

# A Love Forgotten (Arianna and Elijah)

## Chapter 191

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Any woman would've softened and lost their rationality at such a sincere request

"AL" Logan came closer as deep-set eyes narrowed, pinning me mesmerizing and dangerously alluring

A sweet scent permeated the air.

I stammered, "W-We can only kiss."

Then he could say "for a second", his sweet lips collided with me.

My breath was taken away. Then, all I could do was

1. I was Logan's crazily handsome face and his slightly open neckline.

The kiss lasted for a long time. We were kissing when we separated

I stuttered. "I could only for a second."

Logan smiled cheekily "So, the kiss wasn't long enough, huh?"

He came close to me again, but I quickly stopped him

"Let's not kiss anymore. We'll waste more time"

Logan elegantly laughed and caressed my hair. "Okay, we'll stop"

suddenly held him and kissed his thin lips. Logan stiffened from my touch

I then proudly returned to my seat. "This is what meant by a second"

Logan was stunned for a moment. Then, he gulped

Intrigued, he looked at me. "You're so cute, Ari"

Embarrassed, I looked at him and urged, "Let's go I want to watch the meteor shower."

Logan nodded. He stepped in the accelerator, and the car zoomed off

So, I threw caution to the wind. My heart pounded wildly.

An hour later, the car stopped by the seaside. The nighttime sea breeze carried a hint of saltiness,

the waves hit the beach profusely,

I stood by the long curved walkway, enjoying the long-awaited sea breeze

The familiar atmosphere brought me memories of my childhood with Grandma in the small fishing village. It had been a long time since I felt so relaxed and free. Logan held my hand, and we strolled casually.

Many couples were strolling by the beach hand-in-hand. They brought the plain beachside a tinge of romance

I stole a glance at Logan. Every time I looked at him, it felt like a dream.

Logan took his suit jacket off and hung it over his arm. He looked astounding with his white shirt and greyish-blue pants. He was tall and slender, carrying an air of

an air of elitism:

As we walked, I noticed a handful of couples stealing glances at him. At least seven to eight couples had looked at him during our short stroll. Yes, they were couples. Both men and women were stealing glances at him. I even noticed a few ladies snapping photos of him. We arrived at a grassy plain on the beach without realizing it

I looked around, and there was no one. Great! This seemed like the perfect spot

Logan nodded. "Okay, I'll grab some stuff from the car."

I felt anxious. "What do you need from the car? Don't panic."

Logan said, "I'll get a mat and water. You must be thirsty."

I was taken aback. I never thought Logan would be so attentive.

He walked a few steps, and I caught up to him when I remembered something "Wait!"

Logan stopped in his tracks. "Don't worry. It's not that far."

I stuttered, "If a woman asks for your number along the way, don't give it to her."

Logan was shocked, "Will there be any?"

Suppressing my anger, I patted him. "Many were staring at you when we made our way here, both men and women. Some even took photos of you."

Logan chuckled "Roger that! I won't give anyone my number"

Then relaxed and let him go. After a while, Logan came with a black bag. I noticed a faint tint of pink and asked, "What is that?"

Logan presented a bouquet of pink rose from his back. He smiled. These are for you!"

I was pleasantly surprised. "Where did you hide them? Why did I not see them in the car?"

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Logan delt helpless. "When I returned, someone actually did stop me. That it wasn't because they wanted my number, which way what you were worried about. Two adorable pirspestered me tobuyoses from them." I was dumbfounded. "Huh? How much did you spend on these?"

Logan pointed at the bouquet of roses. "One rose for ten dollars, twenty tres for 200 dollars."

Dexclaimed in shock as my heart ached to him. "Oh my god, the rest of a rose is less than one dollar. You've been scammed!"

I looked at the bouquet, As expected, the roses were wilted with a few unevenly trimmed stems. This bouquet of roses might have been picked up from the trash and bunched together. That was 200 dollars! This was daylight robbery!

I didn't know whether to laughery. "I got to tell you, lime girls may be selling Homers here. Did they keep bugging you, refusing to let go And they kept convincing you to buy bouquet for your gulliend?" Logan nodded.

