

My Accidental Husband Is My Revenge Partner

- Chapter 21 – 30

Chapter 21: She's Allergic To Oranges

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"She's in trouble," Kace mumbled to himself when he got a phone call on his phone. He used the binoculars immediately to see if there was any threat around her but they were simply talking. "What is going on?" He asked himself.

At the dining table, Michelle smiled at Anastasia as she placed a glass of orange juice in front of her. The air was thick with unspoken tension; they both knew Anastasia was allergic to oranges. This was a deliberate test. If she had a reaction, it would confirm her identity as Anastasia and not Selene.

"You know, Selene, I was the one who squeezed out the oranges, especially for you," said Michelle with a big smile stretched on her lips. "It's very delicious, you should have a taste," she added.

Anastasia glared at the glass of orange juice in front of her, the sharp citrus scent already making her nose twitch. She took shallow breaths, fighting the urge to sneeze.

Just the smell of it could set off her allergies, but she couldn't afford to react. Her eyes narrowed in determination as she steeled herself against the impending itch and discomfort. She felt her throat tighten and her skin prickled with anxiety. She needed to maintain her composure. One sneeze, one hint of a reaction, and her true identity would be revealed.

"Thank you," Selene mumbled, returning the smile. Her fist was clenched under the table because she had never predicted that they would use orange to try to trap her.

"So Selene," Amelia called. "Now that I think about it, I've never seen you in a movie yet."

"That's because I've never acted in one. I'm just waiting for a big project that can boost my popularity across Radiantia entirely," Selene replied. Amelia nodded in understanding.

Everyone sat on the dining table and got ready to eat. Richard sat beside Anastasia.

He also wanted to find out if the person who looked like Anastasia was her or someone else. But he was also planning the things he would do to Anastasia as soon as she got a reaction from the juice.

He missed having sex with Anastasia and Michelle never let him get close to her. They don't even sleep on the same bed back at the Wallace mansion. She would comfortably sleep on the bed while he slept on the couch.

"Go ahead, Selene? Aren't you going to sip from your juice?" Michelle asked, an evil grin on her lips and Anastasia didn't fail to notice it either.

She was trapped.

Anastasia continued to tap on the wristwatch secretly without anyone noticing. She couldn't take her phone out to text Kace because Richard was sitting so close to her and he would be able to read the text. If she delayed any longer, she was going to get caught and all her plans would be destroyed.

Hesitantly, Anastasia reached for the glass of orange juice and sipped from it. She could feel her hands threatening to shake due to her reactions but she tried to mask it in.

"It's very delicious like you said," said Anastasia and the smile on each of the family members immediately faltered.

They knew that her allergic reactions didn't take more than thirty seconds before they started acting up. Michelle checked the time on her phone and a whole minute had already passed.

She exchanged looks with her parents before their smiles grew back on their lips.

Michelle turned back to Selene and replied, "I told you, didn't I? Have some more and eat too."

Even though their eyes were already eased since she didn't get any reaction, they still hoped she would but unfortunately for them, Anastasia disappointed them terribly.

"I'm on a diet," said Anastasia, forcing the words out of her mouth.

"Come on, you can just have a lit—"

Michelle was immediately interrupted by the opening of their front door as Xavier walked in, his aura intimidating as ever.

"Xavier, we didn't know you were coming over. Do you want to have dinner with us?" Robert suggested, but Xavier didn't pay him any mind.

On the other hand, as soon as Anastasia saw Xavier, instinctively, she ran towards him and hugged him tightly.

Everyone in the room was surprised by her actions, including Xavier because this was the second time they were having physical contact and she was the one who initiated it.

“P-please t-take m-me away f-from here,” she whispered so that only him would hear, while she struggled to breathe. Xavier had no idea what was wrong with her but he didn’t waste any time to wonder either.

He grabbed her bag that was on the dining table and together, they left without Xavier acknowledging the Harrison family.

As if they were in a trance, the Harrison family didn’t dare to stop them either so they left the mansion and headed towards Xavier’s car.

Xavier opened the car for Anastasia and helped her in. Her face was already red and puffy, one of her reactions and the second was being out of breath.

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“Kace, drive!” Xavier ordered Kace who was already in the car. Xavier brought out his phone and called Mark immediately. When the latter picked up, he yelled through the phone, “I want you to come to my house immediately, Anastasia is sick!”

“What? What kinds of symptoms is she showing?” Mark asked him, already packing his things and getting ready to go. It was evident from Xavier’s tone that it was a serious matter.

Xavier stared at Anastasia whose eyes were already closed while her face continued to swell, her head resting on his chest. Xavier explained what was happening immediately.

“She’s having an allergic reaction, I will be there right now,” Mark cut off the call and dashed out of the hospital.

Xavier placed his fingers on Anastasia’s nose and he could barely feel her hot breath on his fingers. He gritted his teeth in anger as he ordered Kace from the front seat. “Drive faster!”

Kace immediately stepped on the gas.

Looking back at Anastasia, Xavier mumbled, “You’d better not die on me like this.”

Chapter 22: She’s Not Anastasia

They arrived at Xavier’s mansion, and without wasting a moment, Xavier swept Anastasia into his arms and carried her to his room. Barely seconds later, Mark skidded

his car to a stop, rushed inside, and immediately began the treatment. The urgency in his movements mirrored the tension that filled the air.

A few hours later

Anastasia woke up in an unfamiliar bedroom. The ceiling above her was stark white, noticeably different from the one in the guest room where she had been staying. She blinked a few times, disoriented, trying to piece together how she had ended up in the room.

‘Am I in heaven?’ Anastasia wondered, as her eyebrows curled in confusion. She pushed herself to sit up on the bed, and that was when her eyes landed on a figure.

