

Married To My One Night Mistake

Chapter 41: penance and Forgiveness

The tense atmosphere in the home of the Avelino family had shifted from chaotic anger to a quiet, focused determination.

Julian had already called Katherine to apologize for his harsh words during their previous argument.

He made it clear that his anger was not meant to divide them further, but to force all of them to finally face the truth of what they had done to Selen.

Katherine accepted his apology immediately, and apologised as well. The both of them agreed that their only priority now was fixing the mess they had created seven years ago.

Their mother also joined in and added something, she was going to give the children their rightful trust fund in bonds.

It was not a bribe, it was her way of showing surrender. She was letting everything be in the hands of Selen.

Later that afternoon, Julian arrived at their parent's house, where Katherine was already waiting at the dining table with her notepad and a laptop.

The exhaustion from the night before was visible on all their faces, but the hostility was gone. "Clancy is still in Paris," Katherine said as she sat down.

"Which gives us as little time as whenever he comes back," their mother added.

"Good," Julian said, leaning forward. "But before we do anything else, we need to finish that letter. Have we structured the apology properly?"

Katherine pushed her laptop across the table to him, it had a draft already written on it.

Her hands were steady, but her voice was humbled. "Read it, We have to make sure your part is exactly how you want it."

Julian read through the pages. The tone was direct and sincere, stripping away any excuses.

The letter clearly detailed how their mother and Katherine had treated Selen like a maid, how they had endangered her pregnancy with the triplets during that final confrontation.

And how they had manipulated her into signing divorce papers while Clancy was away.

Jimmy pointed to the section addressing his own role. "Add a line right here," he instructed Katherine. "Say this, Julian is writing this with us because his silence made him just as guilty.

He stood by and did nothing to protect you, and he deeply regrets his cowardice." he said.

Katherine typed out the words exactly as he spoke them. "What about the part clearing making things easier for her to forgive Clancy?" she asked.

"We need to make it completely bulletproof," Jimmy replied. "Selen had signed those papers willingly. We must explicitly state that Clancy had absolutely no knowledge of the divorce until he returned to England.

We need to tell her that he searched for her and the children, and that his only mistake was not caring for her from the beginning as he should have.

They all nodded. "We have also made it clear that she has every right to refuse to see Katherine and me. If she wants to hate us forever, we accept that. But she should not punish Clancy for our cruelty. He cares for her then, and he still does"

With the text of the letter finalized, they turned their attention to the financial restitution.

Their mother placed the legal deed for the Spanish coastal property and the trust fund documents into a heavy courier envelope.

The assets were tied entirely to Selen and the triplets, ensuring they would have complete financial independence

"I tracked down Carlos," Katherine said, looking up from her laptop.

"He is the mutual friend we knew from Madrid who is familiar with Selen. He agreed to deliver the packet directly to her home in Spain. That way, it does not get lost in the mail or thrown in the trash."

For seven years, they had hidden behind lies, but now they were finally taking full responsibility.

"There is one last thing," their mother said quietly, her voice cracking slightly.

"The final paragraph about the children. Read it back to me, Katherine." She asked.

Katherine cleared her throat and read the closing lines of the letter aloud.

"We know we do not deserve to be a part of your lives or the lives of our niece, nephews, and grandchildren. We do not expect you to welcome us as aunts, uncles, or grandmothers right now. But we hope that, in time, after we have proven our change of heart through years of respect and distance, you might allow us to be even a small, quiet part of the children's lives. We want them to know they are cherished, and we want the chance to support them from afar until they are old enough to understand the truth."

Julian stood up and sealed the envelope. The plan was complete.

They had spent seven years destroying a family, and they knew the road to redemption would be long, but for the first time, they were working together to make things right.

Selen had decided to give in to Newton's invitation to another dinner. Maybe it was the wrong time for it but there was never going to be a perfect chance.

Her conversations with Newton were growing romantic with time and she knew what to expect the next time they had dinner together.

And a selfish part of her wanted it so that Newton could be a shield for her and the kids against Clancy.

Things could be misunderstood if looked at from a different point of view when it came to her children and Clancy. But she was not going to leave something as her children's future to chance.

A message notification popped up on her phone. When she picked it up, it was an email from Clancy. He was trying to see her again.

He wanted to know her schedule but she ignored it and turned her phone face down.

As she took deep breaths, waiting for the drowsiness of sleep to kick in, she imagined what life would have been like if she and Clancy met in a different way than they did.

Would she love him? What if he did not treat her like he did? Would they be happily in love?

Chapter 42: The not so ex-husband

Newton had asked Selen out to a romantic dinner before he traveled for a business meeting.

"Would you like to have dinner with me when I return? Just the two of us, to talk about us." The message had read.

He had just returned to town. And she was glad that she got some time to think about it, and she had made a decision.

So when he texted her to know her plans for the weekend, she made it clear that she was free to go out with him and insisted on getting a dress herself.

Selen had gotten an invite a few weeks ago to an event called the Minister's ball. She knew what they were all about and she never attended it.

It was an exclusive event that was usually hosted by a private collector as an excuse to show off their most unique and one of a kind art.

The minister was not a Political minister as one would expect from the name. Instead, it was whoever was going to host the event for the year.

According to JK , it was another way for the rich to brag about their properties without wanting to look like they were actually bragging.

She also saw Clancy's second invitation in five days to a dinner for just the two of them.

He had been adamant on them finishing their conversation from the other day, but she was not interested in doing so.

According to the email, it was for them to just talk.

"That is not the kind of restaurant where you take someone to just talk" she said to herself as she typed out a response.

