Limits 431

Chapter 431

Quintis held Emily's hand tightly.

Even he, who was usually so reserved, had tears of excitement streaming down his face. He pulled Emily into his arms, and together, they wept.

After the initial wave of joy, Emily choked back her sobs and said, "Quintis, I can't wait any longer! I've never felt this excited or hopeful in my life.

"Quintis, let's skip the DNA test. Tomorrow, come with me to Alnewgo University, okay? We'll find out which class he's in and where he lives. I need to ask him face-to-face.

"If he knows I'm his mother, why has he never tried to find us all these years? Doesn't he know how much I've missed him? How much pain and tears I've shed because of him?"

The facts were laid out before them. All the evidence pointed to one truth.

But Quintis firmly rejected her idea.

The current evidence was based solely on his and Emily's assumptions. Even though everything seemed to align, it was still unproven.

They couldn't be absolutely certain that Jack was their son.

Confronting him directly would be too abrupt. If he was Nicholas, such a sudden approach could alarm him—or worse, drive him away.

Besides, there were signs that Jack already knew who they were. If they appeared suddenly, he might retreat and disappear from their lives once again.

Their past was marred by intense conflict. Any reconciliation would be exceedingly difficult.

There was a risk of losing him again, perhaps forever.

For now, questioning him outright could only end in disaster.

After much thought, they quickly devised a plan.

The top priority was to obtain Jack's blood sample for a paternity test. It was the most direct and crucial piece of evidence.

At the same time, they needed to send someone to Perthter City for an in-depth investigation. If possible, they would gather information from Jack's adoptive parents.

By pursuing multiple avenues, they could ensure Jack's identity with certainty. Overwhelmed with emotion, Emily hugged Quintis tightly, tears streaming down her face. That night, neither of them could sleep.

The barrier separating them from their son was finally about to be broken down. On the other side of it, he had grown into a young man, quietly waiting for them.

Early the next morning, Quintis called George again. He expressed their strong desire to obtain Jack's blood sample.

George agreed without hesitation but warned that getting the sample wouldn't be easy.

Meanwhile, a team was sent to Perthter City for a thorough investigation. They hoped to learn more about Jack and his family from the neighbors.

With these in motion, Quintis and Emily should have stayed home to wait for the results.

But she couldn't bear the agonizing anticipation.

All the evidence pointed to one undeniable truth. They didn't even need to wait for the results from Perthter City or the DNA confirmation.

Wasn't the answer already clear?

She could no longer wait.

She clutched Quintis's hand tightly. With a pleading tone, she asked, "Quintis, will you come with me to Alnewgo University? I... I just want to see him. Even if it's just from a distance! Seriously, if I don't see him, I won't be able to find any peace."

Any mother who had lost her only son for years would be unable to sleep upon learning that he might still be alive. She would think about him day and night, longing to see him.

Quintis understood exactly how Emily felt. After all, he hadn't slept well either, his mind spinning through the night.

But reason held him back. "Aren't you worried about tipping him off?"

If Emily lost control of her emotions, the consequences would be unpredictable.

"I am afraid!"

Chapter 432

Emily continued, her eyes brimming with hope, "But I really want to see him. I won't disturb him. I'll just stand far away and look at him from a distance, okay?"

Quintis couldn't refuse Emily's heartfelt plea.

Truth be told, he was also eager to catch a glimpse of Jack.

It was a profound regret in anyone's life to reach middle age without having enjoyed the joys of family. Despite his distinguished family background, this sense of loss couldn't be concealed.

He sighed helplessly.

"Alright, but we'll only look from a distance, and then we'll leave, okay? We mustn't approach him. I am worried that he'll leave if we do."

Emily quickly nodded and promised. "Alright, Quintis. I promise I won't disturb him."

He gently stroked her hair, letting out another quiet sigh. Honestly, he knew these promises meant nothing.

When they finally saw Jack, could Emily really keep her emotions in check?

Keeping it low-key, they went with just a driver and a bodyguard's car. Quietly, they made their way to Alnewgo University.

Throughout the journey, Emily held Quintis' hand tightly, her gaze constantly darting outside.