It was Xavier. He was sitting on a couch, his head lowered. Either he was asleep or praying, one couldn’t tell. Anastasia frowned deeply when it dawned on her. She was in Xavier’s room and she had an allergy attack.

Sensing she was already awake from the sound that came from the bed, Xavier raised his head and his gaze landed on Anastasia who froze stiff due to how cold his gaze was.

She thought she had something wrong immediately, so she started to apologize.

“I-I’m sorry, I didn’t know you were asleep. I was just shocked to see myself in your room. And also, I’m sorry for bothering you earlier,” she said the words so fast that someone would think she was rapping.

Xavier frowned in confusion before he stood up and walked towards her.

“Are you feeling okay? Do I need to call Mark? Do you feel pain anywhere?” He questioned her, worry etched on his face as he sat down beside her on the bed.

Anastasia opened and closed her mouth, surprised by his concern. Xavier took her silence for a yes and rushed out to call Mark.

Mark came in and checked Anastasia’s pulse.

He turned to Xavier. “She’s doing perfectly normal, you just had to scare the hell out of me earlier,” Mark yelled at Xavier but Xavier didn’t pay him any attention.

He walked towards Anastasia and sat beside the bed.

“Close the door when you leave,” said Xavier, his eyes still on Anastasia, who felt somewhat uncomfortable under his gaze.

Mark clenched his fist as he bit his tongue before he walked out, but he made sure to close the door quietly.

"Why did you come to the Harrison mansion earlier?" Anastasia asked.

She had been surprised when she saw Xavier suddenly barge into the living room earlier but was glad that he'd come. Because if he didn't, she could have died.

The Harrison family probably won't need to finish her off since the sip of orange she took was more than enough to kill her. But she survived because he came.

"Kace called me earlier. You tapped on your wrist watch and he knew you were in trouble. So, I rushed over quickly," Xavier replied.

Earlier, he had feared he was going to lose Anastasia forever, especially when her breaths had become shallow and labored. Desperation had seized him as she clung to him, her grip weak but determined. He held her just as tightly, silently pleading for her to hold on a little longer. To his immense relief, she did.

"I see," Anastasia mumbled, biting the bottom of her lips.

Xavier gazed at her lips, gulping down his saliva as if he were thirsty.

He wanted to kiss her.

"Now that I've survived their trap, I don't think they are going to continue testing me," said Anastasia, her words pushing Xavier out of his thoughts. He tore his eyes away from her lips to look at her eyes.

"But you put yourself in danger all in the name of passing their test, Ana. Aren't you taking too much risk? You almost lost your life today," said Xavier.

"This isn't the first time I'm almost getting killed, Xavier. But I won't let them sit there and enjoy their lives after what they have done to me. Those people deserve to be buried alive but I won't give them an easy death without teaching them a lesson first."

Xavier sighed. He knew that arguing with Anastasia wasn't the best way to solve the issue. She'd already risked her life by getting closer to the people who once tried to kill her and he didn't want her to do that again. But she was determined about her revenge.

"I understand you," he said. "But you need to be careful with those people," he added.

Anastasia nodded in understanding. Even though she was hellbent on her revenge, she didn't want to die just yet without achieving anything.

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Xavier excused himself to bring her dinner.

Downstairs, Xavier put on his apron as he opened the fridge to take out ingredients he was going to use to cook for Anastasia.

Both Kace and Mark saw him since they hadn't gone home yet.

"Will you look at that? The great Xavier Wallace, a business tycoon, is going to prepare dinner for his dear wife. Now, isn't that sweet?" Mark teased.

"What can I say? Love does change people," Kace added.

At the mention of love, Xavier scowled at them.

"Isn't it high time you too went back to your homes? Get out!"

"Aiyah...you are always so serious, Xavier. No one can joke with you," said Mark. He turned to leave.

"We are not entirely joking though, Xavier. You might be in love with Anastasia," Kace added before following behind Mark as they left the mansion.

'Might,' Xavier thought to himself.

In Xavier's room, Anastasia scrolled through her phone, ignoring Michelle's messages asking her when they should hang out again.

"Seems I was wrong. They are still going to set traps for me," Anastasia thought out loud.

Her thumb paused when she saw a notification banner appear on the screen of her phone.

Instantly, she tapped on it and read through the article.

A smile crept on Anastasia's lips when she was done reading the article.

"Bingo."

Chapter 23: Offended

"So many people," Kace commented as his eyes scanned the people crowded in the lobby of an audition hall, both male and female. "And all these people are going to audition for the same movie? I don't get it," Kace added, scratching the back of his head, confusedly.

Anastasia sighed when she heard him. Nervousness gripped her, and she could feel her palms growing sweaty at the thought of the upcoming audition. She wiped her hands on her jeans, trying to steady herself, but the anxiety lingered, making it hard to focus on anything else.

Mr Arnold Jeunes, a renowned director who had directed several blockbuster movies made an announcement a few days ago about a new movie, and auditions can start a week later.

The week has finally arrived and Anastasia wanted to be in that movie. She wanted to get the lead role, a role she knew well that Michelle would be aiming for. But she knew she had little chance of getting it. Either way, Anastasia wanted to give her best performance.

"It means that whoever gets accepted gets to play a part in the movie, Kace," she responded.

"I know that. But what I don't get is why so many people are here. I mean look, there are over 100 hundred people here who are fighting for just a role? A lot of people are going to go back home to cry their eyes out after getting rejected," said Kace.

Anastasia turned to him as she asked, "Don't tell me you don't know Arnold Jeunes?"

"Who the butt is that?" Kace questioned, more confusion flooding his face.

Anastasia coked an eyebrow at Kace, wondering if he had watched any movies.