The restaurant was one of those members only restaurants and was for the one percent. No one took anyone there to just talk.

"I will not be able to attend it. I have plans this weekend" she typed out.

She erased the "this weekend" and made sure that it had no element that made it seem like she was open to going at another time.

Now that it was settled, she picked out an extra dress for dinner the following day with Newton.

Her plan was to drop the dress off today at work to avoid forgetting it at home tomorrow.

She was going to change at work and have Newton pick her up from there in the evening.

She finally settled for a purple dress that was at the back of her wardrobe.

It was one of those dresses that looked too good to leave in the store even if you knew there was a possibility of never wearing it.

This was the perfect dress. It showed enough to keep longing but did not also give too much away to the eyes.

She said goodbye to the kids and headed out to face a day of work.

The following day, Clancy parked his car outside Selen's office, hoping to catch her on her way home after she had denied his dinner request the previous day.

And this was his way of showing her that he was there to stay.

She claimed to have plans but he thought that she had just not gone past the talk from the other day.

It was either that or she was going to attend the minister's ball for the first time.

He had a bouquet of flowers sitting on the passenger seat of his car.

He was going to acknowledge her response to take her out by not requesting once again.

He just hoped that he would at least get to give her the flowers.

He finally spotted her getting out of the building in a beautiful purple dress.

"That was definitely not what she would wear to work. I guess she really was going for the minister's ball. I will just give her the flowers and leave." he thought to himself and unlocked the car.

Before he could get out, a car pulled into the driveway, and a man came down, it was Newton. Was he her plus one?

He tried to fight the urge of jealousy as he watched them get into the car. He watched her car drive away before he left.

As if the torture was not enough already, there was traffic and he spotted the car that Selen and Newton were in.

The windows of their vehicle were tinted just like his so he could not see them.

And he hoped that they did not see him as well... it would be too awkward.

When the traffic finally cleared up, he noticed their vehicle take a sharp left turn and leave the express.

"That is not the way to the dinner or her home" Clancy said and immediately took a turn and followed their car.

"What was that Newton up to?" he wondered with great suspicion as he followed behind them.

Their car finally stopped in front of what appeared to be a closed restaurant.

They both got out of the car and Selen did not look like she was in any kind of trouble.

As a matter of fact, she looked happy.

"We are here," Newton had announced to Selen when they got into the dark space. Selen giggled a bit at his announcement. Why was he announcing their arrival and who was he announcing it to?

That was until the lights turned on to reveal the beautiful scenery. Selen gasped at the beauty that was hidden by the darkness.

Clancy did not leave, instead he parked his car and watched them from his car to make sure she was safe and stayed longer.

But that was just his excuse to see what the two were up to. And whatever it was, he was not going to let Newton try to steal her heart.

After a while, the lights from the inside turned on and he saw what appeared to be a romantic dinner. What?

The lights were all beautifully arranged and looked like a proposal was going to happen.

Newton held Selen's hands and began to say something to her. No, that was it! He would not let that happen.

Before he could think, Clancy got out of his car and headed for the door. He was going to put an end to this before it was too late.

Chapter 43: The Husband and the Boyfriend

Meanwhile, an unsuspecting Newton was professing to Selen, "I know it may seem a little too straight forward but we have known each other for years now. We know basically everything we need to know about one another to get married. Maybe even more" he began.

"But I am not saying that we should jump into it head first, but I want to make my intentions very clear. We should not waste more time than we already have.

Instead, we should spend it being with each other and showing one another just how beautiful life can get with someone you love.

Selen, I do not plan on dating for a long time. In fact, if it were up to me I would marry you right this minute.

But I know that you need time. So I am asking you to say yes to us finding our compatibility before we get married. What do you say? Will you be my future fiancée?" He asked.

They both chuckled at the question but Selen had not responded yet. Was she going to do this?

It was one thing to know that Newton liked her but it was another to accept that she liked him too. Enough to want to marry him someday.

She did not get the chance to answer before someone barged in loudly like some kind of sign. It was Clancy.

"What the hell?!" Clancy yelled as he walked into the room. "Clancy?" Selen said in utter confusion.

What was he doing here? How did he even know where they were? Was he following her now?

"Were you following me?" Selen asked him "No. Well, yes. I will explain later" he said and went back to face Newton.

"What the hell do you think you are doing proposing to my wife?!" He yelled at Newton.

"Wife?" Selen and Newton asked in confusion.

"Yes, wife. My wife!" He said again. Newton staggered a step back in confusion.

Selen was not a stranger, he had known her for a while now and he was certain that she was not married. She never mentioned a husband to him.

"Ex- wife. Our marriage was over a long time ago, Clancy. What is this all about?" Selen asked Clancy with her anger very obvious.

"Come on, Selen. Even you of all people should know that we are still legally married" Clancy said with confidence.

Whatever foot Newton had after Selen had insisted on being an ex wife left as quickly as it came.

But he was not going to walk out and leave her to face a blast from her past alone.

"I presume that he is the ex husband you mentioned?" He asked her in a low tone referencing when she had brought it up once. But with the emptiness of the room, it was loud enough for Clancy to hear him.

"Fine, I will leave the both of you alone and even apologise for the intrusion on one condition. If and only if Selen can show me proof of the end of our marriage" he stated.

Newton knew there was something off from the moment he heard Clancy's condition.

"This is crazy, and you need to leave now," Newton said.

There was no way Clancy would use that as an ultimatum after the ruckus he had caused if he did not know that things would end in his favour.

And Selen's unmoving posture was all the confirmation Newton needed to know that it was not going to end well.

