

Lost Me Gained Regret #Chapter 621 - Read Lost Me Gained Regret Chapter 621

Chapter 621

Gregory laughed, "So that was the condition he laid out."

"But what I'm really curious about is how he managed to blow up the place I was holding Mark."

That place was abandoned, hardly anyone knew I was keeping someone there.

Josiah had to flee abroad for the Myers family fortune, leaving even Pearl behind. He wouldn't have had time to arrange this.

For some reason, I just felt that Mark, that sewer rat, wouldn't die so easily.

"I'm still looking into it, but Mark's definitely not making it out alive. That chemical plant's a ruin now. The guys you had on watch didn't survive, and he was still locked up. Unless he's some sort of immortal being, especially since we've got his DNA proof."

Gregory decided to shelf his doubts for the moment, "You need to come over."

"I promised Jane I'd be home for Thanksgiving, otherwise she'd just come running here without a second thought."

Dailey agreed, "I'll bring Pearl and Dorothy over."

He couldn't resist a tease, a rare chance to see Gregory in a tight spot.

"How's it feel to be a hostage?"

Gregory, always too prideful, as if he had no kin. Could such a childish scheme even touch him?

"Not bad, got my booze and steak, and a bunch of guys to ease my muscles."

...

Christine, trying to distract me, took me out shopping to find some inspiration for a gown design.

I really didn't want to go, but couldn't withstand her persistent coaxing.

But just as I was changing, Gregory called me on video.

I hurriedly accepted the call.

Seeing Gregory's familiar, handsome face made my eyes well up.

Gregory sensed my mood, stood up, and turned around. His handsome face magnified on my phone screen, flawless.

Carrying his usual carefree and slightly wicked smile.

"Feeling better now?"

I wasn't reassured, "Take off your shirt."

Gregory laughed, a mischievous eyebrow lift, "Having some not-so-kid-friendly thoughts about me?"

I was momentarily speechless, then heard him say, "They say pregnancy hormones can make you believe anything. Now, I believe it."

I didn't say anything.

"But don't worry, I've talked to the doctor. Just to be safe, we need to wait three more months. Just hang in there."

I really wanted to leap through the screen and kick him. I glared and gritted my teeth, "You're definitely hiding something from me, hence the subject change."

Gregory touched his nose, finally admitting, "Ran into a bit of trouble."

I tensed up, "What trouble?"

"Josiah."

"Josiah?" I puzzled, "Weren't you handling him all this time?"

"I was, until he fled the country. Now I'm here on business, and just my luck, ran into him."

"It's hard to overcome local snakes when you're the dragon abroad. He wants me to release Pearl and Dorothy."

I gasped, "So you're trapped over there?"

"Are you hurt?"

Josiah was known to be involved in the underworld.

Gregory, through the screen, patted my face, I'm fine, didn't tell you earlier because I didn't want you to worry. Dailey's bringing

reinforcements, and I'll be there for Thanksgiving, trust me, okay?"

Content

I pouted, about to complain when Christine called me.

"Jane."

I looked up to see her leaning by the door, eavesdropping like it was her job.

"Are you talking to Mr. Ford?"

"I thought I heard Dailey's name."

Knowing what she was thinking, I instinctively ended the call, blocking her path as she turned to leave.

"Why bother, knowing it's dangerous?"

Christine flipped her hair, booking a

flight on her phone, "Might as well let

help

you keep an eye on Greet

since you're worried." Content

I didn't really need her to.

I admit I was worried about Gregory, but I couldn't let my best friend walk into danger.

"You..." I was speaking when a video call notification from Gregory interrupted me.

Seeing it was from Gregory, I answered, "What's up?"

"What's up?"

Gregory repeated my words, dragging them out.

I then remembered, "It wasn't on purpose. Christine wants to follow Dailey over to you, I was trying to stop her."

Hearing this, Gregory's voice deepened, "Don't let her come."

Before I could respond, Christine said, "Mr. Ford, I'm an adult now..."

But before she could finish, Gregory suddenly ended the call. I sent a question mark.

He replied: [Someone will stop her, don't worry.]

I texted back: [Got it, waiting for you to come back.]

With Gregory's assurance, I watched Christine leave.

Anxious waiting wouldn't help, and I was starting to feel a bit unwell, probably from the worry.

Instead of staying home fretting, I decided to get a check-up at the hospital, where I bumped into Mr. Abdul.

"Not feeling well?"

I told him the truth, "A bit of discomfort in my lower abdomen, came to get it checked."

Abdul led me to a consultation room and took my pulse.

"Feeling stressed?"

I nodded, "Gregory's overseas, ran into some trouble, and I'm a bit worried."

Mr. Abdul withdrew his hand, prescribed some medication, "You need to manage your stress. Don't let it get to you too much. Last time, you nearly lost the baby. You need to be careful." Content

I wish I could, but I couldn't help it.

The baby's important. And so is the baby's dad.

Chapter 622

Abdul could see I was worried and said, "I know it's tough. Have some chicken soup to keep you strong."

He then asked, "Did Gregory mention when he's coming back?"

I replied, "Around Thanksgiving."

Abdul nodded, "Alright, stick with the soup till he's back, and if anything comes up, give me a ring."

I stood up, saying, "Thank you so much."

Abdul replied, "No need for formalities with me."

After thanking Abdul again, I left the clinic. It had started raining outside at some point.

My bodyguard held an umbrella over me, ensuring not a single drop of rain touched me.

Getting back to Elmwood Villas, I found someone looking like a drowned rat.