My heart ached. "It's 200 dollars, and the flowers aren't that great"

Logan was okay with it. "It's okay. I always thought we missed out on flowers on our first date together."

cand some drinks. A clean mat with coses, a fer bottles of drinks, and macks were placed on the grass in a short while.

I looked at his graciousness and instantly felt like I was dreaming

Logan suddenly laughed. "Actually, we're missing something, but it's on its way."

I asked flatteringly. "What did you order?"

Logan patted the seat beside him, and I leaned over. He wrapped his arm around my shoulder. It felt heavy. My heart started pounding again, I couldn't stop it. I had to admit that I was a hopeless romantic. The sea breeze blew by my ear, and the waves crashed on the beach. The stars above us were glistening in the night sky.

The surrounding seemed to have dimmed, and only the stars above us shone brightly across the place.

I didn't dare move an inch, afraid it was all a dream.

A steady breath sounded in my ear, and my heart palpitated uncontrollably. It seemed like a lot was happening, yet nothing was coming through my

"I was about to break the silence when Logan's phone lit up in his hand.

Curious, I looked over

A suede box was in his hand. The suede box looked intricate, embroidered with myth. I looked at him

He used the flashlight on his phone to shine on the box, signaling me to open it

I couldn't help but laugh after a moment of shock "What is it?"

Logan said "You'll know once you open it \*

My eyes moistened. "You wanted to give me this gift long ago, right?"

Logan tilted his head, thought momentarily, and said, "I guess so."

I cheekily glared at him. "It's either a yes or a no. What do you mean 'you guess so'?"

Logan smiled. "The gift was ready, but I wasn't sure when to give it to you, Coincidentally, I wanted to bring you out tonight, so I brought it."

I pouted and smiled. What a convenient excuse.

He urged, "Open it."

I took the box from him and slowly opened it. The moment I looked at what was in the box, my eyes reddened. My hands trembled slightly as I held the box for a long time. I laughed with tears and said. "You finished it" A pair of emerald bracelets, fixed to perfection, sat in the box, along with a picture of me and Grandma. I took one of the bracelets from the box and looked at it carefully.

Loans the light on them.

The

color of the emerald was fluid and glistening. There was no trace of the crack on the bracelet after restoration

I choked. "This is amazing! It's flawless! How did you do it I couldn't control the tears in my eyes. "How did you do it? And the photo.."

I picked the pup. The rip and fold on it had been restored

If I weren't holding it in my own hand, I wouldn't have noticed that it was a recovered photo

Tears streamed down my face.

Logan sounded gentle hired a professional to do it. Don't worry, I made sure the person did a careful job. It's flawless and won't get damaged easily."

I choked as I leaped into his arms. Thank you! Thank you!"

Logan was stunned. Then, he laughed. "Silly,"

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I held the light from the phone and looked at it carefully for a long time. I stared at it until my eyes turned red, only to carefully place it back in the box

Logan asked, "Why don't you wear (1?"

I shook it. "I'm afraid of damaging it."

blushed when I said it because I remembered saying this when Grandma gave the bracelets to me, "Aria, these are my wedding gift to you. Remember to wear them when

you get married They've been passed down for generations and will ensure you have a good life and a wonderful family."

Legan watched as I carefully placed the suede box into my bag.

He chuckled. "I never thought you had such a deep relationship with your grandmother, Jonathan doesn't share the same sentiment."

I snorted. "How can he compare with me? I was Grandma's precious darling. He was so mischievous that Mom and Dad brought him to the city to raise him there long ago.

I stopped speaking and lowered my head, not saying a word anymore.

After Mom and Dad had me, they were busy with the business. When the business was building up, they chose to leave me with my elderly grandmother instead of bringing me to the big city. They must have favored sons over daughters.

So, at that time, I wasn't the adored princess of the York family but the girl who was burdensome to the family in the dirty fishing village.

With her walking cane, Grandma held my hand and brought me back to that hut, where she staffed me with food and turned me into the adorable and chubby girl I became

I wouldn't have been here without Grandma, and Mom and Dad wouldn't have remembered they had a daughter if they hadn't seen how mature I was when they returned home.