Anastasia parted her lips to reply to him but stopped when she saw Michelle walking into the audition hall with a lady who was dressed professionally, carrying a bottle of water and an umbrella as she trailed behind Michelle.

Anastasia didn't need to think too much to realize that the person was probably Michelle's new assistant after she left. The crowd started to murmur as they admired Michelle.

Anastasia tried to make herself invisible in the crowd of many people. She didn't want to be seen by Michelle because the latter would act all sweet towards her as if she didn't just try to kill her close to two weeks ago.

Unfortunately for Anastasia, Michelle found her in the crowd quite easily.

"Selene!!" Michelle called out to Selene, jolting the latter. Kace's eyes narrowed at Michelle. "Selene, it's been so long. Why didn't you tell me you were also auditioning for a role for the sinner?" Michelle asked Selene with excitement in her eyes while Selene tried to keep up with her.

The name of the movie was the sinner.

"I didn't know you were going to audition as well, Michelle. Well now that you are here, it's that good?" Selene asked Michelle with a smile on her lips.

Michelle noticed Kace standing beside Selene and couldn't help but wonder how close she was to the Wallace family. First, it was Xavier and now, it was Kace.

Her mind went back to a few days ago when Xavier picked Selene from her house. How they hugged so intimately made her want to strangle Selene who was smiling back at her.

"Hi Kace," she greeted, stretching her hand out for a handshake. But Kace ignored her as if she was invisible.

"When will your auditions begin?" He asked Selene, already feeling sick with Michelle around.

Selene darted her eyes towards them. It wasn't a surprise that Kace would probably dislike Michelle since the latter had always been cunning.

"It should start soon," Selene replied.

Turning to Michelle who was still flabbergasted by his actions, Selene added, "What role are you going for?"

Michelle redrew her hand back to her side. She could hear the crowd whispering amongst each other. Kace had just humiliated her in front of everyone. She gritted her teeth in silent anger.

"I'm going for the female lead role," she puffed up her chest arrogantly, knowing she would get the role even if she didn't have to audition. Usually, top actresses and actors don't need to audition since their past work can be their alibi or sometimes, they give private auditions, where people won't see them.

But director Jeunes had stated clearly in the article that all celebrities must audition if they were interested, be it A-list or B-list celebrities.

Michelle could have chosen to go to the private audition but she wanted to show off her skill. Seeing Selene around, she wanted to flaunt even more.

"I wish you good luck," Selene wished her. Her gaze went to the assistant who had been quiet since Michelle came to her and found the assistant glaring at her.

Selene stared at the woman's face until she found her slightly familiar. She recognized her as being one of her father's secretaries back in his office who would gossip about

her with Michelle as they shared false rumors around the office, making her look like a whore.

“You too,” Michelle wished her. She didn’t bother to ask Selene about the role she was going to audition for since she found it insignificant.

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“Just look at her and walk away like the green snake she is,” Kace spat as he glared at Michelle’s back. “Such an eyesore,” he tore his eyes away from her.

The auditions started and Michelle headed inside first, since she was the most influential actress from the crowd. She puffed her chest up with her head held high.

Closing the door behind her, Michelle faced the judges who were seated behind a large desk, with papers and pen in their hands.

There were about five judges and Michelle didn’t fail to recognize director Jeunes immediately. She smiled at the man but he kept a stoic expression.

“Please introduce yourself,” director Jeunes ordered, which had Michelle frown deeply. She was a renowned actress and the director was asking her for an introduction.

“But you know me, director Jeunes. In fact, everyone knows my name,” Michelle remarked, still confused by his question.

Director choked his eyebrow while questioning, “Who are you?”

Chapter 24: That Bitch!

Michelle was deeply offended by Director Jeunes’ question. Even though it was something as simple as asking her to introduce herself, she still felt like she didn’t need to.

Swallowing her pride, Michelle parted her lips to speak, “I’m Michelle Wallace.”

This was the second time she would be acting in a movie Mr. Jeunes was directing if she passed the audition.

“And what role will you be playing out for us?” Another judge asked. He had low-cut hair but was a little overweight.

“I will be playing the part where Queen Jammiah catches King Ardine on the bed with his concubine,” she replied.

"I see. Well, the stage is all yours. Wow us, Mrs. Wallace," said another judge as he gestured his hand towards the stage where she was already standing.

Michele brought out her script and began acting. It only took her five minutes before she finished.

The other four judges clapped for her performance before she exited the room and gave the other people the chance to audition for their specific roles.

"Michelle, how was the audition?" Mia, Michelle's assistant asked her as she quickly opened a bottle of water for her. The fact that she didn't use much time to wow the judges just proved that she was great in the judges eyes, and also in the eyes of the crowd.

"Of course, it went well," Michelle replied, drinking from her bottled water. "I will get the role, Mia," she added confidently.

Michelle found Selene talking to Kace and she walked towards them.

"So Selene, after you are done auditioning, let's hang out?" She offered.

The smile that was on the latter's lips immediately faltered but she immediately composed herself.

"I'm sorry but I'm going to be busy practicing my lines. I'm sure all you need to do is just look at the scripts and you are good to go but I need to practice, Michelle," she politely declined the invitation, adding a bit of compliment to make Michelle gloat.

"Come on, I'm not that good. But alright, let's hang out another time and you practice your lines. Give your best and make sure you get accepted," Michelle wished her while Selene smiled at her.

All of a sudden, a lady tapped Michelle on the shoulder, grabbing her attention.

"Yes?"

The lady held a script in her hand which meant she was also part of the people who were auditioning for a role. She was shaking with her head lowered.

"P-please can I take a-a picture with you?" She requested.

Michelle smiled at her. "Of course, darling."