"Why on earth didn't you take shelter from the rain? Why didn't you call me?"

I hurried over and guided her all the way to the bathroom.

"Take a hot shower first. It's not summer anymore; a fall rain brings a chill."

While she was showering, I brewed some ginger tea.

Christine, with her hair still damp, came into the kitchen and hugged me, looking so forlorn.

"Jane, from now on, I, Christine, wouldn't chase after Dailey even if he was the last man on earth."

I remembered Gregory's words and thought, if only I could have prevented Christine from going abroad.

But I never anticipated this outcome.

I ruffled her hair, "What did he do to you?"

She snuggled into my shoulder, "Let's just say he wasn't exactly charming."

"For the sake of my baby, I won't repeat it."

That made me more curious.

"I doubt a few words would corrupt my child."

Christine pulled away, her eyes melancholic, "You're just nosy."

I laughed, "Then spill the beans."

She leaned against the doorframe, her long lashes casting shadows, looking more somber than I had ever seen her. "Forget it, I don't want to know anymore."

It was clear Dailey had said something hurtful, and making her relive it by recounting would be too painful.

"Drink your ginger tea."

Christine sipped on it and noticed me holding a medicine pot, asking, "What's wrong with you?"

"It's nothing." I shared my visit to the clinic and meeting Abdul, "I couldn't help it. Had to take some medication."

Christine poked my forehead, "I told you I'd check on you, but you refused, making Gregory and Dailey upset me instead."

I apologized, "I was just worried about your safety. If Gregory could get trapped, what about you?"

"I've never seen Gregory compromise before."

Christine disagreed, "You're overstating it. If someone used you to threaten him, he'd surrender in a heartbeat."

"Even if it meant kneeling."

I was at a loss for words, "I was thinking of you."

"Yes, you're right. He'd do anything

I

now I only have to worry

If you went, I'd worry

about you both." Content

"That might render my medication useless."

Christine fell silent, finishing her ginger tea before speaking, "Let it be. I'm done chasing. It is what it is."

"As long as you're okay. Otherwise, Gregory would come back and tear me apart."

I assured, "Don't worry. I won't let him lay a finger on you."

The moment Dailey's plane landed and he turned off flight mode, his phone was bombarded with work calls and messages.

There were also messages from Gregory asking if he'd landed.

However, the one person who usually bombarded him with messages hadn't sent a single one.

He replied to Gregory, then with a

nonchalant expression, phis and headed to the hole int

where Gregory was staying

Content

Gregory received Jane's message just as Dailey walked in.

He raised an eyebrow slightly.

"Tough journey?" Gregory greeted.

Dailey took a seat next to him, grabbed a bottle of wine from the coffee table, and downed it in one go.

Gregory mocked without mercy, "So much for stopping her. Ended up going your separate ways, huh?" Dailey loosened his shirt collar, feeling stifled.

"Traveling thousands of miles to rescue you, and this is the thanks I get?"

Gregory spread his hands, "What do you want? I poured you a fine wine as welcome."

Dailey leaned back, closing his eyes, clearly not in the mood for a chat.

Gregory nudged him, "You don't even like her. Maybe it's for the best you went separate ways."

"Saves you from stringing her along and me from potential trouble."

Dailey opened his eyes, "Since when did I say I didn't like..."

Catching the teasing look in Gregory's eyes, he stopped.

Rubbing his temples, Dailey grumbled, "Stop enjoying my misery."

Gregory slapped his shoulder hard, "That's not important. What matters is our bet on who gets married first. After today's stunt, you're definitely losing." Content

Dailey was also frustrated, "Who was I doing it for? Ungrateful."

Gregory clicked his tongue, "Who else but for her safety? But calling her a dog, that was uncalled for. Really, how rude."

Dailey was speechless.

He was seriously reconsidering his rescue mission.

Chapter 623

On the rooftop of a high-end downtown hotel, a helicopter touched down gracefully. A team of men in slick black suits disembarked in a disciplined manner, followed by Josiah. The last to emerge was a man with sun-kissed curls and piercing blue eyes, his skin pallid as though untouched by sunlight, yet his lips were a stark, captivating red, adding an almost bewitching allure to his appearance. Dressed in an impeccable white suit, he exuded an air of elegance that was hard to ignore.

"Boss Samuel, I must remind you again, Gregory is no easy target," one of the men cautioned.

Samuel's response was a smile, his charm almost devilish, "I'm only getting more intrigued by him."

Gregory, who'd come from Dailey, was sprawled on the couch with his legs crossed, a sly grin on his lips as he texted someone.

"I did some digging before we got here. The local mob doesn't exactly have a reputation for loyalty. Don't get too comfortable," Dailey warned. Gregory, unfazed, didn't even bother to look up. "You'll handle it. I need to head back early."

"To celebrate Thanksgiving with Jane."

Dailey let out a sigh, his advice seemingly falling on deaf ears again.

"Gregory."

Lucius approached, "They've arrived."

Josiah and Samuel were right behind him.

At that moment, Gregory put away his phone, his demeanor shifting instantly from warm to ice-cold.

If the situation hadn't been so tense, Dailey might have applauded Gregory's swift change from genial to glacial.

Gregory's gaze shifted to Josiah, his tone nonchalant, "I might have underestimated you."

Josiah, no longer the timid figure he was in Gregory's presence, issued a veiled threat, "Mr. Ford, it's always wise to leave some room for maneuver. Otherwise, it's a path of mutual destruction."