After a long time, Logan lightly caressed my hair. "That's enough. You're the precious darling who deserves all the love in the world."

I nodded

Legan suddenly laughed again

I was lost in my sorrowful thought when his laugh interrupted me

I glared at him, silently thinking "What are you laughing at?"

Under the dim light, Logan had a strange glint on his face. He smiled. I'm amused to see that you're like a little girl, Ari

I refused to accept it and straightened my chest. "How am I little? I am. Forget it. I don't want to talk to you about it anymore." Logan laughed even harder.

Embarrassed, I noticed couples leaning on each other turning toward us...

I quickly covered his mouth "Don't laugh! There's nothing funny!"

Logan grabbed my hand and stared at me with passionate eyes. My hand began to burn, and I quickly swatted his hand away. This was too embarrassing! Here I was, at my age, utterly helpless toward dating and relationships

I coughed lightly. "S-So, when is the most shower starting We can't be here the whole night, right? There are too many mosquitoes here."

Lopinquished his eyebrow "You can't bear sitting here with me, huh?"

I quickly corrected, I mean, explained to him, "No, I just think it's boring" Logan quicked his eyebrow again. So, being here with me is boring"

Was he picking a fight with me! I glared at him "I mean, it's boring now.

Before could finish my sentence, a loud bang sounded from the other side. I was shocked by the loud noise and quickly turned to see what it was.

I stared blankly at the fireworks on the other side. Balls of fireworks cose into the night sky, painting it with beautiful flowers of color. They formed animals, stars, and shimmering hydrangeas. They were colorful and gorgeous. The couples strolling by the beach were gasping in awe as well.

"it's so beautiful! oh my god, is there an event going on today?"

"It's sporgeous Look, it's a rabbit! There's a dent too Woah! They look amazing!"

I was speechless. I returned to my senses and quickly grabbed Logan's hand. "Look, look!"

Logan smiled but said nothing. He stood beside me as he silently watched I looked back and saw the reflection of the feworks booming in his eyes, one after another. It was breathtaking. He smiled and asked, "Do you like it?" inted, I asked, "Did you arrange this?"

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Logan smiled but didn't reply. Then, he asked again, "Do you like it?"

Iesuldn't hold it in and burst into tears. I nodded profusely

Logan was firm but relaxed as he stood beside me, quietly admiring the fireworks display. Our hands intertwined. It was as if we had finally found each other after years of s Images flickered in my mind, but I couldn't grasp them. I vaguely saw a young man in a white shirt standing under a bright light, smiling at me.

He asked, "Al, what do you like"

Treplied "like flowers"

The young mun answered lightly, "h? What kind of flowers?"

"Fireworks!"

The young man laughed loudly. "Silly, fireworks aren't flowers."

Ipouted "What do you mean they aren't? I want fireworks on my birthday."

The young man stood in the light, his voice carrying a sense of urget "But I have to go now I can't give you reworks"

Tasked, "Where are you going. Woody? Aren't you going to celebrate my birthday with nie?"

The young man turned around and said slightly. "I can't. I have to go."

separation.

I grabbed Logan's arm forcefully. "A-Are you celebrating my birthday for mo?-

Logan looked at me calmly. "Aria, happy birthday! 1 know it isn't your birthday yet...."

Heted his wrist to show me the time He sounded helpless as he said, "It's an hour away, but you said you were bored, so I had no choice but to ask them to display the fireworks now."

1 was overwhelmed by the feeling of wanting to cry and laugh at the same time. I didn't know what to say

Fireworks into the sky, bursting into vivid colors like flowers in the night sky.

Logan suddenly said, "Give me your hand."

I extended my hand, and he slowly grabbed my finger.

I felt something chilly between my fingers. When I looked down, I noticed a diamond ring on my finger. It was dazzling like the fireworks in the night sky.



I stammered. "W-What is this?-

A ring could mean anything, but I dared not guess.

Logan smiled. "This is my second gift to you."

I was riddled with shock and joy. But I also felt embarrassed by the unexpected gift. I stuttered, "W-Why would you give me a ring? This is too expensive. The price tag obviously meant nothing to Logan. He held my hand and explained carefully, "This is on your ring finger, but it's not a proposal"

I let out an exclamation as I felt heat running through my finger.