Though the drive was only half an hour, it felt like an eternity. Her heart, however, had already flown ahead to Alnewgo University...

Finally, they arrived at the university.

The thought of soon seeing the son she had longed for made Emily's heart pound with excitement.

They made their way to the male dormitory-Block 12, Room 502.

Quintis instructed the bodyguards to stay behind to avoid drawing unnecessary attention.

Then, he and Emily walked straight to the dormitory building.

Across from the building was a small, secluded grove of trees.

The two of them quietly slipped into it, using the trees as cover. From there, they anxiously watched the main path, waiting for Jack to appear.

The wait was agonizing. Emily fidgeted, glancing around restlessly.

She craned her neck, scrutinizing every person who passed by, afraid she might miss Jack.

But after more than half an hour, there was still no sign of him.

She grew impatient. "Quintis, why hasn't Nicholas come out yet? Could he have taken a different route? Should we go up to his dorm and check?"

Seeing her anxiety, Quintis felt helpless too.

He gently patted her shoulder and said softly, "Don't worry. Let's wait a little longer. It's just after class, so I'm sure he'll be here soon."

From the information they'd received from George, this was the right time and place.

All they needed to do was wait patiently.

Emily nodded, forcing herself to calm down and continue waiting.

Meanwhile, Jack was indeed in class. Actually, he hadn't had any classes scheduled for the morning.

But Bella had an elective lecture, and finding it boring, she had called him to come keep her company.

Jack, who was also at loose ends, agreed without hesitation.

Since returning from Euphoria and securing the funding, he had been in a much better mood.

He had been missing her. So, early in the morning, he had grabbed his books and headed to the classroom to keep Bella company.

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After class, Jack and Bella headed to the cafeteria for lunch.

She only ordered a bowl of soup. When he considered ordering another, she shot him a glare and asked, "Big Bun, don't you want to share this bowl with me?"

As soon as she spoke, she sensed a subtle shift in the atmosphere-it suddenly felt a bit too intimate. Noticing the surprised glances from the students around them, she quickly lowered her head, embarrassed. She silently scolded Jack for being such an idiot and making her look foolish.

After the meal, Bella held his hand as they walked back to the dorm. As they walked, she turned to him and asked, "Big Bun, have you settled your resignation from the broadcasting station yet?"

Earlier in the semester, Jack had promised Bella he would resign, yet he had taken no action so far. Although Phoebe had gone away as an exchange student, Bella had heard that she would be returning soon. That made her feel even more uneasy.

He hesitated before replying, "Belle, I promised Phoebe I wouldn't resign just yet. But-"

Before he could finish speaking, she cut him off, her voice filled with anger as she said, "No! You have to quit right away. Please, I'm begging you. I can't stand the thought of you being with Phoebe."

She was on the verge of tears, her voice trembling with urgency.

Bella was always confident, but she lost her composure whenever it involved Phoebe. Though she considered herself beautiful, Phoebe was like a goddess in comparison. Any woman would feel a sense of insecurity around her.

And worst of all, Jack had once admitted that he still couldn't let go of Phoebe. That made Bella even more insecure.

"Alright, alright! I'll resign."

Seeing Bella so terrified, Jack felt a pang of guilt wash over him. Had he completely ignored her feelings?

After all, her worries weren't unfounded.

He still harbored unrealistic fantasies about Phoebe.

Seeing that Jack had agreed, Bella finally smiled through her tears. She wrapped her arms around him and murmured, "Big Bun, forgive me for being so controlling. I'm just... scared of losing you."

He gently ran his fingers through Bella's soft hair, swept up by her warmth. He was completely lost in her tenderness.

As they reached the dormitory building, they were spotted by Emily, who was hiding in a nearby grove of trees.

The moment Emily saw Jack, she couldn't take her eyes off him.

In that instant, Jack seemed like the living image of a young Quintis.

Her heart cried out repeatedly. "It's Nicholas! That's my son!"

He had finally appeared. He was so tall, handsome, radiant, confident, and incredibly talented.

Every flaw she had once seen in Jack now seemed like a virtue.