Gregory's reply was a cold scoff, "I should have fed you to the sharks instead of sparing you, so you wouldn't be here threatening me now." Josiah countered, "Had you not pushed me, we wouldn't be here. Your ruthless methods have made you many enemies, inviting retaliation." Gregory remained unfazed, "The person is yours, but the Myers family's fortune needs to be handed over."

"I see you've grown close to the Norman family; you surely don't need that money now."

Despite their decline, the Myers were still a notable family in Vista Town, their wealth, though not as vast as some, was considerable.

Josiah's alliance with Samuel had been a matter of convenience, a timely hospital admission saving his father. But that debt had been repaid, especially after their failed attempt on Gregory, which had led to negotiations involving Pearl and Dorothy. Content

"The Myers fortune is the lifeline for my family abroad. How could I possibly give it up?"

Josiah masked his thoughts, mocking Gregory, "Mr. Ford, do you still not see the situation? You're in no position to negotiate." Gregory's eyes gleamed with derision, "Is that so?"

His calm infuriated Josiah. Even in the face of danger, Gregory exuded an unflappable confidence that Josiah could only pretend to match. "Where are my wife and kids?"

Josiah didn't want to prolong the conversation, confident in Samuel's support, "This isn't Vista Town. The mob doesn't deal in favors."

But Gregory was an anomaly, his demeanor relaxed as he casually inquired, "Your wife and kids?"

Previously, Josiah had no choice but to feign indifference to protect Pearl and Dorothy, hoping they'd understand his intentions. Now, he was here to save them.

"Gregory, look around. Your arrogance will lead you nowhere here but to a dead end!"

Gregory, unbothered, simply cleaned his ear, "Let's see if you can make good on that threat."

The sudden clap of hands broke the tension.

Gregory didn't even glance in the direction of the sound.

Samuel, with his gaze fixed on Gregory, seemed almost fascinated, making Gregory visibly uncomfortable.

Lucius, always keen on Gregory's

moods, quickly steered the conversation back, "Our terms are simple. The Myers' fortune for Pearl and her daughter. Take it or leave it." Content

Josiah couldn't fathom Gregory's confidence.

"Look at the situation. I'll say it again; you have no room to negotiate. Hand over my family."

"Quiet," Samuel interjected, silencing Josiah like a rooster caught mid-crow.

Samuel then turned to Gregory, his tone playful yet foreign, mispronouncing Gregory's name with an odd charm.

Gregory felt a wave of revulsion. His name, when uttered by Samuel, seemed tainted.

Dailey, initially worried for Gregory,

now found himself engrossed in the unfolding drama, amused by the

vel

peculiar turn of events. Gregory

always a man for trouble,

seemed to have attracted an

unusual admirer in Samuel. Content

Gregory's glare towards Dailey, filled with icy daggers, seemed to wish him a thousand painful ends.

Chapter 624

Dailey casually lifted his glass, swirling the drink with a leisurely air.

Ah, this is getting interesting.

Gregory was at his limit.

He couldn't stand the revulsion any longer and broke the silence. It was directed at Josiah.

"Your family's fortune for your wife and kids, take it or leave it."

Josiah couldn't believe his ears.

But his response was cut off by Samuel, "You're quite the character, huh?"

Gregory felt a chill crawl up his spine.

He hadn't expected the mafia to stoop to such lows.

No wonder they were in decline.

It was all about holding a strategic position.

Back home, they'd have been reformed by now.

"I like you, and I need someone like you. Join me, and rule this side of town. Whatever you want, you got it."

Josiah wanted to speak but was afraid of offending Samuel, feeling utterly choked up.

It was only because of the Norman family's years of influence that a fool like Samuel could ever dream of being the boss.

Gregory couldn't sit still any longer, he subtly signaled with his fingers.

His men appeared in an instant, surrounding Samuel and his crew.

The hotel's living room suddenly felt cramped.

Samuel spread his hands, "So, we're done talking?"

Gregory not only refused to talk but also wanted to silence him completely.

"Lucius."

Lucius presented the property agreement to Josiah.

Josiah couldn't possibly sign, "Boss Samuel, I'll go find my wife and kids, you handle things here."

Samuel gave Gregory a hopeful look, "Really, you're not considering joining us?"

Gregory clenched his jaw, his disgust evident.

In a flash, he launched a kick at Samuel.

The spacious living room plunged into chaos.

Lucius shielded Gregory, and Dailey joined the fray.

The hotel's management dared not intervene.

Gunshots echoed one after another.

Eventually, the police arrived.

"Put down your weapons!"

The officers separated the two groups, but Gregory was nowhere to be found.

...

The next day was Thanksgiving.

I finished breakfast early and texted Gregory, asking when he might arrive.

He replied near noon, confirming he'd be there by evening. I started preparing dinner with Mrs. Johnson.

During this time, Ramona video called me.

"Look, I'm baking pumpkin pies for Thanksgiving. Come pick them up this weekend."

Seeing Ramona so happy made me feel better too.

"Sure."

After a moment, she asked, "You seem a bit pale, are you alright?"

I touched my face, smiling, "It's just the lighting, I'm fine, don't worry."

"Has Gregory not returned from abroad?"

"He said he'd be back tonight."

"Alright then, I'm busy here. Take care of yourself, and don't hide anything from me."

"I won't."

After hanging up, I went to the bathroom to check my reflection.

Indeed, I looked paler than usual.

Touching my belly, I whispered, "Sorry, baby, for the tough times."

"Can he understand you?"