Logan looked at me intently. "I wouldn't propose to you so casually. This is just a gift to keep you close."

I wanted to laugh. "Do you think a ring will keep me close to you?!"

He quirked his eyebrow. "Isn't that what a ring is for?"

He raised his hand, only for me to notice a white gold ring on his left ring finger. It was simple, but it was the same style as my ring. They were matching rings, I never thought a domineering CTD would be so tacky.

I was at a loss for words. Warmth flowed through my heart as I touched his ring

This was how it felt like being in a real relationship. He loved me, so he wanted to keep me close, but he wasn't worried about keeping himself close to me. Couple rings were a symbol of love between two lovers. It wasn't mandatory, but it was a warm gesture. He lowered his head and gently kissed my hand. Then, he said again, happy birthday, my dear Axia from now on, we'll never be apart from each other."

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couldn't recall if we saw the meteor showers that night, All I knew was that I fell asleep happily while watching the fireworks.

In my dream, I saw a young man dressed in a white shirt walking toward me from the light once again. I looked at him in surprise. His face slowly transformed into Logan's. He then smiled and said: "I put your favorite fireworks-" There was still a smile on my face when I woke up on the bed. I rubbed my cheeks and felt the

The dazzling Eight on my finger brought me back to reality-it was a diamond ring!

It truly wasn't dreaming last night. Logan had set off fireworks all night and even given me a gift-all just to celebrate my birthday.

I rubbed my eyes and carefully wiped the diamond ring. It was about three carats, but the dazzle made it seem like four or five carats. I flipped it around and gasped involuntarily. It was a custom-made Cartier ring!

I quickly took a photo and sent it to Tai, "Look what this is

was currently at work, yet she replied instantly, "oh my god, that's beautiful when did you buy it?"

I pursed my lips smugly before typing, "It's a birthday gift from Logan."

Soon after, I was attacked by a barrel of stickers from Teal

After sending over ten stickers, she begrudgingly asked, "Help me ask if Mr. Wood is looking for a side piece right now."

I texted back. "He even helped me fix Grandma's belongings"

Te replied surly, "How about you just list out all the things Mr. Wood did for you all at once? I want to quickly get it over

I felt embarrassed after reading her words

While we were chatting. Teri suddenly sent a screenshot. I opened the screenshot, and sure enough, someone had caught a photo of Elijah bringing Jocelyn for her prenatal check-up

Teri was beyond indignant. This world-class jerk is truly disgusting! He has deleted his Tweet where he claimed he had nothing to do with Jocelyn, and the same goes for her. Looks like this cheating pair are stuck together because of the baby now!!!

I opened the Twitter accounts. As expected, both of them had deleted their previous posts only found it laughable-birds of a feather would eventually end up getting stuck together.

It seemed like a showdown between Elijah, Jocelyn, and me was bound to happen

Teci asked. "When are you appearing in court with Elijah?"

I checked the calendar and replied, "In about ten days."

Time really flew by. Everything would change in just two months, and the final verdict would be made,

I could feel Teri's wrath from her words "You've got to fight for every penny! Otherwise, Jocelyn will be the one spending it if you don't get it back Doesn't that give you extra motivation?" Treplied, "It does! Te's text read, "Good luck!"

Trubbed

d my eyes and went to wash up after I was done chatting with Teri

As I had just seen something I didn't wish to ser, I deliberately cleaned my eyes thoroughly when I was washing my face,

Loca prepared a scrumptious breakfast for me in the dining room. She said, "By the way, there was a call from the security office last night, Ms. York. They mentioned someone was looking for you. I frowned and asked, "Who was it?"

Lora replied, "It was a Mr. Linden, but it wasn't the M. Linden from befe"

She then handed me a piece of note. The handwriting on the note seemed a little childish and familiar

Tasked, "Did the security ask him what he was here for?"

Loc replied, "They did. He said he was here to visit you, M. York. He even left his contact number on the pote

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Loreley said, "It's fine if you don't feel like meeting him, Ms. York. Since he's a Linden, he should be from that family as well."

