Limits 235

Chapter 235

Bella's words revealed a sense of helplessness and finality.

Jack watched as tears streamed down her face, his chest tightening. Without thinking, he reached for a tissue and gently wiped them away.

At that moment, an unexpected warmth filled his heart. For the first time in a long while, he felt something close to happiness.

It didn't matter if Bella had once played games with him or if she had wavered. What mattered was now. There was no point dwelling on what he couldn't have. It was time to cherish what was right in front of him.

Feeling his touch, Bella let out a soft laugh, her voice regaining its usual tenderness.

"Big Bun, from now on, don't call me Bella anymore. Just call me Belle, okay? I like the way it sounds."

Her eyes sparkled as she looked at him, full of hope and happiness.

Jack nodded. He understood. Calling her "Belle" felt more intimate and affectionate, just like the way she always called him Big Bun. It was something that belonged only to the two of them.

A light blush crept up Bella's cheeks. She quickly turned away, running to the desk where she had placed a carefully packed meal.

"Have you eaten yet? I've brought you dinner." She had put real thought into the meal, making sure it was filled with all of his favorite dishes. This wasn't just food. It was her way of caring for him.

After dinner, they went running together in the hills behind campus.

The night deepened, and by the time they finally parted ways, neither of them wanted to say goodbye.

Back in her dorm, Bella had just finished showering when she overheard Luna talking on the phone with her boyfriend.

When she walked past, Luna hung up and turned to her, raising an eyebrow.

"Bella, were you with that guy again?" she asked, her voice laced with confusion. "Didn't you get back together with Andres this morning?"

There was clear disbelief in her tone.

Bella didn't even flinch.

She met Luna's gaze and answered calmly, "I have no idea what you're talking about. Andres and I were never going to happen."

She had no interest in explaining herself. No one else needed to understand what was between her and Jack.

Luna sighed, shaking her head. She knew she wouldn't be able to change Bella's mind. Still, she believed that love without financial security was nothing but an illusion. And Jack? He didn't seem like someone who could ever give Bella the future she deserved.

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The next morning, Bella woke up early. She carefully applied her makeup, making sure every detail was perfect.

Today, she wanted to look her best for Jack. She wanted to make sure that he only had eyes for her-that no other woman could ever take his place in his heart again.

Just as she was about to leave, a sudden presence at the door made her freeze. A woman stood there, wearing oversized sunglasses and dressed in elegant, expensive clothes. Then, with a graceful motion, the woman removed her sunglasses, revealing a face that Bella knew all too well. It was her mother, Clarice Clarke.

"Bella," Clarice said with a cool smile. "I'm here to see you."

Bella froze for a moment, forcing a weak smile. "Mom... what are you doing here?"

"Don't you want to see me?" Clarice scanned Bella from head to toe before saying coolly, "Your dad said you have a boyfriend."

Bella stiffened, a flash of panic crossing her eyes. She said hesitantly, "No... I don't."

But Clarice could easily see that Bella was lying. Her expression immediately turned cold, and in a low voice, she said, "Get in the car. I need to talk to you."