Startled, I looked up to see Gregory approaching, tears uncontrollably streaming down my face.

Gregory sighed, wiping my tears, "Forgot what Mr. Abdul said?"

"I'm here now, why the tears?"

I reached for his shirt, but he sidestepped.

He gently held my face, "I'm starving, can we eat first?"

I thought Gregory's return would lift my spirits, but I barely touched my food.

I needed to know what had happened, if he was hurt.

Seeing me distracted, Gregory sighed, "It's hard for me to eat like this."

"Then eat later."

I tried again to check under his shirt.

This time, he let me, revealing bandages around his abdomen.

The stark red staining the white bandages was shocking.

"I knew you were lying!"

Gregory quickly embraced me, soothing, "I didn't want to worry you while I was away. I didn't mean to

deceive or hide it from you. I told you
as soon as I got back, didn't I?"

Content

"Stop crying, it'll only make your eyes sore."

I couldn't stop the tears, "How could this happen? You're always so cautious."

Gregory gently explained, "The Ford

Group needed a new direction. I suspected the partnership might be a trap, but I had no
proof until

arrived."

"I figured, since I was already abroad, I should confront whoever was baiting me."

"Besides, not knowing Josiah's

moves was unsettling. People

him, lurking

in the shadows, arget

always trouble."

"Now that you're pregnant, I thought it best to approach things more gently."

I understood, "You used yourself as bait."

Gregory wiped away my tears with his rough fingers and said, "Pretty clever."

I pushed his hand away, saying, "Stop joking. Knowing it was a trap, how could you let
yourself get so hurt?"

"It's not serious, just a bit of bleeding from the flight. It'll heal in a couple of days."

I didn't believe him, "We're going to the hospital."

Gregory knew he couldn't avoid it and obediently followed me.

When Dr. Andrews unwrapped the bandages, I was horrified.

Chapter 625

"Greg!"

Gregory hurriedly responded, "I'm here."

I was both angry and heartbroken.

He smiled at me, even though beads of sweat had formed on the tip of his nose.

When Dr. Andrews was treating his wound, I saw him wince.

He was trying to bear it, but some reactions are just involuntary.

I turned away, unable to bear watching him in pain and admittedly, a bit upset.

Gregory signaled Dr. Andrews to hurry up.

Once Dr. Andrews had skillfully finished up, he left Gregory and me alone in the room.

Gregory grabbed my hand, but I pulled away, only to hear him hiss in pain. I immediately turned back, "You okay?" "Never better."

Gregory wrapped his arms around my waist, pulling me into a hug.

I was about to protest when I heard his hoarse voice, "Jane, it hurts."

I froze, knowing all too well this was one of his schemes.

"Serves you right."

"Yeah." Gregory played along, "I deserve it."

"Then stop being mad, and take care of me, okay?"

"I'm so pitiful."

Fine.

Seeing I didn't respond, Gregory nuzzled into my neck, like a big dog seeking its owner's comfort.

It wasn't anger I felt, but deep concern.

Now, how could I resist him? I looked up at him, "No more next times."

"Deal, I promise."

Afterward, we headed home together.

Dinner was unsatisfying, so we picked up some pastries on the way back.

I bit into a pistachio pastry Gregory offered, asking, "Lucius hasn't returned?"

"He's dealing with the aftermath with Dailey," Gregory replied truthfully.

I paused, "There's something I need to tell you."

Before I could continue, he guessed, "Advise Christine not to put all her eggs in one basket."

"Stop it, you just want to win that bet about who gets married first."

Gregory hugged me closer, laughing, "How can I ever keep anything from you? But, I've been wondering."

"What?" I asked.

"Whenever someone spoke ill of Christine, you'd defend her. Why didn't you say anything this time when Dailey crossed the line?"

I pursed my lips, "Because I know Dailey didn't want Christine to move abroad. I didn't want that either. You getting hurt shows how dangerous it can be."

"Exceptional circumstances call for exceptional measures."

"But Dailey did hurt Christine, and she's decided to stop chasing him."

"You must be thrilled, your bet looks like a win."

As soon as I finished speaking, he raised an eyebrow, a smile playing on his lips, "Are you proposing to me?"

Shameless!

On the weekend, Gregory and I visited the Myers family.

Ramona was already waiting at the door with apple pies.

"You look much better today."

She glanced at Gregory, "Indeed, love is the best medicine."

"Once you returned, she recovered."

"Ramona..."

I was embarrassed, as if I couldn't live without Gregory.

Though, it seemed somewhat true.

"It was Dr. Brown's medicine. His expertise is commendable."

Ramona didn't burst my bubble, "As long as you're well, that's all that matters."

She handed me the pie, "Just seeing you eases my mind, go on now."

"Alright."

I knew Ramona was aware of my reluctance to see Victor.

Seeing her well also put me at ease.

After exchanging a few more words, Gregory and I left.

Upon returning to Elmwood Villas, we saw Lucius, whom we hadn't seen in days.

"Gregory, everything's been taken care of."

Lucius glanced at me, hesitating, "Jane..."

Gregory gave him a cold look, "What, you forgot how to speak English after a few days abroad?"

Lucius stumbled over his words, "Uh, Mr. Clarkson, well, got a bit hurt."

Gregory immediately understood, "Serious?"

Lucius pondered, to lie to me on Gregory's behalf and risk my anger, or to be honest and face Gregory's. But my anger was decidedly more daunting.

"Not serious, but he's hospitalized. Maybe he's waiting for someone to visit."

