Limits 411

Chapter 411

With that one glance, their delicate faces flushed with a rosy hue, and they shyly lowered their heads. Their minds started to wander, and their hearts were

palpitating wildly.

They knew Jack could play basketball and was agile, but they never expected his physique to be this perfect.

Feena couldn't help but imagine what it would feel like to touch Jack's muscles.

The gunshot wound on Jack's shoulder only left a faint mark, so the ladies didn't notice it.

"The wind is getting stronger. Get into the cabin!"

Jack thought about it and suggested, "The two of you should stick together. That way, you can keep each other warm."

The night had slowly fallen. The tides were high, and the wind was strong.

Jack noticed the ladies were scared, so he said, "You can go to sleep. I'll watch the night."

Someone needed to steer the boat in such strong winds and tides, and it was a job only Jack could do.

Thanks to the transformation in Jack's body, he had become incredibly strong. This level of cold wind was nowhere near enough to affect him.

The ladies felt inexplicably assured at Jack's instruction.

Jack was the kind of man who could give women a strong sense of security. Even though they knew they had to wait until the sun rose to navigate, they stopped moving around, entered the cabin, and kept each other close to keep warm.

Feena and Phoebe wrapped their arms around each other tightly. Feena couldn't see the expression on Phoebe's face. She listened to the waves crashing and felt a calmness she couldn't explain, knowing Jack was here to protect her.

She couldn't sense any fear, but she was still tossing and turning, unable to fall asleep.

It was late in the night. Feena tiptoed cautiously, observing Jack quietly.

The night was dark, but with the help of the starlight, she could clearly see Jack's face.

He was focused, effortlessly steering the boat through the rough waves.

Although the boat seemed insignificant amidst the towering waves, Jack still tried his best to keep the boat steady so that she and Phoebe could rest peacefully. Feena couldn't help but feel for him.

Wouldn't he feel cold?

After all, he was shirtless and had to face the piercingly cold wind. However, Jack's posture remained upright. He wasn't shivering, and it was as if he was unmovable.

Then, was he feeling lonely?

They were surrounded by the vast sea, endless and boundless, as if swallowed by eternal darkness.

No one kept him company. How could he not feel lonely?

Feena's mind wandered to the artificial lake at Alnewgo University. She mustered the courage to confess her feelings then, but eventually, she didn't.

Without her knowing, a lot of time had passed by.

Suddenly, a large wave crashed, and the boat violently shook. Jack swiftly stood up, trying his best to steady the boat.

"I'll keep you company," a gentle voice sounded in the dark.

Feena stood up, the gentle breeze carrying her fragrance toward Jack. She walked over and sat beside him. In the darkness, her eyes shimmered like stars. They were breathtakingly beautiful.

Jack was taken aback. "The wind and waves are too strong. You should head back to the cabin."

Feena shyly shook her head. "I can't sleep. Aren't you cold?"

Jack shook his head. "I'm not! The night is really dark. It'll scare you."

Feena courageously shook her head and said, "I'm not scared."

She wanted to tell him she wasn't afraid because he was here, but the words hanging at the corner of her mouth never left it.

It turned out that she would become so shy once Jack became someone she cared about the most.

Jack was surprised by her response. "You're pretty bold."

In reality, Feena was timid, but she felt safe with Jack around.

However, she didn't explain herself.

Feena switched topics, asking Jack about his school life and relationship with his girlfriend.

When she mentioned Bella, a gentle glint lingered in Jack's eyes. "We're doing well."

Chapter 412

Gazing at the sweet expression on Jack's face, a sour tinge of ache overwhelmed Feena's heart.

Was this how it felt to be jealous?

Feena felt unsettled, but her face showed no signs of it. On the contrary, she joked, "It looks like it's going pretty well with your girlfriend. When do you plan to move in together?"

Jack was embarrassed by Feena's question. He responded, "She's suggested it already. I think it'll be pretty soon!"

An even sweeter smile appeared on Feena's face. She congratulated him, saying, "It looks like you're going to tie the knot soon!"

The broader her smile was, the more intense the ache in her heart became.