"If we are divorced, then you should have a certification stating the dissolution of our marriage.

Just as I have one that proves our marriage- A marriage certificate" he said and took out a photocopy of their marriage certificate.

A certificate that she had not even seen him sign with her own eyes. And now, he was going to use it as proof that she was his wife.

Meanwhile she had no proof of the divorce. The one she clearly remembered signing.

"Maybe it was just a delivery error. Stop playing games, Clancy. I moved out of your house and out of the city.

The certificate could be sitting pretty in an old address that they thought was still mine. Maybe even your home" she said.

"Well, you see that is impossible, baby. Because I never signed those papers you speak of. I never even sent them to you.

So what would the court stamp on? A divorce paper with one document? Especially one where the person you claim was requesting for the divorce did not sign on?" He said.

Newton had now sat down, watching the drama unfold. Was all Clancy saying the truth? Was he about to ask another man's wife out?

No, that was not possible. Because there was no way Selen would lead him on and put him in that spot.

"We are not divorced, Selen. Separated, yes, but not divorced. Now we do not have to feel like being together is unthinkable or-" he was interrupted by Newton.

"That is enough. Since you do not want to leave, we will go" Newton said and placed his hand on Selen's lower back, signing for the door.

"Enjoy the rest of the night and the fireworks start at ten" he said and walked out with Selen.

"This may have spiked her anger, but at least I was able to put a stop to it before they got out of hand." Clancy said to himself as he watched them walk out and followed shortly after.

Selen was distraught. How could she be so careless with such a serious matter? She had signed the paper and went on with her life.

And for over seven years, up until that moment, she never thought about the fact that she never received a confirmation.

She did not even have a copy of what she had signed at least. How was she even sure that she had signed divorce papers?

For all she knew they could just have the heading of divorce papers but could have contained something else.

She was now angry at herself for blindly trusting the woman who was the reason she ended up in that hospital bed- Katherine.

Chapter 44: Divorced or Separated?

Chapter 44: Divorced or Separated?

"Or was this all a plan by Clancy all along? To give her a taste of freedom away from him and his family, but then come back to cause some more wreckage in her life.

It was all overwhelming and she found herself holding her head while in the car with Newton. Oh shoot, Newton!

He must be so confused by everything that had happened. She turned to look at him but he was only concerned about her.

"Are you okay?" He asked her. "I am so sorry that you had to see all of that. I-" "It's okay," he stopped her.

"Explain it when you are not as exhausted as you clearly are" he said with understanding.

Oh, what was she doing to this kind man? He was nothing but nice to her from the very beginning.

"No, I have to say something," Selen said and turned to face him.

"I have no idea what he was talking about back there.

I know I only told you a few details about who the father of my children is but that was him, Clancy Avelino" she said.

She had just confirmed it. Newton knew who Clancy was and when he walked into that restaurant, he recognised him almost immediately after he spoke.

It was crazy how he never thought to ask who he was or what he did, he just wanted to help her forget all about her horrible past.

And now that he had confirmed who he was, he felt a different kind of anger. One that was laced with a tinge of jealousy.

Clancy was wealthier than him, more influential and basically everything he was working to be. And he was good looking as well.

Would he stand a chance if what Clancy had said there was true?

Could Selen really settle for him when someone else like Clancy also wanted her?

Or was this all just his insecurities talking? He genuinely loved and cared for her. But sadly that was not the only criteria to spend their lives together.

She told him about her past with Clancy. From the wedding, to the way his family treated her and even the divorce.

"Oh, so that is why you are no longer sure if you are both legally divorced" he said in realisation.

She nodded her head, yes. "I just believed that they would have no reason to not file the papers.

But now it appears that there may be one- that Clancy did not want a divorce" she said.

"I know that I may not know the whole story, but why did you not file for a divorce after they began treating you in a bad way? I mean, these people were horrible to you, Selen. Why did you not ask for a divorce?" He asked her.

Selen heaved a sigh before she answered his question. "You mean besides the fact that I had no way of contacting anyone outside their home?" She asked rhetorically.

"Because it was clearly a trade and I did not know better. I mean, I did not even know the full truth about why my own family was practically selling me off to them" she revealed to Newton

"I was not as bold as I am now. I could not stand up for myself. I believe that wherever I would try running to, that they would eventually catch me and make things even worse" she said.

Newton did not ask anything else, even though he wanted to. He understood. He was even beginning to feel bad about asking. He could only imagine how scared and helpless she felt back then.

And the people who were supposed to be her saviours, her safe space, turned out to be the ones that put her in hell.

"After all this, how dare he still come back and try to claim you as his wife?" Newton asked angrily.

"He wants to be a part of I and the children's lives and apparently mine as well" she said.

"He claims that he had been looking for me all these years. According to him, he did not ask for a divorce and his sister acted alone.

He said that he was trying to find one after he found out but I was gone. We were in the same country and he did not find me, and then I came here.

You know what's even crazier? The fact that he would not have found me so soon if I had not reached this height in my career." she said.

They had now arrived at her home, but they remained in the car, with the driver standing outside to give them privacy.

"I am so sorry that you had to go through all of that, Selen," he said.

She smiled softly, "I am glad I had people in my life who made things easier for me," she said and looked at him.

Now it was his turn to smile. "But, if he knew about where you were all this while, why is he just showing up?" He asked her.

She had to tell him the truth. She was not going to let what may become a real relationship get ruined because of a selfish desire. He deserved more than that.

"He has actually been trying to reach out for a while now. We spoke a few days ago in my office and when I made it clear that I still did not want him in our lives, he mentioned going to court.