Gregory drew out his response with a "Hmm."

I observed their performance silently.

After Lucius said his piece, he quickly excused himself.

Gregory and I locked eyes for a moment before he asked, "Should we tell her?"

I inquired, "If I say no, will you keep it from me?"

Gregory nodded, "Of course, I always listen to my wife."

I teased him, "Who's your wife?"

Following his trip abroad, Gregory started spending more time at home.

He never missed an appointment for the pregnancy checkups and

brought as much work

sible. Content belongs t

This, however, led to a slight inconvenience.

SWO

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While I appreciated his company, it left me with no time to work on the wedding dress design.

Under Christine's urging, I had begun a draft.

But I didn't want him to find out just yet.

Morning sickness got worse, halting the dress design process.

By the third month, my mom called.

"Sweetie, I've finally cleared my schedule and can start planning the party."

I was confused, "What party?"

"Your party, of course!"

Then it hit me.

My mom was preparing to announce my parentage publicly.

I knew she had been waiting for this day for a long time.

I, too, wanted everyone to know I was her daughter, so she could attend

my wedding openly as

swno

Content

I smiled, "Great, when?"

"After October, wait for my update."

Calculating the time, I knew she was planning to meticulously handle everything herself.

Chapter 626

The anticipation was thick in the air, almost palpable.

The day of the gala had dawned surprisingly bright and clear, a stark contrast to the dreary, rain-soaked days that had preceded it. Vista Town's elite and a smattering of celebrities usually glimpsed only on screen graced the event, making the hotel's entrance a parade of luxury cars and eager reporters.

Catching sight of the cameras, I couldn't help but express my amazement, "My mom really went all out with this."

Beside me, Gregory nonchalantly agreed, "Yeah, the scale of this thing is kind of stressing me out."

I thought he shared my sentiment until he added, "Makes me think I'll have to go even bigger for our wedding."

I was speechless.

I sneaked in through the back door into the green room.

Bella's eyes lit up when she saw me. "My daughter looks stunning."

Despite my excitement, nerves tingled through me.

Feeling the sweat in my palms, she guided me to sit down on a couch. "Take a breather. Ivy will come fetch you when it's your turn."

I nodded.

Before leaving, Bella turned to Gregory, saying, "Try to calm her down a bit, will you? She's still pregnant, and even at three months, we can't have her getting too stressed."

"Of course, Bella."

Gregory settled next to me after Bella left.

He asked, "Want me to say anything in particular?"

"I don't even know..."

"Okay."

Suddenly, he knelt in front of me, "I've been trying to comfort you all morning with no luck. It's hard to control physiological responses."

"But, I might have a slightly unconventional solution."

Intrigued and too preoccupied to question his logic, I went along with it, believing in him.

"What's the plan?"

"I could propose to you."

As the guests seated themselves in the banquet hall and the reporters found their spots, the flash of cameras was blinding when Bella took the stage.

"I'm sure you've all heard the rumors. When I initially denied any relationship with Summer Taylor, your curiosity was piqued."

"Here, I'd like to clarify..."

Bella exposed Pearl's past misdeeds and how Summer deceived her, preventing her from recognizing her own daughter.

Being a well-known actress, her tears flowed on cue, enhancing the emotional impact of her speech. She chose a subdued gown for the occasion, willingly playing the supporting role to her daughter.

Her heartfelt delivery moved many in the audience to tears.

However, among the crowd of journalists, a masked woman's eyes gleamed with malice.

...

When Christine came to fetch me, Gregory had stepped out to take a call.

Surveying me, Christine teased, "What's with the flushed ears?"

I rolled my eyes. "It's nothing. He just brought up proposing out of the blue."

"Proposing? He did?!"

"Not exactly."

I muttered under my breath, "He always mentions it in passing, but never follows through."

"Your man doesn't seem the type to back down."

Christine began analyzing, "You mean so much to him, so proposing has become a big deal. Probably nerves."

"It's not like running a company with a blueprint to follow."

"He wants the proposal to be unique, just for you."

Hearing this, I nodded, "You're good at analyzing others' relationships. When it comes to your own though..."

I realized too late I had touched a sore spot.

Christine's expression dimmed

slightly, which made me feel guilty. "Dailey's hurt. He probably wanted you to visit. I didn't tell you because after last time, I didn't want you to feel obligated." Content

"I've already been to the hospital."

Christine's tone was light, "Not because I knew he was injured. I was there on other business and heard, so I stopped by."

A hint of scorn crossed her face,

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"Unfortunately, I saw him with his sweetheart by his side, feeding him apples, looking very cozy. Must be his old flame." Content

Trying to appear unaffected, I could sense her hurt and offered a comforting hand.

"It's my fault; I've been neglecting you."

If Dailey was playing games, then was time to move on. "We don't need someone who keeps us
vel

hanging while having someone else in their heart." Content

Christine raised an eyebrow, "Exactly. It's not like I'm short on options if I wanted someone who's attentive and understanding."

"Let's not dwell on this. Today's about you being happy."

Knock, knock-

As we spoke, someone knocked on the door.

Christine opened it.

"Ivy."

With a smile, Ivy announced, "Jane, you're up."

Following Ivy, I prepared to make my entrance.

Gregory, having finished his call, reassured me, "Go ahead, I'll be right there in the audience."

"Okay." I nodded.

"And now, let me introduce my biological daughter to you all."

As Bella spoke, the grand doors of the banquet hall opened.

Under the watchful gaze of many, I caught my grandmother's loving look and smiled back, offering a small wave in return.