Feena and Jack were engrossed in their conversation and didn't notice Phoebe was awake.

In reality, Phoebe wasn't asleep the entire time. The weather was too cold, and she was experiencing motion sickness.

She quietly opened her eyes, seeing Jack and Feena happily engaged in their conversation. Occasionally, she saw Feena burst into laughter, seemingly enjoying the moment.

Phoebe's eyes dimmed slightly with a glint of melancholy. She looked at her watch, pursing her lips as she became deep in thought.

Then, she got up and exited the cabin, asking, "What are you guys talking about?"

Feena saw Phoebe and gently asked, "You can't sleep either, huh, Phoebe?" Phoebe nodded. She glanced at Jack briefly and turned her gaze away.

Suddenly, Jack pointed at the sky. "Look!"

Phoebe and Feena quickly looked up, only to see a clear sky filled with glistening stars.

The starry night was beautiful. Sparkles of orange, white, and blue filled the sky. It was breathtaking.

As the wind swept the dark clouds away, the vast river of stars stretched endlessly across the sky, weaving an infinite tapestry of light.

They had never seen such a breathtaking spectacle of starlight before.

Their hearts were about to leap from their chests.

Feena's jaw dropped as she exclaimed in awe, "It looks like something out of a fairytale!"

Phoebe couldn't help but cover her mouth with her hand, as if her heart was about to jump out of her body at any given moment.

Jack smiled and reminded them, "Quick! Take a picture with it with your phone! Otherwise, you'll miss your chance."

After Jack reminded them, Phoebe and Feena quickly grabbed their phones. Unfortunately, their phones ran out of battery, so they couldn't take any photos.

"Use mine."

Jack passed his phone to Phoebe and Feena. The ladies quickly captured this precious and unforgettable moment with the phone.

Suddenly, fierce winds roared, and the waves grew even more turbulent.

Jack urged, "Quick! Go to the cabin. Don't let the waves take you."

Feena and Phoebe hurriedly steadied their bodies but were not strong enough.

Phoebe was slightly more prepared. Since falling into the artificial lake, she had learned how to swim.

Now, it could finally be put to good use.

However, Feena's face paled. She didn't know how to swim.

The waves surged violently, and she was terrified that the waves would take her if she accidentally fell into the sea. She would be lost forever, leaving no trace.

"Ah!" A sudden scream sounded, and a towering wave, several metres high, came crashing down.

Instantly, the three of them were drenched.

"Are you girls okay?" Jack asked with concern.

Before the ladies could respond, the small boat lurched violently, rocking as another massive wave came crashing down.

The ladies felt the world around them spinning before a rush of cold water engulfed their bodies. They had been swept into the sea by the towering wave.

Chapter 413

At this moment, the world was shrouded with darkness. The sea raged, and the wind howled. Towering waves surged one after another. Against this chaos, the boat seemed pitifully insignificant.

"Where are you?"

Jack was surprised to discover the boat was empty. He instantly dripped off cold sweat.

With the help of the faint light of the boat, he noticed that Phoebe and Feena had fallen into the water.

This shock was nothing short of terrifying.

Even with Jack's exceptional abilities, he couldn't help but be crippled by panic and fear.

Looking at how the waves had taken the ladies, he was caught in a dilemma. Who should he save?

If he were to save Feena, Phoebe would drown in the water. But if he were to save Phoebe, someone like Feena, who wouldn't even dare step into a river, would be completely hopeless.

Phoebe and Feena held a special place in Jack's heart. He liked them and couldn't bear the idea of anything bad happening to them under his watch.

The worst part was that they were equally far from him. Jack stood at the front of the boat, unable to decide.

"J-Jack, save Feena. I've learned how to swim over the last two years."

In the surging waves, Phoebe noticed that Jack was panicking. She knew what he was thinking, so she made the decision for him.

Fenna, on the other hand, was barely keeping herself afloat. She couldn't even utter a word.

"Be careful, Phoebe."

There was no more time to lose. As Jack hesitated, Feena drifted further from him.

If he were to hesitate another second, this girl-next-door would disappear without a trace in the vast sea.