He made it sound like a last resort but I still panicked. I knew that there would be a chance of him being in their lives since it will be brought to light that he did not know about the pregnancy.

I may end up looking like I deprived him of being a father to his children. And I needed to make sure that when it came to that, the children would have a legal father figure in their lives" she said

"And was that made you more open to the idea of us being together?" he asked. And she bowed her head in shame.

Chapter 45: The Health Emergency

"Selen, it's fine. I love you." Newton said.

"I know that this is not how or when I am supposed to do this. It was not even how I planned on telling you this.

It was supposed to be beneath the night sky as fireworks flew in the sky. But it is the truth.

And I would like to believe that although you may have been pushed by the wrong reasons, you still came to me. Just like you maybe would later.

This is just a faster pace. And I will be here for you every step of the way. I will only back down when you ask me to" he said with confidence.

Selen was too stunned to speak. "You do not have to respond right now, Selen. I can be here for you as a friend until then" he said

They said their goodbyes shortly after that and Selen walked into her house. Newton watched her go in before asking his driver back into the car and they drove out of the compound.

Selen walked in and headed for her children's bedrooms. They were already asleep but she placed soft kisses on their foreheads and quietly went into her home office.

She was not going to bed just yet. She needed to find out if Clancy's claims were true and if she was still legally his wife. And the night promised to be long.

She got in contact with the courthouses in Kent, England, trying to find one that had her marriage dissolution papers but there was none.

What made her feel even worse was when she tried to check her data, and all that she could find was a marriage certificate.

Only a few were available to respond to her that night so she had sent emails of enquiry to all of them.

When she glanced at the clock, she realised that it was already morning. She had not slept the entire night.

Clancy had managed to give her a sleepless night once again. She shut her eyes for a few minutes so she could rest for a bit before the kids woke up.

And for the first time in almost twenty four hours, she was glad about something- that it was the weekend.

It was hard to imagine going to work with low energy after a sleepless night and eye bags that were sure to be on her face after spending a night facing the computer screen.

She hoped that she would hear from them soon enough to get this done with. If what Clancy was saying was true, then she would just file for another divorce.

She was not going to just accept that they were still married and continue her life. No way.

She would file for another divorce, and this time, she would make sure that they both signed and it was stamped by a courthouse.

The weekend went by with very little chaos or hassle. The court houses that got back to her all carried the same message.

She was Mrs Avelino in their records, and there was never a divorce.

"What? No way. Why did we not confirm that before leaving England?" JK said as they sat in a restaurant for another Monday lunch.

"Oh, come on, JK . This is no one's fault. How could you have possibly thought to check on that? I was the one who signed the papers and I did not even suspect that it was not filed" Selen said.

She was a new mom with triplets who was planning to leave the country, and he was the friend who was helping her.

They had too many important things on their plates to have figured it out. And if Clancy had never come out to say it, they probably would never know.

"And what makes this worse is that now I just seem like the woman who ran away from her husband with his children that he did not know about," she said.

"Do not beat yourself up on that. Anyone who sees you and your children would know that there was more to that. We will get to the bottom of this" he said to her.

Everyone was on her side and there was nothing to worry about. And for the first time in days, she let out a genuine sigh of relief.

The relief was short lived because in a few seconds, a call came in from her children's school.

"And how is Diane?" JK asked. "Her next check up and medication restock is in two days" she said.

Phone rings

"hello, Mrs Carrero?" the principal said on the phone. "It's the school," she mouthed to JK who nodded and was silent.

"Ma'am, I am so sorry that I have to give you this news like this but Diane is currently on her way to the hospital.

She was sitting with her brother's during lunch and passed out. She stopped breathing ma'am" the principal said in a shaky voice.

She sounded like she was running and Selen could hear the ambulance in the background.

Selen was already on her feet, "what?!" She said and began running out of the restaurant.

JK ran behind her. "Selen! Selen, what's wrong? What happened?" He asked as he followed her to her car.

"D- Diane. Fainted. Stopped breathing" She stuttered out. But JK understood what she was trying to say.

He took the phone from her and took her to his car that was parked closer.

"What hospital is she being taken to? No, please have them take her to the Healing Springs hospital, it is on the same route but closer.

She has a medical record there and she will be attended to faster. Please have her brother withdrawn from school and waiting in the lobby.

Do not let them see her taken into the hospital. We will meet you there in ten minutes, thank you." He spoke into the phone.

They were now in his car and he ended the call and handed the phone back to Selen who was shaking with fear.

"It will be fine. Everything will be fine" he said to her as he drove out of the restaurant and into the highway at full speed.

Married To My One Night Mistake

Chapter 46: The Fear

Flashback

"Sorry ma'am, your daughter has what we call Severe Myelodysplastic Syndrome." The doctor announced to Selen as she watched her three years old daughter from the glass in the door.

"This is a ticking clock disease. Children are born appearing completely healthy, but their bone marrow is programmed to fail as they grow."

Her bone marrow will spend the next few years producing malformed, ineffective blood cells. Around the age of 8, the disease is actively transforming into acute leukemia. Which is why we call it pre- leukemia."

"It is going to be especially hard for her because she needs these blood cells to fight her already existing struggle of being sickly," he added.

"How about my other two? Do they have it too?" She asked in fear.

"We have not been able to identify it in them. Maybe they do not, or maybe theirs is recessive, which means that there is a likelihood of it never showing in them but in at least one of their kids.

But for now, they are clean, and we hope it continues like that" the doctor said.