Her gesture eased my nerves as I confidently approached my mother.

Just then, a shrill voice pierced the air.

"Jane, just die!"

Chapter 627

Bang-

The scream pierced the air simultaneously with the sound of an explosion.

Instantly, the ballroom descended into chaos.

Instinctively, I shielded my belly, bracing for the inevitable impact, only to find myself caught in a familiar, comforting embrace. "Gregory-"

The scent of burning filled my nostrils as another explosion erupted, sending people scattering in every direction.

"My God, it's sulfuric acid!"

The surrounding screams only heightened the panic, making it impossible for Gregory and me to move through the frantic crowd.

Summer, completely unhinged, showed no regard for those around her.

Some were splashed with the acid, causing utter mayhem.

Just as Summer charged at me, Lucius burst through the crowd, restraining her but not without sustaining burns himself. "Jane, you alright?"

I forced myself to remain calm. "I'm fine, but we need to get Gregory to the hospital now!"

Dr. Andrews and Abdul joined us in our car, rushing Gregory to the emergency room while I fought off waves of dizziness.

"Jane!"

Christine caught me as I nearly collapsed, having not even checked on her safety earlier. But before I could inquire, she screamed for a doctor. The rest became a blur, overwhelmed by noise until darkness claimed me.

When I awoke, I wasn't in a hospital.

My first instinct was to touch my belly, relieved to feel my unborn child still safe within.

I got up from the bed, finding myself in what seemed like a cabin on a cruise ship.

Before I could piece everything together, the door swung open.

I defensively grabbed the blanket, but was shocked by the person who entered.

"How can it be you?!"

...

Hospital.

After an intense rescue operation, Gregory was out of danger, but his back suffered severe burns that would likely scar. However, that wasn't even the worst of today's events.

"Have they found her yet?"

Christine was frantic, "I saw her enter the ER. How could she just vanish?"

Dailey had already initiated a search, and Lucius, despite his injuries, was handling the situation.

If Jane wasn't found before Gregory regained consciousness, he'd surely lose his mind.

Dailey, witnessing Christine's desperation, said, "Try to calm down..."

"How can

be calm?!" Christine's

eyes were bloodshot. "You shouldn't have pulled me away. If I had saved Jane, Gregory wouldn't be in this situation, and she wouldn't have disappeared!" Content

Dailey's expression darkened, "If I hadn't pulled you away, you would've been crushed by that chandelier."

"Can you two stop fighting?" Edith, her carefully chosen gown and meticulously done hair now in

disarray, interjected. "Arguin el.nét

won't

change what's happened." Content

"What's more pressing is figuring out how to explain this to Gregory."

Herbert draped his jacket over Edith, having just come from Bella's room where she was now stable.

As the brother of Bella, the host of today's ill-fated ball, Herbert had to manage the aftermath.

"Call me if there's any news," Herbert said as he prepared to leave.

Edith nodded, "Ike still hasn't woken up."

Herbert replied, "Given today's chaos, I need to be there. Call me once Ike wakes."

The storm clouds gathered ominously, the sea mirroring the tumultuous sky.

Aboard the ship, the situation was no less turbulent.

Struggling with seasickness on top of everything else, I clutched a trash bin, retching until I saw stars.

Then, a bottle of water appeared before me. I knew who it was from and refused it.

Yet, he didn't desist, unscrewing the cap and bringing it to my lips.

I turned away, and as the ship lurched, water spilled everywhere.

"Jane."

His voice was all too familiar, but it only intensified the turmoil within me.

It was Mark, the man I had once trusted above all.

My refusal to accept the water didn't deter him. He wiped his hands and approached, no longer kind-hearted facade I

"Don't come any closer!"

I hurled the nearest object at him, but he dodged easily, grabbing my chin forcefully.

He leaned in, his obsession clear in his eyes. "I don't love you any less than he does... No, I love you even more."

I tried to escape his grip, careful not to harm my unborn child.

"Let go!"

Chapter 628

Mark lowered his head, his breath warm against my skin. In a panic, I covered his mouth with my hand. The next thing I knew, something warm and wet landed in my palm. My stomach churned.

"Ugh-"

Mark finally let me go, and I wrapped my arms around the trash can again. But I had nothing left to throw up, just bile, and my throat burned with pain. I wouldn't dare drink the water here, so I just endured.

Gregory would surely send someone to look for me, not to mention my uncle and mom. They'd all be searching. I wouldn't have to stay here long. Mark eyed me. "Jane."

My mind raced for a solution. Then suddenly, he pressed a hand against my stomach, and I tried to back away, but he held me firmly in place.

"Jane, I'm keeping this baby because the doctor said your body can't handle an abortion, especially not with the medical resources we have on this ship. It's too risky."

"So, Jane, don't provoke me."

I couldn't help but tremble, my fingers digging into his wrist until blood seeped out. To my horror, this excited Mark further. I realized just how insane he was.

For the sake of the baby, I had no choice but to comply. "Please, don't hurt my baby."

Mark withdrew his hand, disgust crossing his face as he glanced at my stomach. "Once we reach my place, this child won't be staying."

Panic seized me. "No, you can't do that. This is my child!"

Mark laughed, then suddenly softened his voice. "Want to keep it?"

I knew he was going to threaten me, but I had no other options. "What do you want?"

"Only your love," he said, his gaze filled with faux tenderness.

...

Gregory woke up sooner than expected, which meant Herbert hadn't finished his part. Dailey and Lucius hadn't found any trace of Jane yet. Christine was waiting outside Gregory's hospital room, and Edith was nearby, both anxious.