Tears welled up in Emily's eyes again. She pressed her lips tightly together, afraid she might cry out loud.

But this was her first real encounter with Jack since confirming his identity. It was so real and so tangible. How could she not be overwhelmed?

From where Emily stood, she could only see Jack's profile.

With a hint of frustration, she tugged on Quintis' sleeve. "Quintis, look! He's here! Should we move closer to get a better look?"

Quintis nodded, his gaze fixed on Jack.

Emily studied Jack for a long moment before turning her attention to Bella.

Seeing Bella's youthful and beautiful face, she murmured, "That woman must be Nicholas' girlfriend, right? She's so lovely. She's certainly a good match for him. I wonder what her family is like or what kind of person she is."

Chapter 434

Emily felt a wave of relief wash over her when she saw how affectionate Bella and Jack were with each other. Since Jack had grown up, it only made sense for him to find a girlfriend to call his own.

As long as Bella was a good match for Jack, Emily wouldn't be opposed to them being together. She would probably have to flatter her for his sake.

Quintis nodded in agreement. But he recalled how he had set up an arranged marriage for Jack when he was a child. Now that Jack had a girlfriend, the situation had gotten complicated. How was he going to deal with the engagement?

He decided he would handle this particular conundrum another time. If Jack was willing to reunite with them, a celebration would be in order.

Emily suddenly spoke up. "Quintis, I want to take a closer look," she begged him, as if the distance between them and Jack was still much too wide.

Emily wanted to look at Jack from the closest possible distance. If she could hear his breathing, that would be ideal.

Quintis frowned, realizing that Emily ultimately wanted to get close to Jack. However, he was worried that Jack would be unreceptive if Emily just approached him without any warning, considering the bad blood between Jack and her.

"I'll leave as soon as I get a closer look."

Seeing how Quintis hadn't responded, Emily begged him again with the sweetest voice she could muster. Her eyes were filled with melancholy.

Amusement bubbled in Quintis' chest. He was familiar with Emily's temperament. He thought there was no harm in letting her look at Jack until she was satisfied as long as she didn't speak to him.

Emily decided to take things into her own hands. She walked up to Jack without waiting for Quintis' response, leaving no opportunity for Quintis to pull her back.

"Excuse me. Are you Jack Holland?"

Emily engaged Jack in conversation as he was bidding his farewells to Bella. Worried that Jack would be angry with her, small trembles racked Emily's body.

Quintis could only slap a hand over his eyes in exasperation. He should have known that Emily wouldn't be able to control herself in this situation.

"It's you. What do you want?"

Jack's expression twisted in annoyance when he realized it was Emily who had appeared before him. He had no idea what Emily was thinking, so he could only assume that she was here to stir up trouble again.

However, he was a little confused when he noticed Emily's uncomfortable expression. It was surprising to him that even a woman as powerful as Emily could have her moments of uncertainty.

Noticing Jack's unfriendly tone when he spoke to Emily, Bella pressed closer to Jack and held him tightly, pinning her with a cautious stare. Anyone who made Jack unhappy was an enemy in Bella's eyes.

"I..."

Embarrassment spread like wildfire through Emily. She was desperate to ask Jack if he was her son. In the end, her rationality won, and she was left at a loss, not knowing what else to say to him.

She could only stare at him feelingly. She studied his face intensely, as if she wanted to burn his current image into her memory.

Bella was getting more annoyed by the second. The way Emily was gazing at Jack reminded Bella of how she usually looked at Jack.

Who was this woman? Why was she looking at Jack like that?

Confusion and wariness swirled in Bella's heart, and she couldn't help but ask, "Why are you looking at my Big Bun like that? Do you need him for something? If you don't, please leave."

Bella wrapped her arms around Jack's neck as if to stake her claim on him. She glared at Emily with cautious eyes, worried that Emily would steal Jack away from her.

Noticing the jealousy that oozed from Bella's words, Emily put on a smile and said gently, "You... You must be Jack's girlfriend. You're very pretty."

Chapter 435

The tone that Emily used made it all too obvious that she was trying to get on Bella's good side. Emily knew that to win Jack's favor, she would first have to establish a good relationship with his girlfriend. She would cozy up to Bella and have her put in a good word for her to Jack.

