

Justice For Juniper

Chapter 71 – Juniper and Phineas Novel

“And in taking care of her, the way you did almost all your life because he wasn’t around, gave you the attention and affection you craved as a child. In turn, it makes you feel good, needed, wanted, when you are performing service acts.”

Juniper was listening to the back-and-forth conversation and one thing which stood out to her was no matter how uncomfortable the conversation felt to any of them, they were still being incredibly respectful to one another. There was no anger or malice and while it was clear Phineas felt incredibly embarrassed they were discussing this so openly, he wasn’t backing down from the conversation. Instead, they were all talking back and forth, accepting the emotional component, and listening to everyone’s opinion respectfully.

“You really love each other,” the comment spilled from her lips before she could stop it.

Adil’s hand was midway to his mouth, and he froze at her words, “come again?”

“You love each other. The three of you love each other. I’ve never seen a dynamic like yours before. Your love and respect is almost tactile.” She opened her mouth as Phineas scooped a morsel of the pasta onto a fork and held it out to her. She chewed while she watched their expressions.

“You’re right, we do love each other,” Phineas countered. “We’re closer than triplets to be honest. I would die for any of them, and I know they would do the same for me.”

“Do you know what though,” Adil said seriously, “you’ve never seen a dynamic like ours and yet, you fluidly slipped right into our midst like you were always part of us.”

She nodded as she swallowed, “I can’t deny it. I feel like this is where I belong.”

“Because it is,” Phineas said simply as he held his wine glass to her to drink.

She sipped from the glass and then looked at him curiously, “you really like this? Feeding me?”

“I do.”

“You dried my hair last night. You like that?”

“I do.”

“It makes you feel good,” she tapped his chest, “in here?”

“Yes.”

“Then I don’t care the reasons behind it. Do what makes you feel good, Phineas. I’m happy to be cared for.”

“Did Kyst tend to you?” the question was quietly asked by Phineas, but she felt it was loaded.

“He did.” She nodded but then took a breath, “however I’ve been realizing all this week, his care was manipulation.”

“How do you mean?”

“As an example, I’d had a dreadful day the day you called me to the office, for obvious reasons. When I got home, I was suffering with a banging headache. He immediately started tending to me. He made most meals anyway but he was waiting on me hand and foot and I think he was doing it so I wouldn’t question his love. He was doing things for me because if everything were taken care of, I wouldn’t ask questions.”

Adil made a face, and she caught it.

“What?”

“Part of what I was doing today was some surveillance on him and Denise ahead of any kind of pushbacks on the divorces. He arrived at the office this morning and found himself the laughingstock as someone posted a photo of Denise on his office door. It seems they found out who she is at his office and are really giving him a tough time for trading down. He decided to take a day off and while he was leaving the office, a client popped in to see him.”

“Who?”

“Interestingly enough it was the person you mentioned this morning who used him as her lawyer when she was buying and selling her condo.”

“Did she look like Denise?”

“Nope but she is incredibly wealthy I think. However, the hug they shared lingered too long. They stood talking for a long time in his company parking lot.”

“Did they leave together?” she felt strangely numb.

“No but it was clear they were far closer than a guy who managed a woman’s really contract. When I bought my condo,” Adil shrugged, “I can tell you I spent no more than an hour with my lawyer over it.”

“If it was a client who was a flipper,” Beni offered, “who was buying and selling multiple properties frequently and used him as the lawyer every time, they may have more conversations, but I don’t think this was the case?”

“No. It wasn’t. She was originally from Montreal and wanted to move back and sold her place here and bought one there. He needed to get special licensing to do his work in Quebec and prove he was bilingual. It was part of the reason he was given her as the client because he can speak French quite well.”

“Well,” Beni said quietly, “there is something else I wanted to talk to you about but just so you know, he filed for mediation and demanded a meeting. He’s filed a counter to your divorce petition citing you are being coerced to do what Phineas wants.”

“You’re kidding me.”

“No.”

“I have to sit with him?”

“You will sit with me across from him,” Beni shook his head, “but we’re hoping to surprise him in the mediation with the evidence of his other affair.”

“You believe me then? You think he cheated too?”

“I wasn’t sure to be honest because he flat out said to Denise he’d never done such a thing before and why would he lie to her given how much clearly was only using her?”

“Maybe lying is his schtick,” Phineas offered as he wiped the corner of Juniper’s mouth. “Maybe he’s been lying to everyone for so long he believes his own horseshit.”

“My guys are watching this woman to see if he shows up to her hotel. It simply seemed serendipitous that she showed up while his marriage is imploding. He either called her, or she has shared acquaintances who let her know he was a free man. We’ll find out everything.” Adil said seriously, “and if we can prove he’s been in more than one affair and he keeps pushing, we’ll subpoena both Denise and this woman Claire, to the stand.” He looked at Beni, “did I say it right?”

“You did.” Beni laughed as he reached out and squeezed Juniper’s hand, “you’re going to be fine, Juniper and do you know why?”