Michelle took a pic with her and other people took the chance to request a picture from Michelle until Mia thought it was enough.

Michelle waved Selene a goodbye as she exited the hall and Selene returned it.

“Now I’m curious, why is she acting like the both of you are besties? I mean, you too just met,” Kace wondered out loud.

“It’s definitely part of their plan,” Selene replied.

When it was finally Selene’s turn to audition, she excused herself while Kace wished her luck.

Selene entered the room and her eyes landed on the judges, she immediately bowed respectfully. The aura in the room was so intense that her palms only sweated even more.

The judges were quite surprised with her good manners. When Michelle had walked in, she didn’t even bother to greet them.

She had accompanied Michelle to many auditions in the past when she was still her assistant, and she knew a few things to do when you want to audition. Always be polite, it gives extra credit.

But since this was the first time she was auditioning for a role, she was pressured.

“Good day, may we know your name please?” A judge asked, the only overweight one among them.

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“I’m Selene Jones,” she replied respectfully with a bow.

“Selene Jones? A rookie actress?” Another one asked and she nodded.

“Yes, sir.”

“In that case, what do you have to show us today?”

Selene brought out her script before she replied, “I will be playing the part where Queen Jammiah catches King Ardine on the bed with his concubine,” she replied.

The judges shared a look. Director Jeunes’ eyes narrowed at Selene Jones.

She was only a rookie and she was already aiming for the female lead role.

‘You have to be kidding me,’ he thought to himself.

“The stage is all yours.”

Selene nodded.

She closed her eyes, taking a deep breath. When she opened them, her entire demeanor had transformed, embodying the essence of Queen Jammiah. Disbelief and sadness were etched into her expression, her eyes turning red with a seething rage. Tears naturally pooled in her eyes, completing her metamorphosis into the tormented queen.

“So you have been cheating on me with this good-for-nothing whore you brought to this palace?” She asked. “You played me like a fool. You told me you loved me but you still cheated on me?”

Selene didn’t get the chance to say her other lines when she heard someone clapping from the judge’s table.

Her eyes landed on Director Jeunes, who was clapping with a broad smile on his face. The other judges followed suit, their applause filling the room. Anastasia’s heart swelled with a mix of relief and triumph as she took in their approving expressions.

“Marvelous, Ms. Jones, that was simply marvelous,” said director Jeunes. ”

Selene bowed happily as she exited the room. She resisted the urge to hop towards Kace when she found him waiting for her.

“So you got in?” He asked her.

“I’m not sure, but director Jeunes clapped for me. I will just wait for the list to come out first,” she replied.

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Michelle was at the Wallace garden. She was seated with her legs crossed as she sipped from her glass of juice. It’s been two days since the day of the audition and none of the judges had called her yet.

She decided to go to the website where the list of people who passed the auditions will be posted.

Michelle’s eyes lit up with a smile when she saw the role she had auditioned for. However, when her gaze landed on the name listed beneath it, her expression darkened. Her grip tightened involuntarily, shattering the glass cup in her hands.

Queen Jammiah

Selene Jones

“That bitch!”

Chapter 25: She’s Better Than You
At Xavier’s mansion,

Anastasia stared at the screen of her phone, shock written all over her face when she saw her name was written under the character, Queen Jammiah.

She didn’t think she would be able to pass the audition since Michelle was also auditioning for the same character.

Anastasia jumped up from her bed and screamed excitedly. When she realized that her voice was too loud, she covered her mouth instantly.

“I wonder how she must be feeling right now but I want to call her,” Anastasia mumbled her breath as she dialed Michelle’s phone number. She was curious to know how the latter was taking the news.

Michelle saw her phone ringing but she was too angry to pick it up. The phone wouldn’t stop ringing either to give her space to think.

Furiously, she snatched the phone from the table. When her eyes landed on the phone flashing on her screen, she gritted her teeth in anger and intended to smash her phone on the hard ground but paused mid-air.

She checked the screen again when she saw that it wasn’t ringing anymore. She dropped the phone back on the table.

Immediately, the phone rang again, as if testing Michelle’s patience. She grabbed the phone and glared at the caller’s name.

It still showed Selene Jones.

“Why won’t she stop calling me?” She questioned herself.

Taking a deep breath, Michelle decided to calm herself down before she picked up the call.

“Hi, Selene. How are you doing?” She asked with the sweetest voice ever.

If someone had seen the way she acted, they would have concluded that she had two personalities.

Selene grimaced when she heard Michelle’s voice over the phone, goosebumps popping on her skin.

“Hi Michelle, I’m doing fine. How are you too?” She asked back. Of course, she knew that Michelle wasn’t doing well. She could hear the latter breathing heavily in rage from the other side even though she tried her best to conceal it.

‘Looks like someone is breaking their character,’ Selene thought to herself as a grin graced her lips.

“I’m doing fine as well,” Michelle replied.

“That’s good. I was calling to ask you if you’ve seen the list of the roles we auditioned for. I got the female lead role, Queen Jammiah,” said Selene, sounding so excited about the news that she wished Michelle would have nightmares about it later.

Michelle clenched her fist in anger as she gritted her teeth. She internally wished she could punch Selene across the face, over the phone.

She took another deep breath, trying to quench the rage that was flooding her system, but was unable to. She could only try her best to mask it but that option was failing her too.

“Really? Why didn’t you tell me you auditioned for the female lead role, Selene? I was also auditioning for that role as well?” She asked, curious to know Selene’s reply.

“You never asked, Michelle. I was waiting for you to ask but you didn’t seem to be interested in what role I was auditioning for,” Selene replied without holding back. There was nothing Michelle could do to her other than curse at her. “I’m sorry you didn’t get the role you wanted though, but hope isn’t entirely lost. You got the role of the concubine, Laila Gunta,” Selene added, her grin widening on her lips.