Jack threw the only life buoy on the boat to Phoebe. Then, with a huge splash, he jumped into the sea and effortfully swam toward the direction Feena had disappeared into.

At this moment, Feena was dizzy and disoriented, feeling as if death was just around the corner.

She couldn't swim and struggled with all her might to stay afloat. However, she felt her body sinking deeper, eventually falling into the bottomless sea.

Feena drank a lot of seawater, but her mind was oddly clear-headed at this moment.

Perhaps this was what they called a dying man's final glimmer, a fleeting moment of clarity before inevitable darkness.

The first person he thought of was Jack, wondering if he would come and save her.

After all, Jack grew up by the riverside. Back then, he had saved Phoebe from the river's south side, showcasing his strong swimming skills. He was also a capable man, so he should have been able to rescue her.

However, Feena remembered that she had fallen into the sea with Phoebe.

Who would he save? Herself or Phoebe?

She had no idea.

Not to mention, this was the vast, endless sea. Even if he wanted to save them, he probably wouldn't be able to.

If Jack didn't choose to save her, she wouldn't blame him.

Jack had moved her heart countless times. He was also the only man she loved and couldn't let go of.

She would rather die than see Jack risk his own life for her.

However, Feena was filled with an endless sense of regret that, at her dying breath, she could not make up for the mistake she had made to tell his face earnestly that she had feelings for him and even fell in love with him.

Previously, Jack had confessed his feelings to Feena publicly, but she had silently rejected him.

If there were a remedy for regret in this world, if only she could turn back time and return to that very day, Feena would tell Jack with everybody as her witness that she was willing to be his girlfriend.

She would tell him that she liked him, that she had fallen in love with him, and that she would eventually marry him. They would support each other through thick and thin and grow old together.

However, there was no place for "ifs". Everything was about to come to an end.

Chapter 414

Feena thought, "Farewell, Jack. I hope your journey through life is smooth and

that now and then, you'll remember the woman you could never forget. I'll die with no regrets as long as I can live in your memories."

Just as Feena sank into the depths of despair, she suddenly felt a firm hold around her waist. A shadow pulled her upward, breaking through the water.

Gasping, she sucked in a lungful of air, the rush of oxygen making her dizzy. In that instant, she realized just how thin the line was between life and death.

Feena blinked, and when her vision cleared, she saw it was Jack.

His powerful arms held her close, his heavy breaths warm against her skin.

Relief and exhilaration washed over Feena, leaving her dazed. For a moment, she forgot the danger and everything happening.

She stared at Jack in the moonlit darkness. Even now, in the chaos of it all, there was something breathtakingly beautiful about him.

"Hold onto my shoulder. I'll take you to the boat," Jack said in a warm, deep voice. Feena nodded, her mind filled only with him. Whatever he said, she would do it.

She wrapped her arm around his waist, and he moved through the water with steady, unshakable strength.

Feena was no longer fearful with him around. As long as Jack was here, everything felt right.

Before long, they reached the boat. A figure stood on board. Who else could it be but Phoebe?

Earlier, the waves had thrown Phoebe to the edge of the boat. With sheer determination and the help of a life ring, she finally managed to climb back aboard.

Jack let out a breath of relief when he saw Phoebe.

He guided Feena closer as Phoebe steered the boat toward them.

Once they were safely ashore, Jack asked Phoebe, "Are you okay?"

Phoebe nodded and smiled. "I'm fine."

Jack finally relaxed and turned to Feena with concern. The latter looked pale as she answered, "I'm fine. I just swallowed some seawater."

While Feena was drifting on the waves earlier, she had nearly been submerged. Her stomach felt bloated as if seawater had flooded her insides.

"I'll help you get it out."

Jack immediately scooped her up and pressed gently on her abdomen, helping her expel the water. Seawater poisoning was no joke.

Feena felt better after vomiting, but all her strength was gone. She slumped weakly into Jack's arms, her head resting lightly against his chest.

Then, she murmured, "I... I'm a little cold. Can you... hold me?"

Under normal circumstances, Jack wouldn't have hesitated. Holding Feena had always been a dream buried deep in his heart. But right now, all he could think about was how unwell she looked.