She continued disdainfully, "That family isn't any good, so you don't need to keep in contact with them anymore. Don't worry, the guards won't let them in to cause any trouble."

I understood the reason behind it. Ever since the last time Elijah insisted on meeting me and causing such a huge commotion, the security office of the community property had become much stricter with visitors. I pondered for a moment before replying, "Don't worry, Loya, I know what to do."

I gave Evan a call after finishing breakfast. He accepted my call shortly after.

He said, "You finally gave me a call, Ari."

I asked, "Why did you come to find me?"

Evan said hesitantly, "Do you remember the last time I asked you to meet my great-grandfather, Ari?"

I recalled that happening. But honestly, I couldn't remember any great-grandfathers from the Linden family.

Besides, there really wasn't any need to stir up unnecessary trouble with the lawsuit against them coming to a crucial point now,

I was looking for ways to refuse Evan when he anxiously said, "My great-grandfather wants to talk to you, Ari. He says he can help you get back the money,"

I frowned. "How's that possible? What exactly is he trying to do!"

Evan sighed from the other end of the phone call. "I'm not sure either, but my great-grandfather said it won't do you any good to take Eli to court like this. I don't really get it, so I'm just passing his message."

I was intrigued to find someone from the Linden family to be on my side. Who was this great-grandfather?

I hesitated for a while before asking, "Who exactly is this great-grandfather you mentioned? What's his name?"

After a while, Evan replied. "My great-grandfather's name is Jeremy Linden. I'm not sure what he does. I don't think he does much of anything."

I asked, "Is he a major shareholder in Linden Group?"

Evan replied cluelessly, "I don't know."

My call."

He truly had no idea about anything, but it didn't matter. I told him, "I'll check with my lawyer fast. Just wait for my

Just before I ended the call, Evan softly asked, "Are you really not reconciling with Eli, Ari?"

I sighed. "Have you watched the gossip channel, Evan?"

Evan softly replied, "I have had no idea Eli betrayed you. He actually cheated on un you

My heart sank when I vaguely heard a choked sob from the other end of the line.

Evan must have really looked up to Elijah and adored Jocelyn, yet the more he admired them, the harder the blow was to him. At his young age, he probably couldn't understand how someone he believed to be a good person would suddenly commit such a filthy betrayal. I sighed and said, "Don't be sad, Evan. Perhaps this is a kind of relief for m

Evan hummed in a low voice. "You deserve better, Jul"

I felt conflicted after ending the call. The issue I had with Elijah had nothing to do with Evan at all.

I truly did not want a minor like him to get involved in this, but who exactly was this great-grandfather of his?

\*Famous Plants Ms. Cornell Talks About Her Views on Love",

"Famous Classical Musician Ms. Cornell Discusses Female Empowerment".

"Nothing Can Stop the Power of Love",

I felt nothing but disgust looking at the overwhelming publicity.

Jocelyn's negative press had mysteriously vanished ever since Elijah took her to the hog interview. Accidents with her. Hospital after the incident

the incident at the mall. All that popped up on the local trending topics now were old

I knew that she had won back his affection as she had wished. He was now building up her image again.

This time, though, Elijah's affection for Jocelyn was out in the open and no longer hidden since I was out of the picture.

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I scrolled through my phone, looking at one glamorous photo of Jocelyn after another in the interview articles.

Thad to admit that I was feeling somewhat jealous. Although I no longer had romantic feelings for Elijah, it was still uncomfortable seeing my husband in name lavishing attention on another woman.

I decided to stop looking and turned off my phone. I even cleared off my browsing history angrily

Mr. Webb's call came through at that moment. "I've looked into it, Ms. York. Mr. Jeremy Linden is a veteran shareholder of Linden Group. He's probably a distant relative of the Linden family who invested in Elijah's father's company." No wonder he insisted on involving himself when Elijah and I wanted to divorce.

Mr. Webb continued. "He's quite capable. He made his fortune early on before moving to Ercenia for other investments. He's been living there for many years and rarely comes back here."

Perplexed, I asked, "Why does he insist on seeing me if he rarely comes back here,

Mr. Webb passed before replying, "I'm not too sure about that. Perhaps he doesn't want to

to see Linden Group suffer because of the divorce case. His goal might be to convince reconcile with you."