Now she wished she could see Michelle’s expressions at the moment.

Michelle frowned at first. She didn’t bother to check if she got a substitute role due to her rage. But still, she had wanted the role which Selene had stolen from her.

She was an A-list celebrity, an actress, and a model who was known all over Radiantia and was starting to get internationally famous too. She couldn’t believe Selene, who was a rookie and hadn’t acted in her movie yet had stolen her role right under her nose if she didn’t do something behind her back.

‘She must have slept with one of the judges for benefits,’ Michelle concluded in her thoughts.

Since director Jeunes was the one in charge of the production of the movie, she believed that it was director Jeunes, Selene who must have slept with.

“Michelle, are you still there?” Selene asked when she noticed that the other side of the line was too quiet.

Michelle came out of her thoughts and replied immediately, “Hmm, yes, I saw.”

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“Great then! It’s a good thing they decided to add you in the movie still. Alright then, I will be going back to my script reading. Take care of yourself, Michelle,” Selene smooched over the phone before she hung up the call.

When she heard the beeping sound, she jumped up again in excitement as she screamed out loudly, loving every moment she used to play with Michelle.

“YAHOOOOOOO!”

On the other side, Michelle kicked her chair away, not caring if any of the Wallace members saw her actions.

“That bitch!!” She cursed, walking back to her room.

Richard was in the room, playing with his video games as usual when he saw Michelle storm into the room like a bull chasing a red flag.

“Why do you look so upset? Who annoyed you this time around?” He asked her, his attention still on his screen as he continued to play his game.

Selene snorted before she replied, “Can you believe that the role I went to audition for two days ago, I lost it? And guess who got the role?”

Richard frowned, suddenly regretting asking her what was the cause of her soured mood.

“Who was it?”

“It was Selene.”

Richard immediately paused his game as he turned to look at her.

“Which Selene?” He asked her, eyes widened in shock.

Michelle gritted her teeth in anger since it seemed that Richard intended to add fuel to her anger.

“How many Selene do you know? I’m talking about Selene Jones, you deadbeat. Selene Jones, who looks like Anastasia!” She barked at him.

A smile graced Richard's lips as he asked, "Wow! If she got the role instead of you, that could only mean that she's better than you, doesn't it?"

Chapter 26: The Bitter Truth

Michelle was greatly offended by Richard's words. They felt like sharp daggers piercing her skin, each one adding fuel to the fire of her growing anger.

"What did you say?" She questioned, glaring hard at him, daring him to repeat his words.

Richard didn't seem to understand her message.

"Come on Michelle. It's just common sense. You said director Jeunes is the one in charge of the production of the movie, right? But he rejected your performance despite how famous you are and accepted Selene's. It simply means she's better than you," he replied. "She's also prettier than you," he added, about to turn to continue his game after destroying Michelle's ego.

Before he could focus on his game, he felt a hard object hit his back.

"Ouch!" He winced in pain. "What the hell, Michelle?!!"

He looked down and found the bedside lamp on the ground, already broken due to the impact.

"Are you sick in the head?" He questioned her.

"Maybe I am!!" Michelle yelled. She was starting to lose it and Richard could see it. Her face was flushed red in anger and it seemed she could kill anyone at that moment. "That bitch stole my role by sleeping with director Jeunes and you dare to tell me she's better than me. You must be blind, Richard!"

Richard stared at her in bewilderment.

Michelle pulled her head in frustration. "Can you believe the role they gave me? The role of the concubine," she replied before Richard could answer.

He instantly regretted asking her what was wrong with her. She kept fuming like a child whose lollipop was snatched from her.

'I should have just minded my own damn business,' Richard thought to himself.

"Honestly Michelle, I don't care anymore. Just do whatever you want. I'm going out to get some fresh air," he said. Without waiting for her answer, he left the room.

Michelle burned a hole in his back. "Deadbeat."

Suddenly, she felt her hand slippery. When she looked at it, she found blood on her hands. Frowning, she wondered where the blood came from until she remembered she had broken the glass cup with anger earlier.

"Shit!" She cursed and went to clean it up.

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A week later,

Selene and Kace went to the location where the acting will be held. Many people had already arrived at the location. Most of them were the people who passed their audition while others were the crew.

"You see? Out of the hundred people we saw at the audition hall, about forty got accepted," said Kace.

"I guess that's something about acting. Be ready to be rejected," she replied.

The both of them headed inside while everyone glanced at them from time to time. Everyone recognized Kace as the last son of the Wallace family and seeing him in person, the girls wanted to rush towards him and envelope him in a hug, but they held themselves.

When their eyes landed on Selene, they instantly recognized her to be the lady who Michelle was speaking to on the day of their audition. Now, they couldn't help but wonder why she had Kace, a member of the Wallace family following her everywhere.

Even Kace felt bad for himself, but when he remembered that he was protecting his sister-in-law, he puffed up his chest and glared at the actors that were ogling at Selene.

'That's my brother's wife you bastards,' he sent out the message. Sadly, they couldn't read his mind but they averted their eyes immediately when they saw his glare.

Selene had no idea where she should head to first. The place was huge and she didn't need to ask anyone to know they would be using the site as the palace.

"Selene!" She suddenly heard someone call her name. It wasn't a female's voice so she was sure it wasn't Michelle. The latter hadn't called her since the day the list came out, and neither had she texted her about hanging out again. Perhaps, she's still mourning for her lost role.

Selene turned back and saw Director Jeunes walking towards her with another man who looked younger by his side. The younger one seemed to be part of the crew as he asked director Jeunes about how things should be done to his liking.