Christine was about to get some

coffee to calm their nerves when Gregory's door swung open. She turned, her heart racing at the sight of Gregory's pale face. Content

"You're awake..."

Despite his sickly appearance, Gregory's presence was as intimidating as ever. "Where's Jane?"

Christine quickly told him the truth, hoping he could find Jane faster.

"Gregory."

Dailey interrupted, out of breath. "Ramona has passed away."

"What?" Gregory was shocked, but his emotions were controlled. Christine, on the other hand, was visibly shaken.

"Victor too."

The news added to the gravity of the

situation, but Gregory was more

concerned about Jane. Dailey

reported that Lucius, despite being injured by sulfuric acid, was still

searching for her.

Gregory was mulling over something when Ike arrived, limping. "It's that man who wanted to take Jane away!"

"What?" Gregory didn't understand at first.

Ike clarified, "Mr. Larson, the one who brought that dog home. He took Jane!"

Dailey was shocked, "You saw Mark?"

Ike nodded vigorously, "I saw it with my own eyes!"

Edith was unaware of this. Ike had been unconscious during the explosion, and it was only in the emergency room that he saw Jane being taken away.

Gregory's suspicions were confirmed, but Dailey was bewildered. "How could he have survived? The chemical plant was destroyed."

Gregory just looked at him, his expression unreadable.

This was more than Dailey could comprehend. The idea that Mark could have escaped from such a disaster and taken Jane was beyond belief, yet Ike was certain of what he saw. The mystery of Mark's survival and his intentions with Jane deepened, leaving them all in a state of urgency and concern. Content

Chapter 629

Gregory's guilt was palpable, a heavy weight on his shoulders.

"It's my fault, I admit it."

"Now you decide to admit it?"

Gregory hobbled back to his hospital room, his forehead beading with cold sweat with every step he took. The sweat seeped through his bandages, turning his lips a ghostly shade of white from the pain.

Dailey trailed behind him, "I'll find her, Gregory. And I'll bring her back safe and sound. You need to stay put though; with that wound, any infection could be serious, you might even die."

But Gregory was hardly listening. He paced the room once before asking, "Where's my phone?"

Knowing how stubborn Gregory was, Dailey handed it over without further persuasion.

Gregory immediately dialed Lucius.

Lucius, already feeling culpable for a mishap at the chemical plant, was desperate for a chance to redeem himself.

And now, this.

Mistake upon mistake.

"Gregory," Lucius answered.

"Any leads?" Gregory's voice was urgent.

"I've checked everything - the hospital's CCTV footage has been wiped. I've checked the highways, the airports, the bus stations. Now I'm heading to the docks," Lucius reported.

Gregory let out a bitter laugh. The plan was meticulously executed; even the hospital's surveillance had been tampered with. After the previous incident involving his grandmother, the hospital staff had been replaced, yet the perpetrator found a loophole. This wasn't something Mark could've managed alone.

"Check the ports along the border, especially. Focus on Josiah and Norman," Gregory instructed.

Lucius and Dailey had dealt with Josiah and Samuel during their last overseas mission. They were out of the picture now.

Despite his confusion, Lucius agreed. After all, he was in charge of security at the hotel that had been bombed, and he had failed to protect Summer. He felt responsible.

"Gregory, I swear, even if it kills me, I'll bring her back to you," Lucius vowed.

"It was Mark who took her," Gregory revealed, a hint of exhaustion in his voice.

Lucius was stunned. "What did you say?!"

Gregory hung up without repeating himself and started making more calls.

Dailey watched as Gregory's forehead broke out in a fine sweat from the pain of his wounds, feeling a mixture of sympathy and helplessness.

"I can't stop you, but Jane's going to be heartbroken seeing you like this. Take care of yourself for her sake. Whatever needs doing, just tell me, and I'll handle it."

Gregory remained silent, absorbed in his task.

During one of his calls, Gregory asked Christine, "How long have I been out? When did Jane go missing?"

Christine answered truthfully.

Hearing that Jane had been taken to the emergency room bleeding, agony flickered in Gregory's deep eyes. His voice was hoarse as he asked, "Is the baby still there?"

Christine couldn't answer that.

With Jane taken away by Mark under such circumstances, the fate of their child was uncertain.

Gregory read between the lines of Christine's silence, his worst fears seemingly confirmed. He then asked Ike, "Did you see or hear anything else?"

Ike shook his head, tears welling up. "I just saw him take Jane. There was blood on her..."

His voice broke, "Uncle, you're so strong. Please save Jane. She was bleeding so much... I'm worried."

Gregory's heart was heavy with worry, more for Jane's safety than anything else.

"Dad!"

The room fell into a tense silence until Ike suddenly shouted.

Herbert approached Gregory, "Ramona and Victor are gone. Jane's missing, and the Myers family is without its members. You need to make a decision. Whether to cremate them or keep them in the morgue until Jane returns. Content

The day was shrouded in gloom, the relentless rain outside seeming never to cease.

As night fell, the city was plunged into damp darkness.

Cut off from the world in Vista Town,

without my phone, and no clock in the room, I couldn't tell the time. The sea was just a dark expanse through the small window. Content

on

It wasn't until Mark brought me dinner that I guessed it was evening.

"Aren't you going to eat?"

I didn't trust Mark. I wouldn't even drink water he gave me, let alone eat his food.

