

159- He Needed To Be There For Her

On their way back to the hotel, they both were quiet in the car. They had reached the event venue in separate cars but now instead of going back to the office they were heading to their hotel in a single car.

Nina invited Valerie to her room and ordered coffee for both of them.

" Ethan and Geena must be in the office," Valerie remarked after taking a seat at the coffee table.
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Nina preferred to sit on her bed and placed the pillow on her lap, " Don't worry about them. They aren't kids and know their way back." Valerie was tapping her foot on the floor, twirling a lock of hair around her index finger. Her eyes were darting around the room, looking everywhere except Nina.

Nina was observing her every action," What is this nervousness about?" she took Valerie by surprise with the question.

"N- no. I'm not nervous..." Valerie started fidgeting with her fingers. Her anxiety was evident in her every action. It seemed like she was having difficulty breathing.

Nina could feel the tension in the room. Even her mind wasn't able to process what just happened today at the office.

Marissa!

The girl they used for their advantage and then discarded her like trash.

She shook her head and tried to focus on the problem at hand. She steadied herself before finally speaking.

" Valerie! Your every action is a telltale sign that you are tensed. What are you worried about?" "N- nothing," Valerie raised her one shoulder, "I'm worried about nothing," she forced a smile to her lips.

Nina exhaled a long breath and got off her bed. She went to her stubborn daughter- in- law and took another seat.

" Valerie!" she called her name, but Valerie was too busy shaking her legs," Look at me, Valerie. Here!" she snapped her fingers in front of Valerie's eyes.

"I just don't know, Nina. What is Marissa doing here? How much has she told Rafael?" she started chewing her lower lip, " Why didn't Rafael ever talk about her to any of us?" " We both don't know what she has told my son, Valerie. But you need to get a grip on your emotions. You are a strong woman. Just bring back that woman who was fighting me till a few minutes back." Nina wanted to shake her hard.

When Valerie didn't speak, Nina leaned over to hold her cold hands, " Don't forget. This is the same woman we both got rid of five years back. Or have you forgotten about our perfect planning? Remember how I changed the whole working staff in our house?" Valerie nodded with a chuckle and at last looked up to meet Nina's gaze, " Yeah. I still remember." Nina smiled and moved back a little, " It all needs some planning, Valerie. When two great minds work together then I'm sure we' ll be able to come up with something good. Don't you think that?" Valerie almost jumped up in fright when heard the knock, " Room service!" " Please come in!" Nina called out loudly," Must be our coffee!" They both were quiet when the staff brought the trolley full of snacks along with a pot of hot steaming coffee.

" You ordered so much stuff," Valerie rana gaze on all the baked stuff, " It was supposed to be just a cup of coffee." " No, Valerie. Now we need to celebrate each day with coffee or wine," Nina said with a sly grin, " After all, every step we take, brings us closer to bring down that girl." By the end of it, her voice had gone bitter.

She needed to put Geena on hold. Later she could convince Rafael about Geena. But first, they both needed to get rid of the thorn named Marissa.

The thorn was hurting their feet, and its presence could cause serious infection in their bodies.

" We will be really obliged, Mr. Sinclair if you can visit the sight," the manager of the local company requested him.

Rafael thought for a moment. Basically, Dean was ideal to do this job, but Rafael wanted to take over the company after doing his homework.
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He didn't want to trust anyone blindly when Marissa was involved. He couldn't keep her as a chef in MSin nor he was interested in offering her a random cafe.
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It would be best if she could head a company that provided catering services or anything of interest.

He wanted to see her independent so that the next time something bad happened she wouldn't be dependent on anyone.

He sat inside his car and asked his driver to follow the other car.

The car had barely started moving when his phone started buzzing with non- stop messages. It was due to the signal restoration.

He picked up his phone casually and frowned when found that most of the messages were from Joseph.

" Where are you?" " Your mom and Valerie are here." " They don't look happy after finding that Marissa is working here." " You need to be here, Rafael." Oh God!

" George. Turn the car!" he roared and tried to cl utch his hands into tight fists.

When did mom arrive? Why did nobody inform him about Valerie's arrival? What was the reason for this unannounced visit?

" Damn!" he hit his fi st to the seat.

His mom wasn't a fool when she heard a kid's voice in the background.
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He looked at his phone in irritation when it started ringing, " Yes?" he asked in a clipped voice.

" Mr. Sinclair. I can't see your car following us. Should I take the next turn and come back to..." Rafael didn't let him speak, " Right now, something urgent came up. I need to attend to it." The man tried to speak but Rafael had dismissed the call. He needed to be atMSin. This time he couldn't leave Marissa alone otherwise she would never forgive him.

He bore it last time, he couldn't bear it again.

Nopes!

She had asked him not to tell them about kids. He didn't know the reason for their arrival but this time he didn't want to disappoint Marissa.

Whatever she was asking him, he needed to fulfill it without asking any questions. Once she would come to trust him, she would confide in him.

Till then he needed to be there for her.