“Just get the cameras, lights, and speakers ready for now,” said director Jeunes.

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He faced Selene.

“Selene, how are you doing?” He asked her with a smile on his face.

Selene was slightly stunned when she heard Director Jeunes’ question.

“I’m doing fine, Director Jeunes,” she replied with a slight bow.

The director nodded. When his eyes landed on Kace, he stretched out his hand for a handshake. “Kace, you are here too?”

Kace accepted the director’s handshake as she shook his head. “I’m not here for acting, Mr Jeunes. I’m here to support my friend here,” he gestured to Selene.

“Ahh... I see. In case you want to go back to the caring industry, all you need to do is to give me a call and I will have a role ready for you,” said the director.

Kace nodded in understanding.

A few years ago, Kace used to be an actor and he instantly gained popularity. But after a few films, he quit his job as an actor and decided to help Xavier with his underground business. He was also good in making devices so he decided to focus on that instead.

“So Selene, let’s go inside so that you can meet your colleagues,” said the director.

Both Selene and Kace followed director Jeunes inside.

“Was director Jeunes the one who directed all the movies you’ve acted in the past?” Selene asked Kace with a hushed tone.

Kace shook his head, “Not all of them.”

All of a sudden, Selene felt a piercing glare from her side. Her eyes scanned a few people who were already inside the huge palace until they landed on a particular figure, Michelle.

As if caught in her actions, Michelle quickly brought a soft smile to her lips. “Selene,” she called.

Chapter 27: Who's King Ardine?

Michelle ended up tagging along with Kace and Selene as director Jeunes introduced her to the other actors and actresses.

"Alright everyone, our female lead is here. Let's welcome her," said director Jeunes, his voice loud enough for everyone to hear. "Her name is Selene Jones and this is her first movie," he added.

Everyone clapped for Selene. A soft rosy hue painted her cheeks since she was the center of attention at that moment. "I hope to get along with all of you," said Selene.

"I hope you do have a great time acting in this film, Selene. And who knows, after the release, you could become an A-list celebrity yourself," said director Jeunes.

After saying that, director Jeunes excused himself to go fix a few other things.

Some of the actors introduced themselves to Selene.

"Hi, I'm Martha," said a lady. Selene immediately recognized her to be one of the A-list celebrities in Radiantia. She was also a fan of Martha. The lady didn't have an influential family to support her with her acting career so she had to start from scratch until she gained popularity.

If Selene wanted to compare Michelle's acting with Martha's, she could pick Martha's. Michelle was just a spoiled brat from a wealthy family who pretended to be the purest person anyone would meet.

"I'm Selene," Selene introduced herself.

A few more people came and introduced themselves, completely ignoring Michelle as if she were a shadow behind Selene's back.

Most of the actors and actresses were already popular and Selene only recognized a few who were extras from a movie. But there was one important character she needed to meet, King Ardine. She needed to know if he was a good person or someone who would give her a hard time so that she would know how to handle him.

Tapping Michelle who was glaring at the ground, Selene asked, "Do you know who got the role of King Ardine?" She completely ignored the suffocating aura that was floating around Michelle. She couldn't hurt her in a place filled with people.

Michelle frowned, realizing she also didn't know who would be playing King Ardine. The director didn't say anything either.

"I have no idea," Michelle shrugged.

"He might be keeping his identity a secret until it's time for his scene," said Kace.

Unbeknownst to them, a man had been watching them. His eyes narrowed at Selene who was still asking Michelle a few more questions while the latter replied through a forced smile.

Director Jeunes arrived about an hour later and announced, "The first scene will start in an hour. An assistant has been assigned to all actors and actresses and your make-up room is also ready. Please go get ready."

Without needing to be told twice, Selene waved Kace goodbye and wished Michelle good luck before the both of them entered their respective makeup rooms.

Selene met a girl, who seemed to be younger than her. She had a soft smile on her lips as she welcomed Selene.

"Hi, Ms. Jones, I am Allison and I will be in charge of your makeup," she introduced herself. "This is Natalie, your stylist," Allison introduced the other lady who was beside her. They both looked so beautiful that Selene wondered if they were models.

Allison had silver hair that was long and straightened but they were tied into a ponytail, with bangs hanging over her forehead.

She had blue eyes that reminded Selene of a character in anime but that character was a male.

On the other hand, Natalie had brown hair with caramel eyes.

"Please have a seat ma'am, we don't have much time," said Allison.

Selene nodded, as if in a trance by their beauty, and sat down on the chair. Immediately, Allison started the makeup while Natalie picked out the gown she would be wearing.

It was a royal gown since she would be acting as a queen.

"This looks so beautiful," said Selene as she stared at herself in the mirror. She didn't bother to wear any makeup while coming to the shooting site since it would only waste time. The makeup artist would have to wipe her face clean before putting makeup on her face again.

She stared at the mirror, mesmerized by the way she looked.

"You are so good at this, Allison," she complimented the makeup artist who couldn't help but blush at her words.

"Thank you, ma'am."

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"Ma'am, it's time to get dressed," said Nathalie.

Selene turned, ready to see the gown. She sighed loudly without realizing it when her eyes landed on the gown.

The gown was in emerald green, and had a few diamonds attached to it with a few gold colors making it look royal. Since the movie was set in the Victorian era, she needed to wear these types of dresses.

Both Natalie and Allison helped Selene to get dressed. Just as the gown was beautiful, it weighed so much that Selene thought she was going to fall off.

Three days ago, the director had given her the phone number of the crew in charge of their costumes which was why the gown had fitted her properly while being tight in some places.

Nathalie helped Selene to wear her crown on her hair which was already done by Allison.

Selene stared at herself one last time in the mirror, smiling at her appearance before she stepped out of the makeup room.