Emily was already imagining the type of gifts she would send to Bella. Would she like a sports car? Or maybe she would prefer a truckful of the newest luxury bags on the market? Or perhaps jewelry made from the world's finest emeralds that were worth over 10 million dollars?

Bella was on high alert when she asked, "What are you trying to say?"

She noticed that the way Emily looked at Jack was a little odd. But after considering the age difference between Jack and Emily, and also how courteously Emily was treating her, Bella couldn't help but wonder what Emily was planning.

Jack was also looking at Emily coldly. Her behavior was out of the ordinary from her usual self.

His tone was unwelcoming as he asked accusingly, "Are you trying to stir up trouble again? Come at me directly if you have something malicious planned. Stop beating around the bush."

Jack was worried that Emily would switch her target to Bella. He swore to himself that he would never show any mercy to Emily if anything bad should befall Bella.

Emily felt like her heart was being stabbed by knives being at the end of Jack's distrust. How she wished she could come clean and tell Jack everything she was suppressing in her heart.

She wanted to tell him that she was his biological mother. She wanted him to know how much hardship she had suffered while searching for him and how many tears she had shed.

Emily only shook her head. Nothing was set in stone yet. She was only acting off her own assumptions.

Based on Jack's reaction toward her, she knew that there was no hope that Jack would accept her with open arms as his mother.

In a soft voice, Emily said, "It's... It's nothing. I just wanted to..."

Emily had just wanted to look at Jack, simple as that. But she couldn't possibly tell him that. Jack would either think she had something else hidden up her sleeve, or he would think that she was a madwoman.

"What the hell is wrong with you?"

Jack was merciless with his harsh words. Bella also disliked Emily, so she pulled Jack with her as they left.

Emily wanted to follow Jack and chat with him a little more, but she was also afraid that Jack's dislike of her would continue to grow. She stood in place and could only watch with tears streaming down her face in the direction Jack had walked off to.

From a distance away, Quintis watched as his wife returned to his side. He felt helpless when he noticed her tear-streaked face.

He comforted her when she got closer, "Don't be too upset. If he really is our child, he'll understand our wish for him to reunite with us."

"He looks just like you! He's exactly like you!" Emily said. She then kept repeating these words like a mantra to herself.

After getting a closer look at Jack's features, Emily realized that not only did Jack look like Quintis, but he also looked like her. When she had neared Jack earlier, she wasn't sure if it was a sign from the divine, but she had felt her blood resonate with him as if driven by the intimate mother and son bond that they shared.

Quintis said, "Even if he doesn't look like us, the truth will be revealed once we send his blood in for a DNA test."

Emily nodded. Although her heart was filled with unwillingness, she finally left Alnewgo University. On the way back home, Emily started sobbing again.

"Quintis, how much hardship do you think he has experienced in the outside world? His adopted parents didn't have stable jobs. He must have gone through so much to be able to enter Alnewgo University."

Emily had always been part of the upper class. She had extraordinary wealth that ordinary people could only dream of possessing. She knew how difficult it was for

a student from a poor background to enter Alnewgo University.

It was said that not only did the student need to be immensely talented, but they also needed to study day and night.

Chapter 436

In an already established society, it was extremely challenging for someone new to break down those societal walls and make a name for himself. Even if a person's intelligence far exceeded his peers, he would eventually encounter an insurmountable wall if he didn't have the connections or wealth to back him up.

Emily couldn't imagine how hard Jack, who didn't have anything to his name, must have worked to earn himself a spot in Alnewgo University.

"He must have experienced unimaginable hardships," Quintis said with a sigh.

They began to discuss amongst themselves regarding the best course of action they could take when Jack reunited with them. They wondered what was the best way to compensate him for all the years they weren't by his side.

Meanwhile, Bella had pulled Jack into a secluded corner. She stared at Jack with a severe expression and asked, "Big Bun, tell me. Who was that woman just now? What's your relationship with her?"

She couldn't shake off the odd look that Emily had given Jack earlier. Her gaze had been strangely intense.