I firmly said, "That's impossible. Doesn't he follow the news? Jocelyn is already pregnant

Elijah to

Mr. Webb replied helplessly. "This kind of thing doesn't matter much to successful people from his generation who made their fortune early. They've probably experienced marriage alliances back when they were young as well."

Realization dammed upon me instantly. He probably wanted to mediate the conflict between jah and me to get us to reconcile. He wanted us to pretend to stay as a married couple just for the sake of the company's interests,

I felt disgusted thinking about it. I said, no longer want to meet him if that's the case."

However, Mr. Webb replied, "I personally think it might be good for you to meet him, Ms. York. After all, he's a veteran shareholder of Linden Group and knows a lot of things that aren't made public. If you have his support, you might be able to get back your rightful shares, or at least sell them at a good price."

I wavered. Although I felt disgusted, the whole point of this divorce case was

rease was to get the shares. Besides, I still needed to get what was rightfully mine and seek my parents' forgiveness. I waited for the longest time. "Do you think I should go, Mr. Webb

Mr. Webb nodded. "You should go listen to what he has to say, but I can go with you as well, Ms. York

"Alright," I agreed.

Mr. Webb relaxed. "If my guess is correct, perhaps Mr. Jeremy Linden will  
i will pressure Elijah into settling with us out of court."

We decided on a time and place for a meeting after coming to a decision. The next step was to call and inform Evan.

To my surprise, no one answered his phone after I called for a long time.

I figured he might be in class, so I decided to stop calling. However, someone suddenly retained the call. The person's voice was sharp when he asked, "Are you Evan Linden's family?" I was taken aback. I then asked, "What happened to Ivan?"

The other person said harshly, "It's Andy Less, Evan's homeroom teacher. He got into a fight with his classmate in the classroom earlier and landed them in the hospital." I asked in a panicked tone, "Is Evan doing fine?"

His parents came over and demanded compensation and an apology from Evan, but this punk refused to

Mr. Lewis replied annoyed, "Oh, he's definitely doing fine alright! The other student's parent apologize! You should come over and handle things if you're his guardian."

I asked, "Are there no other contacts in his phone?"

Mr. Lewis answered irritably, "No. He has cleared his contact list completely, so there's no way to reach anyone. This punk has been disobedient all this while, and he has always refused to get his guardians to come whenever asked for them." I replied, "Alright. Please send me the address and go over, Mr. Lewis"

Mr. Lewis left an address. I quickly got changed and hurried over to his school.

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Honestly speaking. I wasn't surprised that Evan got into a fight. What surprised me was that at his age, shouldn't Questa and Elijah be stepping in whenever he caused trouble?

There wasn't any time for me to ponder further as I arrived at his school. A security guard then brought me to the administration office

As soon as the door opened, I saw Evan sitting glumly at the back of the room. His face was all bruised up.

I exclaimed "Evan

Evan stood up in shock when he saw me. "Why are you here, Mi??

1/1

He looked agonized when he realized something

forgot to turn off my phone!"

> bruise on the corner of his mouth.

I quickly walked over to examine Evan's injuries. He had two cuts on his cheeks and a large one

I felt a twinge of sympathy as I took out a tissue to wipe the blood off his face. "What happened? Your face is almost unrecognizable!"

Evan grimaced in pain and avoided my hand. "I'm fine, Ari. You should go back. Everything's fine"

Andy walked in looking ashen. "What do you mean everything's fine? The student you hit is now hospitalized! Do you know how much trouble you're currently in, Evan?" Evan's temper instantly flared up when he saw Mr. Lewis coming over. He growled, "He's the one who cursed at me first, and he refused to shut up when asked him to. That's why I had to teach him a lesson!"

Mr. Lewis exclaimed angry, "No matter what, it's not right to hit somebody! You hit your classmate and even injured them gravely. You'll definitely get expelled for sure!" Evan retorted stubbornly. "Expel me, then! I refuse to attend this horrible school anymore!" Exasperated, Mr. Lewis started hitting Evan with the book in his hand. "Try repeating that again! You're the biggest troublemaker in the whole class! Not only do you drag everyone down, but you even come late and leave early! You're even getting into fights now! You're truly hopeless, Evan! What a disgrace!"