Seeing through my thoughts, Mark said, "It doesn't matter to me. Worst case, we'll just hook you up to an IV. I never wanted to keep the bastard child anyway." Content

I couldn't let my child starve, but if the food was tampered with, it would only make things worse.

Caught between a rock and a hard place, my hatred for Mark deepened.

Meeting my furious gaze, Mark just laughed.

"Starve then," he said coldly, leaving the room.

I leaned against the headboard, looking out the window, my hand resting on my belly, certain of one thing - Gregory would find me. And it wouldn't be

long.

Gregory had scoured the entirety of Vista Town, the docks, and the border ports included, but to no avail.

Despite advice to the contrary, Gregory left the hospital to personally visit each port.

Unable to deter him, Dailey had Dr. Andrews and his team follow with all the necessary medical equipment, just in case.

Five hours had passed since Jane went missing, and with each passing minute, her danger increased.

"Lucius, get the boat ready."

Lucius was no better off, soaked to the bone from the incessant rain, his burns sticking to his clothes. But he couldn't afford to complain or rest. "Gregory, let's board the boat."

Chapter 630

After Gregory headed up, the rest of the crew followed suit.

Christine was still donned in her evening gown. It was fine on land, but once the boat started moving, the chilly sea breeze mixed with rain made her shiver.

Dailey offered his jacket, but she refused.

"Gregory."

Lucius approached, handing over a cell phone, "It's Samuel on the line."

A flash of murderous intent crossed Gregory's eyes as he took the call, yet remained silent.

Samuel, however, seemed to enjoy Gregory's demeanor, full of attitude.

"Let her go. Just come to me, be one of mine, and I assure you, your lady won't be harmed."

It was indeed related to him.

He knew it; how could Mark come up with such a flawless plan alone.

He had been careless not to deal with Summer sooner.

Thinking that without Mark, that usurper wouldn't have the means to stir up trouble.

Gregory's voice, cold as the sea wind, broke the silence, "Since you're so eager to meet your Maker, I'll be generous and send you on your way to meet God."

Samuel laughed as if he heard the joke of the century, unable to stop.

"Gregory, you might be a big deal in Vista Town, but you can't just kill me whenever you wish."

"I'm giving you ten minutes. If you keep up this tough act, you'll never see her again in your life."

Gregory hung up.

On the other end, Samuel was baffled, turning to Josiah and asked, "Didn't you say capturing her would make him fall in line?"

Josiah was equally puzzled.

He knew how much Gregory cared for Jane.

And from what he'd learned from Mark, Jane was pregnant.

Under such circumstances, why wouldn't Gregory compromise?

"Mark was your man?"

This was news to Josiah; Mark had been in cahoots with Samuel all along. The escape plan had been concocted knowing about Jane's pregnancy.

Even drawing Gregory into Samuel's territory was part of Mark's plan.

He had thought Mark lost his mind over love, self-destructing for Jane. Little did he realize, Mark had a backup plan.

This scheming was on par with Gregory's.

But they couldn't underestimate Gregory.

Even with Jane taken, his arrogance was unusual.

Josiah suggested, "Maybe have Mark send a short video to Gregory."

Samuel caught on, dialing Mark.

...

Mark thought, for the baby's sake, Jane would eat something.

But she refused.

He waited a long time, reheating the food over and over, even making new dishes, but she never begged him.

As midnight approached, he saw through the surveillance that she hadn't even had a sip of water.

Earlier, she had been so ill.

Her face was devoid of color, looking as if she might pass away any moment.

In the end, he couldn't bear it, unable to watch her suffer.

But just as he was about to serve the food, his phone rang.

During the pregnancy, Zoe had taken care of me meticulously, meals served on the dot.

After going without food for so long, I was starving.

If this continued, even if the baby was fine, I might not last.

I wondered if Gregory had found any trace of me yet.

I couldn't just sit and wait; I had to think of something.

Suddenly, the door to the room was pushed open from the outside.

I didn't need to look to know it was Mark.

I didn't want to speak, only to curse him. But that would only provoke him.

He was a complete lunatic.

"Jane."

I pretended not to hear, my gaze fixed outside the window.

Mark grabbed my arm, pinning me to the bed.

I shielded my belly with my other hand, trying to break free from his grasp.

Realizing it was futile, I pleaded, "Please, don't hurt my child..."

"If you don't harm it, I'll do anything you say."

Force wouldn't work; I had to try a softer approach.

To buy as much time as possible.

Gregory must be on his way to rescue me.

"You'd do anything?"

A chill ran down my spine; this was beyond my control.

Mark tightened his grip on my arm, "Jane, you're lying."

If it weren't for the baby, I would have fought back.

Even if it meant both of us getting hurt, at least no one would get what they wanted.

But now, I couldn't gamble with my child's life.

"My instincts might be

uncontrollable, but I'm sincere.

listen to you." Content bel

long as you don't harm my child, I'll

to

"If that's the case." Mark let me go pulling out his phone. "Let's video.

Wovels

I was wary, not understanding his intention.

"What kind of video?"

a

swnove

Mark's smile held a different meaning. "Just a kiss from
record it and show Gregory very

Content

I couldn't fulfill that request.

But showing Gregory... It might be an opportunity.

"Okay." I agreed.

Mark seemed surprised by my quick agreement.

"You plan to signal Gregory in the video, don't you?"

I only asked, "Will you record it?"

Mark's hand holding the phone trembled violently.

It looked like excitement beyond control.

I wasn't sure if Mark truly liked me or if it was something else.

Given the chance, I couldn't miss it.