Jack chose his words carefully when he told Bella the story of how Emily had collided with Amelia and the scuffle that transpired after. Not wanting Bella to have any misunderstandings or suspicions, Jack omitted Amelia's role in the incident and replaced her identity with another woman who had no connection to him.

However, Bella was exceptionally bright. She wasn't one to trust Jack's words easily. "Are you telling me the truth?" she asked.

After Jack nodded somberly at her, she said, "Then, I'll trust you. But I have to let you know, Big Bun. I don't like it when you interact with those types of women."

It was nearly impossible for Jack and someone who was Emily's age to get together. Emily hadn't been particularly combative when she was talking to Bella either. In fact, she had obviously tried to get on her good side. But Bella couldn't help but worry whenever she recalled how intensely Emily had looked at Jack. It made her feel uncomfortable.

Bella cared greatly for Jack, so she wanted to get rid of anything that could pose a threat to her at the root. Naturally, Jack understood where Bella's concern stemmed from and agreed to her request without saying anything else.

Bella kept her arms around Jack when she said, "Big Bun, I hope you don't mind me being like this. I just really care about you."

After she was done speaking, she lifted Jack's face and kissed him deeply. She didn't care if there were people around them who might notice what they were doing, all Bella wanted to do was prove to Jack that she was madly in love with him. They stayed glued to each other for a little while more before Bella finally left.

After separating from Bella, Jack returned to the dorm to find Samuel busy learning how to program. When Samuel spotted Jack, he let go of his mouse and said in a rush, "Jack, Isaac wanted me to remind you to drop by the infirmary when you're free. Don't forget that you need to do a blood test."

"A blood test?" Jack asked, confused.

The "Perthter City Buddies" group chat that Jack joined recently was also abuzz with discussions of this particular blood test. Apparently, the blood test was only available for students who hailed from Perthter City. After the test was over, a student would receive a nutritional subsidy that was worth 5,000 dollars.

The students who weren't allowed to participate in the blood test were all green with envy. A 5,000 dollars nutritional fund was no small amount, no matter which school one attended. However, Jack felt that something wasn't right with the situation.

He couldn't pinpoint the exact reason, but he recalled how Emily had approached him of her own volition earlier and the peculiar way she had looked at him. It made Jack feel uncomfortable. He came up with a plan. He said, "Samuel, I need your help."

A chill ran up Samuel's spine when he met eyes with Jack. "Jack, whatever you need help with, you can just come out and say it. Don't look at me like that. You're giving me the creeps!"

Chapter 437

With the university's cooperation, Emily and Quintis managed to acquire a sample of Jack's blood in record time. Emily was over the moon with joy.

To ensure the accuracy of the paternity test, Emily and Quintis stopped by the physical examination center once more to draw fresh blood for the test.

Other than the pathology lab that they frequented, Emily also decided to send their blood samples to be tested at other facilities. She wanted to cover all her bases, lowering the chances of an error occurring as much as possible.

Emily kept herself busy as she waited for the test results. She withdrew from many social events and charity functions to focus on studying the cookbooks she had acquired. She even hired a few professional chefs to teach her how to cook better.

She did her best to recall the foods that Nicholas enjoyed when he was still a child. She wanted to return to how she was in the past, so Nicholas wouldn't feel that she was a stranger. She wanted him to remember his past and accept her back into his life.

Emily also asked her friends to acquire all sorts of unique knick-knacks from all over the world for her, wanting to gift them to Nicholas. She decided that she was going to send Nicholas overseas to further his studies once he had graduated from Alnewgo University. It didn't matter if he wanted to attend Oxfard, Harverd, Stanlord, or any other prestigious universities, she would respect his wishes.

She had full confidence in Jack's abilities and even felt proud of him. He managed

to enroll in Alnewgo University despite hailing from a faraway place such as Perthter City. She had no doubt he was the cream of the crop amongst the students.

Furthermore, Harverd, Oxfard, Stanlord, and the other prestigious universities also heavily considered the family background of the students who applied to their schools, along with their future potential. It cannot be denied that the Lycans would excel in this matter.