Feena smiled happily at Jack's tight embrace. The howling wind and raging storm suddenly seemed less terrifying. As she listened to Jack's steady, powerful heartbeat, she felt as if she had the whole world.

However, Feena's mood soon dampened slightly. This embrace-no matter how much she wanted it was fleeting. It would never truly belong to her.

She had tried to probe Phoebe about Jack and Bella's relationship, hoping to hear that things weren't going well between them. If they weren't happy, maybe she'd have a chance.

But reality was cruel. Jack and Bella were deeply in love.

It made sense. Bella was beautiful, and the more she got to know Jack, the more she realized just how wonderful he truly was.

Chapter 415

Every time Jack and Bella returned from an outing, the latter would shimmer with happiness.

Feena had once experienced the same kind of happiness, but she had given it up. truth, she had readily agreed to go to Brightland so that she could spend more time with Jack.

Along the way, she had longed to talk to him more, to have moments alone with him-perhaps even to leave Phoebe behind.

But she couldn't. All she could do was bury these feelings deep in her heart, swallowing the bitterness and longing on her own.

Feena no longer felt afraid as she lay in Jack's arms. The darkness of the sea and sky no longer seemed so daunting. She just wanted to stay close to Jack for as long as time would allow.

Hearing that Feena was cold and weak, Jack instinctively held her tighter. However, he felt awkward as Phoebe stared at them from the other side of the boat.

Then, Phoebe deliberately averted her gaze, but her mind kept replaying the moment Jack saved her before diving into the sea without hesitation to rescue Feena.

Her thoughts were a tangled mess, no longer as composed and detached as before.

At last, the sky began to clear, and the once-turbulent waves calmed into gentle ripples.

Above them, the vast and mysterious Milky Way emerged once more, its endless stars scattered across the sky.

"That's beautiful," Feena murmured in awe. She was overwhelmed with emotion after surviving the ordeal.

Feena was alive-and beside her was the man she loved most, a man who had once loved her, too.

Drifting on the open sea, surrounded by silence, watching the universe unfold in all its splendor-was there anything more romantic than this?

Feena stole a glance at Jack and found him gazing at the same breathtaking sky.

Her heart stirred. She wanted to ask if he was having the same thoughts. In the end, she stayed silent.

Jack already had a girlfriend, and the two of them shared a deep, mutual understanding and affection.

Feena finally realized that the distance between her and him felt so close, yet so impossibly far.

"Jack, have you been hugging her so long that you've lost track of time?" Phoebe asked.

Startled, Jack quickly released Feena, mentally kicking himself for being so caught up in the moment that he forgot Phoebe was present. Now, he worried she might think he was some kind of creep, always looking for an opportunity to take advantage.

Feena, too, was afraid Phoebe might notice something unusual. She stepped out of Luke's embrace. Though she was unwilling, her expression remained calm.

Feena teased, "Phoebe, are you jealous seeing Jack hug me? Why don't you ask him to hug you too? I'm sure he wouldn't mind."

"Nope," Phoebe replied immediately, turning her face away. She was afraid Phoebe might notice something in her expression.

Just as the conversation was flowing smoothly, the boat suddenly began to rock.

Then, splashes were heard, as if countless flying fish had burst out of the sea, skimming across the water's surface.

The fish were everywhere. Their rapid movements turned the sea into a living, shimmering spectacle.

It was utterly breathtaking.

Feena and Phoebe had never seen anything so magnificent before and were left speechless in awe.

Many of the fish collided with each other and landed on the boat, wriggling and flopping adorably.

Jack chuckled and explained, "These are flying fish. They usually leap out of the water after heavy rain. They're harmless, and they taste pretty good too."

As he spoke, he picked up the fish that had landed on the boat and tossed them back into the sea.

Feena and Phoebe sat down quietly, taking in the rare and mesmerizing sight before them.

Chapter 416

After a long time, the sea finally regained its calmness.

Feena and Phoebe couldn't resist their exhaustion any longer and retreated to the cabin, where they fell asleep in each other's arms.

