife reached a decision that was his nature simply enjoying life with his family.

Negotiating, Fighting for the slightest gain, and Planning years ahead for his business is what he does at work. There he follows a logical philosophy when dealing with business partners. So it's understandable that he enjoys resting his wary attitude at home and simply enjoying their company.

But ever since the shooting he hadn't been able to put on the breaks trying his best to keep moving. He felt like a failure as a father his job was to protect his children from the moment they entered his life. So he felt relieved that his daughter was ok but hadn't been able to let himself feel all the emotions until they were OK.

Doing anything no matter how small just so he would have to deal with these emotions. He practically absorbed all the pain and worry that his family was going through. All the well wishes from their friends and extended family didn't even register with him.

The only time he couldn't suppress his anger was when the Florida GM at Under Armour told him what Oliver was doing. The guy who was supposed to be his son's agent was using the incident to close deals for his other clients. Doing a little digging with some of the companies and teams that were interested in his son the picture became clear.

What surprised him was that none of the teams and boot companies even bothered to contact him or his family. If not for the fact he became good friends with the Under Armour GM he wouldn't have found out till a lot later. He didn't bother to contact those companies either and simply called his company's lawyers to cancel his son's contract with CAA Steller directly.

Since they didn't care enough to contact them personally he saw no need to prevent them from being scammed by Oliver. He vowed to deal with them more ruthlessly during business dealings in the future. However, He would make that agent pay in the future when his boy gets back on the field.

Out of everyone here for Rakim, he was probably the only one who didn't doubt whether he would wake up. Watching him love the years grow into this family and thrive under pressure to reach his goal made him feel proud. So he wasn't surprised when he heard that he took down the shooter despite already being shot.

When he heard the news he was outwardly shocked and worried but inwardly he was proud of his son. He stayed calm under all that pressure protecting his classmate and his two daughters. With how much time May spends at their house she became a second daughter to him and Lisa.

"Dad" He heard a hoarse voice whisper in the silent room causing his thoughts to stagnate. He stood up from the wall he was sitting on looking around the room to see where the voice had come from.

No matter where he looked He couldn't identify the source of the voice. Olivia, May and Emma were all soundly sleeping and looking at his wife he watched a hand lightly stroking her hair. Gazing upward he was met with the figure of his son smiling at him as he looked around the room.

Ben's heart skipped a beat, a mixture of relief and overwhelming emotion surging through him. Although he acted calm the past few days seeing his vibrant green eyes looking at him instantly lifted all the pressure he had been carrying. All the weight he had been inadvertently shouldering lifted at this very moment as he hurried to his bedside.

"Rakim, you're awake!" he said, his voice choked with emotion as he reached his to check him out. Only after patting his head and seeing him blink a few times did he finally believe it.

"You're looking messy old man, when was the last time you shaved? I'm surprised " Rakim whispered in a hoarse voice causing him to reach for his face subconsciously. "haha I'm surprised Mom let you walk out of the house," He joked with a smile on his face causing his father to burst out in hearty laughter.

The laughter woke Lisa, who slowly lifted her head and rubbed her eyes. As her vision cleared, Ben's laughter became clear as her brain started to process. She couldn't understand why he was laughing especially given how serious he had been for the past few days.

Despite being in her own world she had noticed his state but couldn't bring herself to comfort him. Letting him cope in his own way, as she did the same was the only thing she could do. However, she hadn't seen him smile even once so seeing him laugh threw her for a loop.

Just as she was about to question him she felt a hand slowly stroking her hair. Her eyes instantly widened in surprise as she seemingly realised something, the next moment she shot up from her seat and looked in the direction of her son.

What met her were his green eyes brimming with surprise as they made eye contact. Tears welled up in Lisa's eyes as she leaned over Rakim, her hand trembling as she gently cupped his face. "Oh, my baby, you're awake," she cried out in excitement, her voice thick with emotion and tears flowing freely.

Rakim's smile widened, though his voice remained hoarse. "Hey, Mom. Sorry for worrying you." Hearing his words prompted the emotional Lisa to pull him in for a hug pressing her forehead against him. "Don't you apologize just get better quick." She responded with a more serious tone than she had intended to sound.

"Can I get some water," he asked her his voice still weak from not having injected something in a long time. Despite being on IV drips his throat felt dry and it was starting to bother him.

Lisa instantly reacted to his request, going to the pitcher to fill up a glass of water. Ben stopped her though opting to call the doctors in first just to be on the safe side. The room that had been previously silent instantly started to bustle waking up the girls from their sleep.

The girls didn't get a chance to interact with him as the doctors started running tests immediately. Luckily they let him drink a little water allowing him to quench his thirst. Everything passed in a blur as

he was taken for an MRI and had an EKG done. More tests were done as they tested his right arm's nerve response which he to see if they had hit a nerve during surgery.