As soon as her feet stepped out of the makeup room, the whispers and murmurs that were created by the other casts and crew immediately came to a halt when they saw her.

Selene became conscious of why their eyes were on her.

"Marvelous," director Jeunes commented when he saw Selene come out of her make-up room. "You are just perfect to be queen Jammiah, Selene. Everything about you is just perfect," he added.

Selene sighed in relief. For a moment there, she thought they were going to start laughing at her.

"Queen Jammiah is ready. Now, where is King Ardine?" Director Jeunes asked.

"I'm here," a deep voice replied.

Chapter 28

That Was Not Part Of The Scene

Selene stared at the person who was going to be acting as King Ardine with her mouth wide open. He was so tall, almost the same height as Xavier, but he held a stoic expression that made him look like someone had just offended him.

He was already wearing his royal outfit of a king and each part of the attire suited him perfectly well. His muscles popped.

But the strangest thing was that Selene hadn't seen the man in a movie before. He was unrecognizable. And the way his eyes stared at her, she thought she had offended him.

"It's a good thing that you are ready, Liam. We can go ahead and start shooting the first scene of *The Sinner*," said director Jeunes, clapping his hands so that the crew and cast could get ready for ACTION.

Liam stared at Selene and she stared back at him. The silence stretched on while the people behind them ran helter-skelter before the director got annoyed.

Selene stretched out her hand for a handshake. "Hi, I'm Selene," she introduced herself with a small smile on her lips.

"I know," said Liam. His gaze lingered on her face for a few seconds before he stretched out his hand and shook hers. "I hope to have a good working relationship with you," he repeated her words from earlier when director Jeunes had introduced her to her colleagues.

Selene's eyes widened as she realized that he had been watching her.

'Creepy,' she thought to herself.

A camera shutter cut her from her thoughts as she tore her eyes from Liam to stare at Kace who had just taken a picture of her.

"You look like a mannequin in that dress," Kace teased her as he stared at the picture displayed on his phone's screen.

"You..." Selene bit her tongue before she would curse at Kace at that moment. "You'd better delete that picture," she added.

Turning back to Liam whose eyes were still on her, completely unreadable, she sighed.

“Let’s go,” she said and walked away while Liam followed behind her.

The Sinner was an Eastern historical movie about a kingdom called the Evergreen Kingdom, due to its riches in soil and agricultural products. Other kingdoms had tried to overthrow the Evergreen kingdom since it was warm and their lands provided them with everything they would ever need. It had seasons like spring, autumn, summer, and winter which not all other kingdoms had.

Some kingdoms were either too cold or too hot or they lacked land that had rich soil to grow their crops.

Everything was perfect for the Evergreen kingdom with their king ruling them nicely. Until the day he decided to bring in a concubine. It was the day Evergreen met their doom. Queen Jammiah caught King Ardine, on the bed with Concubine Laila and her heart shattered. With her heart tight with so much anger and betrayal, she cursed the Evergreen kingdom to never see the sun and never see peace until she was satisfied.

The location of the first scene was in the bedroom, where Queen Jammiah catches King Ardine on the bed with concubine Laila Gunta.

“Action!” Director Jeunes screamed loudly over the microphone in his hand that it hurt the ears of the people who were standing beside him, as he was seated in his director’s seat.

Queen Jammiah looked around the rooms as she searched for her husband, King Ardine.

She found a maid who carried a tray in her hands, and quickly asked her, “Have you seen the king?”

The maid lowered her head respectfully as she replied with a 90 degree bow, “Your majesty, I’m sorry but I haven’t seen His Highness a-anyway.”

The maid tried to keep her voice stable but it betrayed her at the end of her sentence.

Queen Jammiah’s eyes narrowed at the maid, knowing fully well that the maid was lying to her.

“Raise your head and look at her,” she ordered, her tone holding so much command that the maid instinctively did as she was told to, else she would have her head rolling. “Where is my husband?” Queen Jammiah questioned the maid again, her eyes glaring at the maid.

“His Highness is in the concubine’s room, your Majesty,” the maid replied as streams of tears poured from her eyes. She waited for the queen to give her punishment for lying to her the first time.

Luckily for her, the queen didn't have her time at that moment.

Queen Jammiah didn't completely lose her cool as she headed to Laila Gunta's room. The king had promised her he had thrown her out of the palace but she was still around.

Once Queen Jammiah's feet graced the room of the concubine, her heart shattered. Her eyes caught King Ardine lying on top of Laila. A single tear dropped from her eyes but she immediately wiped it away.

Kind Ardine sensed his queen's presence in the chamber and with a bat of an eyelash, he was already on the ground pleading for her to forgive him.

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He was more than shocked to find her in the concubine's chamber.

"Please, my queen. I promise to never do it again," King Ardine pleaded as he tried to cover his nakedness while he still kneeled on the ground, begging for forgiveness.

Laila Gunta covered her body with the quilt as she glared at the queen who hadn't said a word yet.

"Excuse me, your majesty. But as the daughter of a royal family, and the queen of this kingdom, did your parents perhaps forget to teach you some manners? For example, to never interrupt the king when he is making love to me," Laila Gunta questioned the queen as she glared at her. In return, the king glared at the concubine he was regretting sleeping with, only because he was caught in the act.

Queen Jammiah maintained her cool as she took steps towards the concubine.

Lifting her hands, without warning, the queen struck Laila Gunta across the cheek.

"CUT!!!"

C 29

Messed Up

"That was awesome," the director complimented Selene. "I loved the change in your expression and the shock on Michelle's face when you slapped her just made it better. It added a touch to the scene," director Jeunes added.

Selene bowed gratefully at the director for giving her a chance and for complimenting her acting.