About half an hour later, just as Jack was starting to feel bored, Feena rushed out of the cabin in a panic. "Something's wrong! Phoebe seems to have a fever!"

Jack hurried into the cabin. Upon touching Phoebe, he realized she was burning up. She was even muttering deliriously. "Cold... It's so cold..."

It turned out that Phoebe had already been feeling chilly when they had swum up from the sea earlier. But with her proud and reserved nature, and seeing Feena nestled in Jack's arms, she had been too embarrassed to ask for help. She had forced herself to endure it.

Phoebe had managed to withstand the fever when she was awake. However, as soon as she lay down, her resistance weakened, and the fever took hold.

"What should we do? What should we do?" Feena asked frantically.

The night stretched endlessly ahead, and Phoebe might freeze to death if she stayed like this.

Jack sighed. "I'll hold her to keep her warm."

Though it might seem like he was taking advantage of the situation, it was the only solution they had at the moment.

Jack had a higher body temperature. With their bodies pressed together, he could help drive the cold out of her.

Feena nodded in agreement. "Hurry! Hug her!"

Jack gathered Phoebe into his arms, but his intentions were good. All he wanted was for her to recover quickly.

Eventually, Phoebe's fever began to subside, thanks to Jack's embrace and warmth.

After some time, Phoebe weakly opened her eyes. She wanted to say something, but the words wouldn't come.

Seeing that she was awake, Jack said gently, "You had a fever, so I held you to keep you warm."

He was worried she might blame him. After all, he had a girlfriend, had hugged Feena earlier, and embraced Phoebe now. It was only natural for others to question his intentions.

However, Phoebe simply shook her head and whispered, "Thank you for saving

me."

Even after Phoebe's condition improved slightly later, she didn't immediately pull away from Jack's embrace. Instead, she stole a glance at him while he wasn't paying attention.

Her eyes held an unreadable expression, as if lost in thought.

The sea began to churn once more, and a pod of dolphins emerged, leaping joyfully across the surface. Their melodic calls filled the air, a symphony of nature that was both soothing and mesmerizing.

Seeing these enchanting creatures, a smile finally broke across Phoebe's pale face. "Look at the dolphins," she murmured.

Feena noticed them too and quickly settled down beside Jack and Phoebe. The three of them immersed themselves in the ocean's magic.

"Look below." Jack drew their attention to something extraordinary beneath the waves.

Phoebe tried to sit up, but her body was still weak. Jack gently supported her, helping her lean over to peer into the depths. Feena followed their gaze.

Beneath the dark water's surface, a soft glow began to emerge. At first, it was scattered and faint, like distant stars flickering in the night. But soon, the light grew brighter, spreading until it seemed to illuminate the entire ocean.

The glowing orbs floated upward, resembling lanterns drifting through the water, until they broke the surface. Jack realized they were jellyfish.

Countless jellyfish, their translucent bodies pulsing with light, filled the sea as far as the eye could see. It was as if they were trying to set the entire ocean ablaze with their glow.

In that moment, the world felt boundless-a perfect harmony of sky and sea, of light and darkness. The jellyfish seemed to carry the essence of life.

Chapter 417

The sky and sea mirrored each other in a dazzling, dreamlike dance. It looked so surreal that the three on the boat could hardly tell whether they were floating in the heavens or still anchored in the mortal world.

It was a scene so breathtaking that most people could live a hundred lifetimes and never witness anything like it.

"It's so beautiful," Feena breathed, her voice filled with awe as she gazed at the spectacle. Her heart swelled with a longing she couldn't quite name.

Suddenly, she pointed to the sky. "Look! It's a shooting star!"

Sure enough, a streak of light tore across the night, leaving a glowing trail in its wake.

"Phoebe, make a wish!" Feena urged. It would be a waste to let such a perfect moment pass without making a wish.

Phoebe closed her eyes, her lips moving silently as she whispered her wish to the stars. What she wished for, no one could guess.

Jack, of course, didn't believe in the whimsy of wishing on stars like the two women did. For him, the beauty of the moment was enough. It was perfect just as it was.