If the schools wanted funding, they could easily hand over a thick stack of cash that was worth millions. If they wanted a recommendation letter, they could simply request one from the many congressmen or heads of state they were acquainted with.

Emily decided that she wanted to make Jack proud to have excellent parents such as Quintis and herself. She also wanted to nurture him so he would stand at the very top of the world one day. Only then would she feel relieved. Only then would she feel like she had compensated Jack.

Seeing how busy Emily was as if new life had been breathed into her, Quintis also felt cheerful. However, he was a little worried that Emily was engrossing herself in her role as a mother a little too deeply. He reminded her, "Emily, I know how hard you're working. But before the dust has settled, we also need to prepare for the worst case scenario."

Quintis needed to gently pull Emily back down from cloud nine before she toppled off it herself. It wasn't the first time he had given her this gentle warning. With great hope also came the possibility of great disappointment. Quintis was worried that she wouldn't be able to handle it if things did not play out as she planned, and she would fall ill from her grief.

When Quintis gave her this gentle reminder, Emily had her nose buried in a cookbook. She wanted to master a few more dishes. A dish that was prepared by a professional chef didn't give off the same warm feelings that a dish prepared by a mother did after all.

Emily froze up when she heard Quintis' words. She sighed before setting down the cookbook. "I know, Quintis. I just want to be the best mother for him. No matter what happens, I need to prepare for the possibility that he is our child," she said quietly.

Emily had to be prepared no matter what. She wanted Jack to feel the maternal love that she harbored for him from the very first moment of their reunion.

Quintis nodded and said, "No matter what happens, everything will come to light tomorrow afternoon."

Emily nodded in response.

When night fell, both Quintis and Emily tossed and turned as they lay in bed, unable to fall asleep. They had searched for years without being able to find their missing child. Now they finally had a lead on Nicholas, causing hope to take root in their chests. Even Quintis, who was usually level-headed no matter the situation, couldn't deny that he felt hope bloom in his chest.

The sun was already hanging high in the sky when Quintis and Emily woke up the next day. It was close to noon when they finished eating breakfast.

An entrepreneur was hosting a small gathering that day. He called Quintis to extend an invitation to him so they could network, but Quintis rejected his invitation.

Chapter 438

Quintis wanted to accompany Emily to the DNA analysis center. He wanted to be there in person while waiting for the results of the paternity test to be released. They drove to the center and noticed that there was already quite a number of people loitering around.

When they stepped through the main entrance of the center, Emily could feel her anxiety spiking. She had been disappointed one too many times, and she was terrified that she would be disappointed again this time.

She grabbed the hem of Quintis' shirt and tugged it lightly. "Quintis, do you think Jack is Nicholas?"

"Yes, he must be!"

On the surface, it appeared that Quintis was comforting Emily, but he was actually comforting himself as well. Emily nodded as a demure smile lit up her face.

They arrived at the doctor's office, wanting to find out if the doctor who was in charge of the DNA analysis was around, and also if the results were already out. However, when they made it to the analysis center, they were informed that the doctor was not in the office. Apparently, he had left to pick up the results that Emily was waiting for.

Emily couldn't help herself and asked, "Could you call the doctor and ask when he'll be coming back?"

The assistant did as Emily asked. She called the doctor and was told that he would return within the next 30 minutes. Both Emily and Quintis were beginning to feel anxious again. Hope and fear swirled in their hearts. The truth would be revealed in half an hour's time.

They wished for the time to pass faster, wanting to reunite with their lost loved one as soon as possible. It would be such a touching scene. But at the same time, they also wished for time to move more slowly, afraid that the results of the paternity test would send them plummeting into an abyss, extinguishing the last embers of hope they had left.

30 minutes later, a Volkswagen arrived at the hospital. The doctor in charge of the analysis alighted from the car with a document in hand. His face was an expressionless mask, giving away nothing.

Emily and Quintis rushed up and greeted him. She asked in a hurry, "Doctor, are the results out?"

"Yes, but I haven't had the time to go through it yet," the doctor replied.