"Now we have drugs that can keep her going for the next few years, but I want you to have it in mind that at some point, her body will no longer be able to succumb to the medication.

And that will be the point where we will be needing external help- a bone marrow from a matching donor" he said.

He left her alone to sit with the news. What would she do? She had to listen to the doctor. She was not going to watch her child suffer in pain.

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They spent the last few years depending on medication and with the expectation of when the day would come.

They had spent years on the bone marrow list, hoping that when the time would come when hers would have given up, they would have one that could save her life.

Selen was not a match and her boys were a half match but they were too young to donate. Even now.

Selen knew what the news from the principal meant. It meant that the time had come. But there was no matching bone marrow yet.

Selen ran as fast her legs could carry her immediately JK got to the hospital.

He carelessly threw the keys at a security guard who was trying to get him to park at a more suitable spot and ran in the same direction as Selen.

"My daughter, where is she?" She asked the receptionist immediately.

"Mummy?" A voice sounded behind her. She turned around to see the boys on a bench with their principal beside them.

She had followed the ambulance that carried Diane and followed JK's instruction on bringing them after their sister was taken inside the hospital.

"David, Daniel. Where is your sister?" She asked them as she hugged them both.

"She is being attended to inside. But the doctor's will not say anything to anyone who is not a parent or legal guardian" the principal said.

She stood behind the kids as she spoke. Selen nodded, unable to form the words to thank her.

She ran inside and met with the second receptionist. "My- my daughter, where?" She stuttered out.

It seemed impossible, but she felt like her heart was beating faster as she got closer.

The nurse looked confused at Selen's words. "Her daughter, Diane Williams just got admitted here. She is seven years old, passed out in school" JK translated for Selen.

"Oh, right here. Let's go," the nurse said with urgency as she led them to the ward Diane was in.

"Doctor, these are the girl's parents," the nurse said. She had assumed that JK was the father.

"Good afternoon, Mr and Mrs Carrero, your daughter is still alive and I hope that eases your mind a bit.

But she is not out of danger yet. Luckily, this is your hospital so it was not hard to find her medical records.

I understand that you are fully aware of what is going on because you have been preparing for this day that sadly came sooner than we expected.

We are still trying to reach her doctor, but he is off the clock. But the major thing here Mrs Carrero, is that we are going to be needing that bone marrow now.

Every minute we delay puts her further in harm's way. We are also in talks with the data center to see if there has been any new matches within the past hour but so far, it is not sounding very promising" the doctor said.

"Her body demands an urgent transplant before the full-blown leukemia takes over.

According to the data, the boys are half matches. But we cannot use the little boys because in a situation such as this, an adult parent is preferred over a seven year old child.

A seven year old boy simply does not have enough bone marrow or blood volume to safely donate to a sister of the same size for a complex half-match procedure, whereas an adult parent has plenty of stem cells." The doctor explained to them.

"Can we see her?" JK asked. "No, we can not risk any infections. Her body is very fragile right now" the doctor said and excused himself and went back into the room her daughter was in.

"Selen? Hey look at me," JK said to Selen who was staring blankly at where the doctor once stood.

"I will get tested, and so will everyone I know until we get a match. Everything will be fine. Everything will be fine," he said as he hugged her tightly.

Selen cried in his arms as the fear of death lingered around them. "That's enough crying now, we have to make sure that my daughter finds a donor soon," she said and cleaned her eyes.

"I will start calling my contacts in other hospitals to communicate with yours so they can get the data and look for a match" JK said and walked away.

Selen took her phone out of her purse and called the only other person she believed cared for her.

Chapter 47: An Answer and an Ultimatum

A nurse came in and handed a file over to the doctor who then opened it and read the content.

He then closed the file and looked across the small office. "The tests are positive, Mr Avelino . You are a match. We can proceed with the transplant immediately."

Clancy's gaze drifted to the other side of the glass where a helpless and fragile Diana laid.

She was now more pale, entirely motionless, and surrounded by a complex network of life-support machines.

The monitors flashed with warnings, tracking a fragile existence that was slipping away by the minute.

Diana was at death's door, her body unable to fight any longer. What was he waiting for to do what he needed to?

"Let's do it now," Clancy said, his voice flat but determined. "She does not have time to wait," he added.

"I just need to talk to Selen in private for a minute," he said to the doctor. The doctor excused himself and left them alone.

JK still stood there with his arms folded. Newton had taken the kids to the cafeteria in the hospital to avoid them from seeing Clancy.

"What is it?" Selen asked him. "I know that this may seem incredibly selfish and I know that the timing could not be worse but I have a condition" he said.

"What?" She asked, clearly baffled. "You selfish-" JK had begun saying before he was interrupted.

"My condition is that I want to be a part of the children's lives. I want them to know me as their father. That is it" Clancy said.

Selen was silent. "Selen, you do not have to do this. We could find another match," JK said.

"But none this quickly," she said. "Fine," she agreed. "I will introduce you to them and to Diana after she wakes up," she said.

It was almost as if she did not give it any thought but that was the opposite.

Clancy had a small smile on his lips as he went to the nurse to let her know that he was ready.

"Selen?" JK called. "Not now, JK , please." she said and then went silent again as she watched Clancy walk away with the nurse.

"Okay, Mr Avelino , I will need you to sign these papers. And I will read out the side effects of the procedure you are about to undergo.

Clancy signed the papers as he listened to her.

"The side effects of this procedure include- hip and lower back pain or soreness, fatigue and temporary weakness.

Bruising or swelling at the needle insertion site on the pelvic bone, mild headache or muscle aches, nausea or a sore throat from anesthesia..." She continued to speak but Clancy had zoned out.