When Phoebe finally opened her eyes, Feena leaned in with a playful grin. "So, what did you wish for? Finding your perfect match, maybe?"

Phoebe didn't answer, but a faint blush crept across her cheeks. Her heart raced, though she wasn't sure if it was from the wish or the fear that someone might have overheard it.

Seeing that Phoebe wasn't going to share, Feena let it drop. Instead, she sighed and whispered, "It's so beautiful. If only someone I loved would confess to me right now."

She gazed up at the sky, her face a picture of longing and romance.

Jack's heart stirred at her words, but when she mentioned "someone I loved," he knew she wasn't talking about him. Maybe she was just caught up in the moment, swept away by the beauty of it all. After all, it wasn't uncommon for a woman to feel emotional in scenes like this.

Still, a bitter taste lingered in Jack's mouth. He couldn't help but think back to the time he'd confessed his feelings to her by the river, only to be gently but firmly rejected. Even now, he had no idea who held her heart.

But these thoughts stayed locked inside him. Instead, Jack forced a teasing tone. "Are you talking about that Krane heartthrob from school? Oh, right. I heard from Wesley that he confessed to you. Did you say yes?"

Feena turned to him and smiled. "Why? Do you want me to say yes?"

Her affectionate words made Jack's cheeks burn.

Feena didn't press further, though a faint shadow of disappointment flickered in the corners of her eyes.

The three of them sat quietly at the bow of the boat, no words exchanged, simply soaking in the majesty of the star-strewn sky above and the glowing sea of jellyfish below. It was as if the universe had paused to gift them this moment of pure, unblemished beauty.

At some point, Phoebe drifted into a peaceful sleep in Jack's arms, a soft, contented smile lingering on her lips.

Not long after, Feena, too, succumbed to sleep. Her head rested on Jack's shoulder, her expression serene. A tiny trail of drool escaped the corner of her mouth, adding an unintentional touch of charm.

Worried that Feena might catch a chill, Jack carefully gathered both women in his arms and carried them into the cabin.

Jack's body pressed gently against Feena's while carrying Phoebe with one arm. He let out a sigh.

These two women-both of whom he cared for deeply-had once been the subjects of his youthful daydreams. He'd imagined scenarios like this before, though never in such a surreal, unplanned way.

The faint, delicate fragrance of their hair filled his senses, their warmth seeping into him. At that moment, Jack wished time would slow down and that dawn would hold off just a little longer.

It was blissful to enjoy the company of both women. Regrettably, Bella was missing.

But perfection was fleeting. The sea was calm now, and there was no need for Jack to keep watch outside. Before he knew it, exhaustion claimed him, and he, too, drifted into sleep.

When Jack woke, sunlight streamed through the cabin windows. Morning had arrived.

Jack tried to sit up, only to find his body weighed down. He realized Feena and Phoebe had shifted during their sleep.

Their heads were now resting on either side of his arms, their movements synchronized. Their long, flawless legs were draped over him, one on each side,

and their smooth, pale skin radiated an almost irresistible allure.

It was a scene straight out of countless men's fantasies.

Chapter 418

Jack thought about getting up, but why bother? Holding them like this, even for a little longer, felt too precious to let go.

Feena and Phoebe slept soundly, their faces adorned with sweet, serene smiles. They were lost in the most delightful dreams.

Jack discreetly checked their temperatures, relieved to find both were normal. After a night's rest, Phoebe's fever had completely subsided.

With his worries eased and the morning sunlight streaming in, he allowed himself to gaze more boldly at the two women beside him.

They were breathtaking, like something out of a painting. Their skin was flawless, pale with a hint of rosy warmth. Their lips, soft and inviting, paired with long, fluttering eyelashes, only added to their allure.

A thought crept into his mind. What if he stole a kiss? Just a small one?

A tempting voice whispered in his heart, "It's just a gentle kiss. What harm could it do? They're deep in sleep, so they'll never know. You've always admired them and idolized them. Isn't this the perfect chance to fulfill a secret longing?"

But another cautious voice countered, "Don't be reckless. If they wake up, your pristine image could crumble in an instant."