He entered his office before picking up his cup and gulping down some water. He had already predicted that Emily and Quintis would come to the center to wait for the analysis results. He had rushed back to the center to deliver the results to them, not even stopping for a drink of water.

After he had quenched his thirst, the doctor gestured for Emily and Quintis to have a seat. He started to flip through the results, studying the information on the paper. The couple stared at him and tried to gauge his reaction, hoping to get a hint of the results from his expression.

Emily's heart slowly sank into her gut as the doctor's expression turned progressively more and more somber. A bad feeling began to spread in her heart.

The doctor sighed. He looked at Emily, whose eyes were brimming with fear. "The test results state that the analyzed DNAs did not match with one another. There is no blood relation."

"How could that be?"

Quintis leapt up from his seat. His immense disappointment had led to him losing his composure, shocking the doctor. After noticing his outburst, Quintis did his best to rein in his chaotic emotions.

"Doctor, are you sure you read the results correctly? My wife and I share a lot of similarities with that man. How can there be no blood relation between us?"

Tears rolled endlessly down Emily's cheeks. She kept shaking her head as she begged, "Doctor, please look through the report once more! Perhaps there's been a mistake somewhere. I can't accept this result. There must be some sort of mistake!"

Chapter 439

Seeing how crestfallen and anxious Quintis and Emily were, a wave of helplessness washed over the doctor. However, he shook his head determinedly.

"There's no mistake. I know how important this analysis was to both of you, Mr. and Mrs. Lycan. I carried out the procedures personally. Unless you provided me with the wrong blood sample, if not the results in this report are conclusive."

The doctor's confident statement was like a death sentence for Emily and Quintis' hopes and dreams. Emily had gone completely numb as she repeated the same question over and over again.

"How could this be?" she asked.

Quintis felt as if his heart was being stabbed by knives when he saw how upset Emily was. He was disappointed too, but he needed to temper his emotions to comfort her. "Emily, let's go."

Emily swayed from left to right as she stumbled out of the analysis center. She didn't have any idea how she made it back home. The only thing she was aware of was how her soul had been shredded into a million pieces the moment she heard the test results.

The more hope she harbored in her heart, the more devastating the blow when her hopes were dashed. Her life felt so bleak, her disappointment so great that she even considered cutting her life short. She had never experienced such tremendous agony in her life.

Quintis' footsteps were also weighed down. He felt like he had aged a decade in the span of a few hours. When they finally arrived home, Quintis hugged Emily, who he knew was on the verge of a nervous breakdown. "Emily, we can't fight back against what fate has already planned for us. Let's not be upset anymore, alright?"

Tears fell like raindrops from Emily's eyes. "I understand, but... why did things end up like this? Do you know how much hope I was clinging on to, Quintis? Why did it end up like this?"

Emily couldn't wrap her head around the test results. She refused to accept it. Unfortunately, Quintis didn't have any answers for her questions either.

Suddenly, Emily started shaking her head wildly as if she had been injected with a new burst of energy. "No, it can't be true! I could feel that he was Nicholas. I could feel it in my blood, I could feel the strings of fate that tie us together.

"But why did the DNA test say otherwise? Something must have gone wrong somewhere during the analysis."

Her eyes were brimming with hope when she looked at Quintis. Her voice trembled when she murmured, "Quintis, do you think something might have gone wrong during the procedure? Could that be the reason why there wasn't a match for the DNAS?"

Quintis' brow was knitted together tightly. "Are you suggesting that Jack tampered with the blood sample?"

"I don't have any concrete evidence, but my gut feeling is telling me that he did something," said Emily.

Emily and Jack were enemies at that moment in time. Not only that, but Jack also knew their identities. If her hypothesis was correct, the DNAS not matching during the test was actually the most predictable outcome.

Perhaps Jack already knew that Emily was his biological mother, knew that she had abandoned him all those years ago. Jack might have developed a hatred toward her, which naturally meant that he would be opposed to reuniting with them.

Perhaps Jack had also realized that there was something off with the blood tests that were aimed exclusively at students hailing from Perthter City. It was odd that a simple blood test would reward the students with a 5,000 dollar nutritional subsidy. Perhaps he had grown suspicious of the attractive reward. After all, what financial group would willingly donate such a large sum of money?