Thurriedly blocked Mr. Lewis' book from hitting Evan. As the book was thick and heavy, it hurt when it landed on my arm

Enduring the pain, I said, "Since it's not right to hit someone, you shouldn't hit him either, Mr. Lewis"

Only then did Mr. Lewat look me in the eye. He frowned and asked, "Who are you to Evan? Where's his parents? Please get his guardians to come to the school."

I turned to look at Evan. He got even more stubborn when he said. "I refuse to call my guardians over! Go on and expel me if you dare!

I hamedly pulled him back, even clamping his mouth shut with my hand.

Evan's voice turned muffled. "I refuse to call my guardians.. You.. Expel me. Go ahead!"

I was boch angry and frustrated, sol yanked at him hard. Lthen told Mr. Lewis, "Let me talk se sense into him, M. Lewis. I got him to admit his mistakes, okay? Please don't expel him!"

He had a disapproving expression when he said, "He's becoming a freshman soon, but I reckon he still be a useless piece of trash anyway. It looks like the school can't get him to reform, so be should just leave when all this end!"

Evan burst out in fury. "Who are you to ack to leave

I covered his mouth rightly so that the rest of

rest of his words weren't heard

I managed to get Mr. Lewis to leave it now. I then closed the door and glaced at the rebellious Evan. His chest heaved dramatically out of ange

I massaged my arm where Mr. Lewis had hit earlier and sched. "Can't you just talk calley for a while, Evan?"

Evan looked at me, his gaze Landing on the red bruise on my arm.

Gul flashed across his eyes, but he quickly turned his head away. "Just leave me alone, Ari. You should go back"

sighed and asked, "How can I just leave you alone?"

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I walked over and found the first aid kit in the administrative office. I then quickly disinfected Evan's face before applying a band-aid on him. He did not struggle but allowed in patch him

Upon seeing that he was still upset, I poured him some water. "Drink up. Then you can tell me why you got into a fight."

It took Evan a while to open up about the reason. It turned out that he had never gotten along with the student who got beaten up

Evan was good-looking and often släpped class to play basketball. His bad-boy image had made him the crush of many girls in his grade.

The student who got beaten up liked a popular gel from another class. He spent a good while pursuing her, only to find out that she liked none other than Evan

It was a clichéd plot. I sighed and asked, "So, you got into a fight with her pursues i over a girl you don't even like?"

Evan was seething when he replied. "That's right! He was the one who provoked me, so beat him-pl

I didn't know what to say

Evan

por irritated when he saw me keeping quiet. "Why are you still here? Hurry up and leave! This has nothing to do with you anyway,"

I sighed. "What do you mean this has nothing to do with me? I have to find a way to keep you from being expelled."

Evan looked at me weirdly. "Why are you helping me out, Art?"

I replied in slight annoyance, "That's because you're the one in trouble now. Why would help if you're not the one in trouble?"

I paused before asking. "If I hadn't come over today, would you have gotten your mom or brother to come over?"

Evan replied decisively, "I wouldn't won't let them know about this!"

I was surprised by his stubbornness. I asked, "Doesn't your homeroom teacher have your house number? He'd be able to reach your guardians if he wanted to." Evan fell silent.

After a while, I told him, "Now, let's think about how to handle this matter without letting your mom or brother find out."

Evan muttered, "I don't want to study anymore."

I was taken aback. "Why?"

Evan swung his face angrily and said, "Why should I study when nobody cares about me or pays attention to me? I'm just wasting my time here! Besides, I'm not even good at studying." He was tearing up, and I started feeling upset on his behalf. I went over to hug him and gently comforted him, "There, there. Someone cares for you. You're like my younger brother, Evan—my annoying little brother. How could I not care about you?"

I stiffened before turning to look at me incredulously.

I was patting the back of his head as if comforting a child. But I almost couldn't reach him as he was around five foot eight.

Evan eventually hugged me back and sobbed. "Don't you blame me anymore, Ari? I'm so sorry."