"If you're careful, nothing will go wrong," the first voice insisted.

The two voices warred within Jack as he stared at Feena and Phoebe in his arms. His heart raced, torn between desire and restraint. In the end, desire won.

Jack glanced around, assessing the situation. Feena was closer, and her position was just right for what he had in mind. Maybe he should start with her and save Phoebe for later.

His eyes lingered on Feena. She was still in deep sleep, her eyelashes trembling faintly, a soft smile playing on her lips. Her slightly parted lips seemed to beckon him.

Finally, summoning all his courage, he leaned in and gently pressed his lips to hers.

A soft smack echoed in the quiet cabin. Success.

A wave of satisfaction washed over Jack, unlike anything he'd ever felt before.

Though the kiss was fleeting, the sensation lingered, leaving him intoxicated. Yet, almost immediately, a pang of guilt crept in.

After all, Jack had a girlfriend waiting for him-someone just as beautiful, just as deserving of his loyalty.

Still, the temptation was too strong. He couldn't resist the urge to steal a kiss from Phoebe as well.

Just this once, he told himself. One last indulgence to satisfy this lingering fantasy, and then he'd let go of these feelings for Feena and Phoebe for good.

But just as Jack turned his head, ready to act, he froze.

Phoebe's eyes were wide open, staring at him in shock. She had seen everything.

Jack's heart plummeted. He hadn't expected his little secret to be exposed so blatantly. His mind raced, scrambling for an explanation, but words failed him. Anything he said now would only make things worse. In her eyes, he was probably already a despicable, lecherous creep.

Feena stirred awake at that moment. Stretching lazily, she smiled and said, "Wow. The sunlight is so beautiful today! It's such a relief to be alive!"

While Feena seemed unaware of what had just happened, Phoebe continued to stare at Jack in disbelief.

Jack felt a wave of embarrassment crash over him. He couldn't bring himself to meet her eyes. He had planned to ask how she was feeling, to check if her fever had truly subsided, but now he felt it was best not to do so.

Chapter 419

Feena asked, "So, what do we do now?"

Jack stood up and scanned the surroundings. "We drifted dozens of miles last night, but we still have enough diesel in the engine to get us back."

Thankfully, he'd had the foresight to siphon the fuel from those two idiots' boats into his own yesterday. It was an act of precaution that had saved them.

"That's great! Then take us back," Feena said gleefully, her eyes brimming with trust as she looked at him.

Feena and Phoebe had now trusted Jack wholeheartedly. As long as he was with them, they believed they could return, no matter how far they'd drifted.

The boat chugged along for a full hour before the distant outline of land finally appeared. Soon after, the welcoming beam of a lighthouse and rows of unique buildings appeared on the horizon.

At the sight of land, Feena and Phoebe erupted into excited cheers. A wave of relief washed over them-a feeling of having narrowly escaped disaster.

As the boat approached the shore, tears welled up in their eyes. Feena and Phoebe had lived sheltered lives untouched by hardship; the life-and-death experience last night would stay with them forever.

Looking back, the experience was also filled with a strange, inexplicable warmth. They had endured countless trials, witnessed wonders they might never see again, and trusted and leaned on each other through it all. Finally, they were out of danger.

In the years to come, when Feena and Phoebe sit by their windows, watching the flowers bloom and fade, they might occasionally think back to this extraordinary journey and feel emotional.

The boat finally reached the dock, but there was still a small gap between the vessel and the shore.

Suddenly, Feena turned to Jack and asked affectionately, "Can you help me onto the dock?"

Jack nodded and helped Feena onto the dock, but a strange feeling lingered in his chest.

After everything they'd been through last night, he couldn't shake the sense that something about Feena had changed. He couldn't quite put his finger on it, but there was a difference in the way she looked at him now.

Gone was the aloofness, the subtle distance Feena used to keep between them. Instead, her gaze was more soft and affectionate. She even seemed to be acting a little more girlish, especially with the way she'd just playfully asked for his help. After helping Feena onto the dock, he turned back to assist Phoebe. The boat owner, who had been waiting anxiously on the shore, rushed over. He had been worried sick when the three of them hadn't returned the night before. Relief washed over his face as he thanked the heavens for their safe return.