Was this the right thing to do? He felt like he had no choice. He preferred to get to his kids this way than through a judge.

It seemed selfish but he had the best intentions for her and the kids. And all he needed was a chance to prove it.

And if she was not going to give him that chance, he took it.

"Mr Avelino ? I was asking if I should go on?" The nurse asked him, breaking him out of his thoughts and he nodded, yes in response.

"Alright then, rare complications include- infection at the surgical collection site, excessive or prolonged bleeding,

Temporary nerve or muscle damage around the hip, Adverse reactions to general anesthesia..." hearing her read them out made him take his phone out to reach out to his assistant, just in case.

After the ultimatum he had just given Selen, he believed that she would not want to help him if he faced the side effects. He needed an emergency contact and it was definitely not going to be his family.

After that, the medical team moved quickly. In a matter of hours, Clancy was taken into the operating room for the harvest.

The surgeons positioned him on the table and prepared to extract the healthy tissue from his hip bones.

Because of the extreme urgency of Diana's condition, the team needed to secure a large volume of cells on the first attempt.

Even under anesthesia, Clancy could feel a deep, heavy pressure vibrating through his lower body.

He remained completely still, forcing himself to breathe through the discomfort by focusing entirely on his memory of his daughter's face.

He knew that every syringe filled with his marrow was a fraction of a second more time bought for Diana. Within a few hours, the surgeons had gathered enough healthy cells to give her a chance at survival.

Clancy was then moved to a recovery room, and the hospital laboratory rushed to process the donation. They had to clean and prepare the cells quickly, stripping away any components that Diana's weak body might reject.

The clock was ticking for both of them

And by the late afternoon, the donation was ready.

Meanwhile, Selen was finally given a chance to see her daughter before she was taken into surgery.

The room was completely silent except for the sounds that came from the machines. A nurse stood by the bed, checking the labels on a thick plastic bag filled with dark fluid.

Selen sat down in the chair next to the mattress, her eyes fixed on Diana's small, still form.

She reached through the rail of the bed and carefully held her daughter's hand. It felt cold and fragile, like paper. "Keep fighting, Diana," she whispered against the steady beep of the cardiac monitor.

"Mummy is right here," she whispered to her and just sat down in the silence until the nurse excused her out of the room.

Clancy watched them from the glass part of the door, not going in. He could only imagine the kind of pain she must be going through, seeing her daughter in that state.

He turned around and limped back to his room with pride that he had helped his daughter. And the pain of officially meeting his daughter in that condition.

Married To My One Night Mistake

Chapter 48: Praying for an answer

Selen sat with the boys quietly as they waited for their nanny. "Mummy, will Diane be okay?" David asked his mother.

"Yes, baby. She will. But right now, I need you both to be good boys and go home, change, and then come back" she said to them.

Their nanny came in with a duffel bag, "I brought you some clothes in case you spent the night," she said and handed the bag over to Selen.

"Thank you," she said and took it, not bothering to check the content.

"I am just a phone call away if you need anything," Sandra said. "Thank you, Sandra," she said and then kissed the boys goodbye.

This was a very critical time, and the boys being there would cause her mind to be all over the place.

And as much as she wanted to be optimistic, anything could happen and she did not want them there for it.

"Hey, I came as soon as you called. I saw the boys on their way out with the nanny, is everything okay?" Newton said as he walked over to Selen.

"No, nothing is okay," she said with an emotionless voice. "Diane needs a bone marrow transplant right now. But we did not expect to need it for at least one more year, now." Selen said.

"Let's get me tested," Newton said immediately and got up from the chair. "What?" Selen asked with a baffled expression.

"I will not be able to forgive myself if I found out that I had something that could save her life, Selen.

I want to get tested. And even if I am not a match, I will help you look for one" he announced to her.

They walked together to the nurse that stood in front of her daughter's room. She was in the ICU.

"Where do I go to get tested for Diane's match?" Newton asked her. "Are you her biological father?" The nurse asked him.

"Uh, no" he responded. "An immediate family member?" She asked. "No, I am not," he responded.

"Okay, we will get you tested. But it is advisable to continue searching. Preferably someone in the same family tree as her" the nurse said to Selen and took Newton away.

Hours had gone by now, everyone she knew was now tested. And when Newton came out and the results were negative, she knew there was just one person who had not been tested.

"Nurse, what are the chances of her biological father being a match?" She asked the nurse.

"Well, since you are her biological mother and you do not match, there is a very high chance that the father would be a perfect match" she said to Selen.

No matter what it was, she could not watch her daughter die because she refuses to let her past come into her present.

She would never be able to forgive herself if she did not at least try to save the girl.

It was almost a new day, but she took the chance and called Clancy. She continued to mentally remind herself that she was doing it for her daughter.

Clancy picked up on the second ring, "Selen?" He answered, his voice still carrying the surprise and confusion from when he saw her call.

"Diane is in the hospital," she said. And that was all he needed to hear before getting out of bed in a hurry.

"What happened to her?" He asked as he got dressed. "Her illness, her body gave up sooner than we expected. She- she needs-" she stuttered.

"Just tell me where you are right now and I will be there as soon as possible" he said and ran out of the penthouse with his phone still in his ear.

He listened to the address and typed it into his car before hanging up. He drove with immense speed as he followed the directions.

As soon as he arrived at the hospital, he went to the receptionist but he was spotted by Newton first.

"My daughter, Diane, is here and I need to know what room she's in," he said.