Perhaps after Jack pieced together all the oddities of the situation, he had sent someone else to the school's infirmary to donate their blood in his place. If that was the case, it would solidify the fact that Jack knew Emily was searching for him, further cementing the mother and son relationship between them.

Quintis sighed quietly. He gently said to Emily, "I'll arrange for someone to get to the bottom of this."

Although Quintis himself no longer harbored any delusions of reuniting with Jack, he still wanted to protect what little hope Emily still clung to. They couldn't give up so easily before exhausting all their leads.

Emily nodded quietly. It was as the saying went, good things did not come easily. If Jack was truly her son, he could not escape from that reality no matter what he did.

The next morning, Quintis once again dialed George's number. He wanted to investigate the surveillance tapes of the day the blood tests had taken place.

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George easily agreed to Quintis' request. Since he needed to attend a meeting, Quintis did not join Emily when she drove over to Alnewgo University. She was determined to unravel the mystery of the situation with her own hands.

When she arrived at the university, Emily was warmly welcomed by the staff with open arms. George had initially planned to accompany Emily to the infirmary himself, but Emily had rejected his offer. With Laura by her side, Emily made her way toward the infirmary that was bustling with activity.

Emily requested the infirmary supervisor to show her the surveillance tapes. After being given permission, the supervisor did as Emily asked and pulled up the tapes.

Fortunately, although there weren't many cameras in the infirmary itself, there were cameras installed in the corridors of every level of the building. The recordings had also been saved.

The supervisor scanned through the recordings. After searching for a while, they stopped at a scene where a man dressed in black entered the infirmary. Not long after, the same man exited the infirmary and left the area.

The supervisor informed Emily, "This was the last student who participated in the blood test."

Emily nodded and asked softly, "Do you remember his name?"

"Vaguely. I think his last name was Holland," the supervisor answered.

Emily continued her line of questioning. "Can you recall his height and weight?"

"Hmm... He looked pretty average and had some acne on his face. His height is about five feet and two inches, not taller than five feet and five inches," the supervisor replied.

Emily pinned the supervisor with an unwavering stare. "Are you certain?"

The supervisor seemed to be slightly intimidated by Emily's bearing. He looked a little nervous, but he nodded his head and said in a steady tone, "I'm certain."

"Thank you! Thank you so much!" Emily exclaimed as tears leaked from the corners of her eyes.

But unlike before, these weren't tears of despair-they were tears of joy. The mystery had been unraveled at that moment. Although there wasn't any concrete confirmation, Emily was already certain of the truth.

The man who harbored such deep resentment for her... The man she had once disdained... There was no mistake this time, it was him. Jack was her dear Nicholas, her biological son.

If he wasn't, he wouldn't have the key. He wouldn't have known that she was searching for her missing child. He wouldn't have developed such a strong loathing for her.

Why else would he have found someone to participate in the blood test in his place? Jack was around six feet and three inches tall. How could he be any shorter than five feet and five inches? The only explanation that Emily could come up with was that Jack had managed to guess her identity and intentions, so he had found someone to pretend to be him.

Emily was astounded by the lengths Jack had gone to to hide his identity. But then she recalled how she had supported Quintis' endeavors to crush him. Quintis had used Sandalwood Group to take down Drakengard Games, even ousting Jack from the company altogether.

He must have been so upset and hopeless. He must have hated his own mother to the core. Jack had grown up in such a poor family. He had entered Alnewgo University through his own efforts and hard work. But his own mother had torn him down, causing him to lose everything.

Emily was sobbing uncontrollably. She had hurt Jack again and again. Could she still hope for him to forgive her?

"Nicholas, I'm sorry. I'm so sorry!" Emily cried in her heart that was filled with despair and fear.

But the emotion that Emily felt most strongly was joy. She had suffered through so many hardships and her efforts were finally bearing fruit. Perhaps God had seen her struggles and took pity on her, sending Nicholas back to her side as compensation.

Laura's phone started ringing. The investigator she had sent to Perthter City was calling.