I whispered, "You don't need to say anything. Don't cry, Ivan. There's nothing to cry about."

Yet Evan started bawling like a child who had been wronged for no reason.

I stood there awkwardly.

I'm really sorry. It was my fault back then. I shouldn't have--"

I was five foot seven, whereas Evan was five foot eight. He was hugging me tightly while crying his heart out—it was truly a ridiculous scene. I wasn't aware that someone else had been quietly watching everything from outside the administrative office.

## Chapter 200

Crucier 200

Chapter 200

Evan stopped crying after some time:

I hurriedly grabbed a tissue to clean his face before going through another round of disinfecting his wounds and applying band-aids on him.

Once Evan had calmed down, he asked me in an embarrassed manner. "What do you think we should do now, Ari?"

I gave it some thought before replying. "We can only pay compensation and apologize to them."

Tvan turned his face away. "I won't apologize!!

As usual, I told him, "Alright, you don't have to apologize, then. I'll do it on your behalf. I just hope the other party can be more understanding. Otherwise, we'll still have to get your mom and brother involved. I won't be able to help you see this if it comes to that." Evan frowned "I don't want to let my mom and brother know about this.

I sighed and said, "Let me try appealing to your homeroom teachers, then."

I got up to look for Mr. Lewis Behind me, Evansoftly asked, "Must we apologize?"

I nodded and replied. "An apology should calm them down, and we can just compensate them after that."

Evan bit down on his lip and contemplated for a while. He then gritted his teeth and said, "I can't let you apologize, Ari. I'll apologize to them myself!"

I turned hesitant. "Can you really do it?"

Evan insisted, "It won't hurt for me to apologize anyway! I'll apologize to that bastard pean't let you do it on my behalf, Ani!"

I was taken aback, and warmth filled my chest.

Truly, my annoying little brother was back-he had always been one to protect me. I found myself tearing up as I said, "Okay, I'll go appeal to your homeroom teacher. You can stay here at

After that, I walked out of the administrative office and found Mr. Lewis.

He was probably in his 50s. He looked particularly stern with Black-rimmed glasses and a slightly pay figur

I explained Evan's situation to him and pleaded, "What do you think about this, Mr. Lewis? You can bring me to apologize to the injured student and his parents. We're

willing to cover their medical Bills and compensate them for emotional distress." Mr. Lewis gave me a once-over. Perhaps my youthfulness made

ade him feel that i wasn't trustworthy.

He frowned and asked, "Who exactly are you to Evan? I've asked around-lis only guidani age his mother and brother."

I was shocked "Have you informed them?"

Mr. Lewis butted and replied, "I've given them a call, but no one can come ovri:

I felt relieved. "How about this? You bring me to the hospital, and I'll apologize to them, M. Leegi. We'll see how much compensation they ask for, and we'll pay ! I wasn't sure which of my words set Mi. Lewis off, but he snapped. "Ti tha about money Le everywhere be poes? You can tell him that there's no saving him this tim● has to be expo D»d!"

Feeling awkward, could only continue to plead humbly

however much they

y ask for."

(Evan's family is well-off. Is that why he refuses to study and keeps causing trouble

Suddenly, a familiar voice sounded from behind me. "I'm Evan Linden's brother, M. Lewis. I'll take responsibility for this matter.

I immediately turned my head and saw Ebjah walking in with a dark expression.

Mr. Lewis' temper mellowed slightly upon seeing him. "It's not that I'm intentionally making things hard for your brother, Mr. Elijah, but Evan is truly a tough student to teach. It's not the first time he's gotten himself into trouble, and he's led the entire class astray with his behavior" He went on and on, complaining endlessly while Elijah listened on unexpectedly.

When Mr. Lewis finally finished his rant, he noticed we had been standing still while he had lectured us for almost an hour.

He sighed and said, "Alright, here's what we can do for now. You should go to the hospital and apologize to that student's parents. We can talk about the other matters after that."

1 horriedly asked, "Is there any way we can avoid expelling Evan, Mr. Lewis?

Nu. Lewis' expression remained troubled "It's hard to say. He's already been given a warning if he gets another one now, the only option left would be expulsion."