The nurse had not answered yet before Newton chirped in. "You have some nerve showing up here after everything you have done," Newton said.

He was completely unaware that Selen herself had called Clancy.

"I do not have the time for this, I am just here to see my daughter" Clancy said to him.

"No, you are just here to take advantage of the situation and Selen's vulnerable state" Newton accused.

"Were you following her again?" Newton asked.

"Listen here boy, I am going to resist the urge to punch you so hard that you end up in the intensive care unit, and tell you for the very last time to get the fuck out of my way.

I don't think you know what I am willing to do for my family. And for the record, Selen called me here" he said and walked away from him and into the direction of the nurse who was taking him to Selen.

Newton followed behind him. He was just trying to be protective of Selen.

Now that he knew about all he had done to her in the past, he was determined to be there to fight for her if she needed him to.

Clancy watched Newton follow behind him and he just shook his head and continued to ignore his presence.

"Selen," Clancy called to her as he spotted her on the bench that faced Diane's room.

"She needs bone marrow," she said and sniffled. Her eyes were visibly red, giving away her unsuccessful attempt at hiding that she had been crying.

"I am not a match, and that makes the chances of you being a match much higher" she said.

"Is it not crazy that the chance I get to be there is like this?" He asked rhetorically. "Let's get me tested first" he said to her and she nodded in agreement.

As she waited for him to return with the results, JK came back to be with her "Are you sure you want to do this?" He asked her.

"I have to. This is not about me anymore but about my daughter's life." She stated.

Chapter 49: A Special kind of Forgiveness

The days that followed were a grueling test of endurance. To protect her from infection and allow her body to rest, the doctors kept Diana in a deep, medically induced sleep.

Selen never left the isolation room. She slept in the uncomfortable chair, washed her hands dozens of times a day, and watched the digital displays constantly.

The first week brought terrifying setbacks. Diana developed severe fevers as her body struggled to process the massive changes occurring inside her system.

Her temperature spiked, and her blood pressure dropped, and it would send the nursing staff rushing into the room to adjust her medication pumps.

Every morning, the medical team ran tests to see if the new cells were working, and every morning the results showed nothing. Diana remained on the edge of survival, suspended between life and death.

Clancy also sat through the silence of the nights, listening to the machines breathe for his daughter, wondering if his sacrifice would be enough.

He had not mentioned his requests after that, even after the boys would come over and look at him, wondering who their mom's new friend was. A time was going to come for him to introduce himself, but it would not be while his daughter's life hung at a balance.

JK and Newton spent their fair share of time in the hospital as well. But JK focused more on making sure that Selen and the boys did not fall into an unhealthy routine.

He would spend some time with the boys after school, and answer as many questions as he could about their sister and when she was getting back home.

Newton was all about being there for Selen. She was depriving herself of food and work because she wanted to always be at Diana's side.

Clancy had made it clear that although he wanted to be involved in their lives, he was not going to just come in like a force.

He was trying to ease his way into their lives. He would sometimes have light conversations with the boys when they came over, and traded places with Selen so she could get some shut eye.

After a few weeks, Newton and JK had to spend less time by her side, sometimes leaving her with just Clancy who did not owe any of his businesses an urgent appearance.

They were still not in support of him being around but they had no say. It was Selen's decision and they would have to be there for her no matter what.

They were watching his every move, waiting for any screw up from him to send him away. And he was not giving them a chance to do that.

It took Selen a while to learn to take turns with him to watch Diana, and when she eventually did, she found it rather effective than watching with half closed eyes.

On the fifteenth day, the attending doctor walked into the room. He was not looking at the charts with his usual furrowed brow. He was smiling.

"The numbers are finally going up," the doctor announced, tapping the computer screen. Selen and Clancy were now alert.

"Her body is accepting your cells. The transplant is working." He said to Clancy.

Clancy stood up, his own physical pain completely forgotten. He looked at the monitor.

For the first time in weeks, the lines indicating her internal cell production were moving upward. His cells had taken root inside her bones.

Selen let the happy tears leave her eyes. Finally, the long awaited good news.

A few days later, the medical team determined that Diana was strong enough to breathe on her own. They carefully removed her breathing tube and began to lower the sedation.

The doctor's assured that the process would not decline when she woke up but they would still observe her after she did.

Later that day, Diana's eyelids slowly fluttered. She squinted against the bright lights of the room, looking confused and exhausted.

She turned her head weakly until her eyes found Selen sitting beside her. "Mummy," she whispered, her voice barely a breath.

"Diana?" She asked as Selen leaned over the bed while clicking on the call button.

Tears blurred her vision, as she very gently squeezed her daughter's hand. "I am right here, Diana. You are going to be okay. Everything will be okay" she whispered.

"C?" She questioned as she slightly tilted her head to look at Clancy. He had a smile on his lips as he stood behind Selen.

"Do not strain your voice, sweetie," Selen said to her. She had been silent for over two weeks and there was a lot of time to talk but not now.

He slowly nodded his head and walked closer. He had been standing at a distance the entire time in fear of how he would reintroduce himself to his daughter.

Clancy leaned closer to the hospital guardrail. His hand trembled violently as he carefully placed a plush teddy bear near her blanket, his eyes never leaving her pale face.

"Hey, kiddo," he managed to say, his voice cracking under the immense weight of the moment.

"Mummy, did you find him because he was my friend?" She asked innocently in a tired voice, not obeying her mom's instruction to be quiet.

Selen reached down, her own fingers sliding into Diana's hand and squeezing gently.

She looked down at her daughter, her voice thick with emotion, forcing herself to say the words that should have been said seven years ago.