Feena and Phoebe recounted the events of the previous day. The boat owner was outraged by the two men's actions but grateful that the trio had made it back unharmed. When they mentioned the incredible sights they'd seen, the boat owner smiled knowingly.

"In Euphoria, there's a legend. If a man and woman on the same boat witness jellyfish and the Milky Way together, it means the gods have blessed them. They'll become the most important people in each other's lives. It's a very reliable legend."

Jack didn't react and brushed off the comment. However, Phoebe and Feena lowered their heads, their expressions lost in thought.

After returning the boat, the three of them began their journey back. By the time they reached Brightland, it was already past six in the evening.

Feena bid Jack and Phoebe goodbye before heading off to handle some matters with her film crew. That left Jack to escort Phoebe back to her school before returning to his hotel.

As they walked, neither of them said a word, each lost in their reflections. Jack's mind kept drifting back to the moment he'd kissed Feena and how Phoebe had caught him in the act.

Chapter 420

Jack wanted to find a way to explain himself to Phoebe, but no matter how hard he thought, he couldn't come up with a plausible excuse.

He got caught kissing another woman. What kind of explanation could justify that? He was the textbook definition of a creep.

Just as Jack was spiraling in his thoughts, Phoebe broke the silence first.

"You still like Feena, don't you?" she asked.

Jack could only manage an awkward laugh. "You saw everything, huh?"

Phoebe nodded, then pressed further. "And what about Bella? Do you like her?"

"I do," Jack answered without hesitation, though his voice faltered as he tried to explain. "It's just... I wanted to put the past behind me."

Her questions were sharp and unrelenting, leaving Jack feeling exposed. The way she looked at him made him even more uncomfortable.

But Phoebe wasn't done. She continued to stare at him and asked, "If Feena also liked you and pursued you, who would you choose between her and Bella?"

The question stopped Jack in his tracks.

While he thought the scenario was unlikely, it still forced him to confront a dilemma he'd been avoiding. Bella held an irreplaceable place in his heart, but Feena-his first crush-occupied a special place too.

How could he possibly choose between them? It was an impossible decision.

Phoebe was perceptive as ever, and she seemed to sense his inner turmoil. A faint smile played on her lips as she continued, "It's hard to decide, isn't it? Do all guys dream of being like those protagonists in novels, having all the women and enjoying life?"

Jack's face flushed. Phoebe had hit the nail on the head, and he had no response. He felt utterly exposed by her wit.

Just as he braced himself for her to see through him to dismiss him as unworthy and distance herself from him forever-Phoebe said something unexpected.

"What time is your flight tomorrow? Feena and I agreed to see you off together."

Her words instantly lifted the gloom that had settled over Jack. So, Phoebe wasn't holding it against him. She was still willing to be his friend.

But deep down, he couldn't help but sigh. It seemed there would never be anything more between them. From now on, they would only ever be ordinary friends.

The next day, Jack turned down Claude's offer to organize a grand farewell with the team. Having Phoebe and Feena see him off was more than enough.

The two women arrived early at his hotel, and Phoebe drove the three of them to the airport.

As they stood in the terminal, Jack said, "I'll be heading back soon. I'll be waiting for you both in Alnewgo."

Feena smiled and nodded. "I'll be back soon too. Let's meet up at school then."

Phoebe also smiled and replied, "Sounds good. My exchange program is almost over too. It's a date."

...

Meanwhile, at the headquarters of Sandalwood Group in Alnewgo, Emily sat anxiously on the luxurious top floor, awaiting the results of a crucial matter.

It had been three days since the school issued a notice collecting information and conducting physical exams for students from Perthter City. Blood samples had been taken and sent to an authoritative testing agency for analysis.

For those three days, Emily had been restless, relying on sleeping pills to find peace.

To ensure the accuracy of the DNA and blood sample matching, they had not only submitted their DNA samples but also chosen the most rigorous testing agency for the process.

This massive undertaking involved analyzing over a hundred blood samples, requiring the lab to work around the clock to complete the analysis.