"Diana, sweetie," Selen swallowed hard, looking from the little girl to the man standing beside her.

"This is Clancy. And Clancy is not just your friend from the park. He is also your dad."

The room fell completely silent, Diana's eyes grew wide as she processed the words, her gaze darting back and forth between her mother and the man who had always looked out for her in the park.

The confusion on her face slowly gave way to a profound, innocent understanding. "You are my daddy?" She asked, her voice a tiny, raspy whisper. A small, genuine smile pulled at the corners of her mouth.

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Chapter 50: Present Father

Clancy let out a ragged breath, completely unable to hold back his tears any longer. They spilled over his cheeks as he leaned over the bed, carefully avoiding her medical lines, and pressed a gentle, lingering kiss to her forehead.

He rested his cheek against her temple, feeling the warmth of her skin.

"That's right, sweetheart," Clancy wept softly, cradling her small hand against his chest. "I am your daddy. And I promise you, I am never going to leave again." He said to her,

Moments later, Clancy stood by the door of the recovery room, his gaze fixed on the small form of his daughter sleeping soundly.

Only an hour had passed since she woke up and the doctor had confirmed her stability. An hour since he broke the news to her, a talk that had drained him emotionally.

The tinge of happiness still lingered in his heart. He helped save his daughter's life.

He had done what any father would do, yet the weight of that title still felt foreign and completely terrifying on his tongue.

A door clicked open followed by the sound of multiple footsteps. Selen entered first, her eyes carrying a deep exhaustion that no amount of hospital coffee could fix.

Behind her walked David and Daniel. And Clancy's chest tightened with a sudden, sharp ache at the sight of them.

Selen signed for him and moved away from them a bit. That was Clancy's cue.

Clancy cleared his throat, the sound rough and deliberate in the quiet space. Then he got up from the chair he was seated on and took a small step forward, keeping his hands visible, open, and trembling slightly.

"Hey, guys," he murmured, his voice dropping an octave to keep from disturbing the sleeping girl. "There is something we need to talk about. Something about who I am to you."

Daniel, the older of the two brothers, crossed his arms over his chest. He did not look angry, he simply looked observant, his dark eyes tracking Clancy's every movement with an analytical precision.

David remained slightly behind his brother, his hands tucked deep into the pockets of his oversized hoodie, his expression unreadable and perfectly still.

Selen stood back against the wall, her hands clasped tightly in front of her, letting Clancy take the lead.

This was his truth to deliver, his burden to bear, and his chance to bridge the gap that had existed since the day the triplets were born.

"I know things have been confusing, and I know you might have had a lot of questions about why I showed up when your sister got sick," Clancy began, his eyes moving between the two boys.

He forced himself to maintain eye contact, refusing to look away from the raw honesty of their youth. "I am not just a donor who happened to match her blood type. I am your father." he said.

Clancy braced himself for an explosion, for tears, or perhaps for a barrage of questions demanding to know where he had been for the last seven years of their lives.

He expected the passion that usually came with childhood revelations of this magnitude. Instead, the reaction was utterly hollow.

Daniel did not flinch. His arms remained firmly crossed, his shoulders dropping only a fraction of an inch as the information processed through his sharp mind.

He turned his head slightly to look at the door that his sister was in, and then looked back at Clancy. "Oh, okay," Daniel said softly.

The word was flat, devoid of any emotions of anger or sudden warmth. It was a simple acknowledgment of a fact, like being told the weather had changed outside.

David merely shifted his weight from one foot to the other. He pulled one hand out of his pocket to rub his nose, his eyes fixed on Clancy's leather shoes.

"Is that why your marrow worked for her?" David asked, his voice quiet, small, and pragmatic.

"Yes," Clancy replied, a knot forming in his throat at their total lack of outrage. "That is exactly why. Because you carry my DNA. All three of you do."

"Cool," he whispered. He did not smile, he did not move toward Clancy, nor did he shrink away. He simply accepted the biological explanation as if it were a science lesson from school.

The silence that followed was dense and thick with unsaid things. Clancy felt a sharp wave of emotion wash over him. He had prepared himself for a battlefield, but he had stepped onto an empty field instead.

The boys were not making a big deal out of it, but their quietness felt like a wall of unacceptance.

They were not rejecting him, but they certainly were not welcoming him either. They were just letting him exist in their space.

Selen finally stepped forward, placing a gentle hand on Daniel's shoulder. "We can talk more about this later, boys. You can go in and see your sister now." she said and pointed at the door as a form of go ahead.

David stopped halfway to the door and turned around, "can we go to the cafeteria later?" David asked Clancy, his tone perfectly normal.

"Yeah, me too," Daniel echoed, still walking toward the door without a second glance at the man who had just revealed himself as their biological parent.

"Sure," Clancy said and watched them disappear behind the door without another word. They did not hate him, they did not love him.

They were simply quiet about it, leaving him alone with the steady, echoing clicking of keyboards and the crushing weight of a clean slate he had no idea how to write on.

Selen did not say anything to him, mostly because she did not know what to say. Even she had not expected that reaction.

She walked into Diana's room to supervise the boy's visit. Although she was out of danger, there were still some tubes connected to her for monitoring and they were not to be played with.

Clancy's only little ray of hope was David who had asked him to take him to the cafeteria later. And he did not even know what that meant for them.

Was it a way of them letting him into their bubble? Or were they just genuinely hungry? After all, if he was their father then it was okay for him to take them instead of their mom.

Clancy just quietly sat outside, waiting for them to finish talking with their sister so he could take them to the cafeteria.