Kace clapped loudly for her from the sideline. Normally, no one except the crew and cast were permitted to enter the set of the movie. But he was Kace Wallace.

On the other hand, Michelle grabbed her burning cheeks as she glared at Selene's retreating back. The slap was never part of the script. She had studied the script for a whole week and for sure, she knew that the slap wasn't part of the script. Selene had just slapped her when the director didn't instruct her to.

Instead of the director reprimanding her for slapping an A-list celebrity like her, he complimented her instead because it added a touch to the scene.

"A touch my foot," Michelle spat out as she continued to glare at Selene.

Her cheeks hurt due to the hard slap, it seemed to have hit her brain and it left her cheeks swollen.

"Mia, get me some ice," she ordered Mia who had been quiet since the scene ended. She could feel Michelle's blood boiling even though she maintained a three feet distance from her.

Without waiting for Michelle to repeat her words and vent her anger on her, she immediately excused herself to get her the pack of ice while Michelle continued to glare at Selene.

Selene noticed Michelle glaring hard at her back. If only stares could kill, she was sure she would be six feet under already.

Not minding Michelle's glare, Selene went to change her clothes. She wasn't going to be part of the next scene and she needed to feel lighter.

She was sure that the dress weighed at least half her weight.

The slap she had just landed hard on Michelle's cheeks wasn't planned but her hands had been itching to slap her in the face. And she grabbed the opportunity immediately.

After changing her clothes, Michelle was already acting in her second scene where she pleaded with King Ardine not to send her out of the palace, so she lies that she is pregnant.

Michelle seemed to be in a trance since she made a few mistakes with her line a few times, messing the whole thing up.

"I think the slap has loosened her screws even more," Selene whispered to Kace and the latter snickered.

The director became quite annoyed with Michelle making the mistakes repeatedly. He was starting to run out of patience.

“Michelle!” He screamed over the microphone. Instantly, the people near him covered their ears. “When he pushes you down, you need to fall hard. This is the fifth take already, Michelle, what is wrong with you?” He questioned her, his eyes glaring at her.

Michelle hissed under her breath. This was the first time she was getting humiliated and the director was only making the whole thing worse by yelling at her. She tried to fall as hard as possible, but the director wasn’t satisfied.

“Michelle!!” Director Jeunes warned.

Michelle’s eyes landed on Selene who was surprisingly giving her an encouraging smile. But in the eyes of Michelle, Selene was simply mocking her.

Michelle stood up. Both she and Liam repeated the scene one last time, and she fell the way the director wanted her to. But she ended up getting her elbow bruised.

“And that’s a wrap for today’s shoot,” the director yelled over the microphone, again, nearly deafening the people near him.

Selene walked towards Michelle. The latter was placing an ice pack on her bleeding elbow, she felt she was being mistreated in the set.

“Michelle,” Selene called with a smile on her lips. Mia saw Selene and instantly hissed.

“Anastasia, Michelle is not in the mood to see you right now. Can you just leave?” Mia glared at Selene which shocked the latter, her eyes went to Michelle with a questioning eyebrow.

Michelle facepalmed herself when she heard Mia speak. The latter was going to spoil her plans.

“You haven’t told your assistant that I’m not your sister, Anastasia?” Selene asked.

Michelle gritted her teeth as she cursed Mia under her breath.

“You suddenly disappeared then reappeared with a new name and you think everyone won’t know that you are Anastasia. You need to—”

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“I would advise you to watch your tongue as you talk with Selene,” Kace warned from behind Selene as he glared at Mia who suddenly felt like she couldn’t breathe anymore. “She doesn’t have to prove anything to you and if you don’t believe she is who she says she is, the least you can do is zip your mouth,” he added.

Instinctively, Mia clamped her mouth shut as she lowered her eyes to avoid eye contact with Kace.

Kace always looked like someone everyone could get along with. But when he wasn't smiling anymore, he looked like a predator.

"Mia, get out," Michelle ordered her assistant. The latter opened and closed her mouth to protest before she left when no words came out.

Turning to Selene, Michelle apologized to her, "I'm sorry for what my assistant said to you earlier. I don't know why she doesn't want to believe that you are not Anastasia. I've told her multiple times."

"Honestly, Michelle. In my opinion, your assistant is only saying what you are feeding her," said Kace, his smile on his lips again but it didn't reach his eyes as he continued to speak to Michelle. "If she doesn't believe that Selene isn't Anastasia, it only means that you don't believe she isn't Anastasia and you two must have been talking bad about her."

Now, it was Michelle's turn to glare at Kace.

"Selene is my friend, I would never talk bad about her," Michelle tried to defend herself.

"Keep saying it until you believe it," Kace replied.

Michelle glared at Kace, "And what's that supposed to mean?"

C 30

Bring Me Back Some Toys
"You tell me," Kace replied.

On the other hand, Selene tried to play the fool and not understand what both of them were talking about.

"You guys, let's not quarrel now," said Selene, trying to quench the flame that was about to start. Her hands were suddenly itching to slap Michelle across the face again but she wouldn't. If she slapped Michelle without a reason, the latter's fans would start attacking her for sure.

Kace shrugged when he heard Selene's words. "I'm not trying to fight with her, honestly."

Selene turned to look at Michelle who was still glaring at Kace. She offered her the cold drink she had been holding.

"I got you this," she said to Michelle, who stared at the drink, forcing a smile on her lips but her muscles were so tense with anger that she couldn't force them to curl a smile on her lips anymore.

"Thank you," she replied as she collected the drink from Selene.

"I wanted to apologize for slapping you earlier," said Selene. "I know it wasn't planned and I'm sure it would have hurt. I just thought it would make the scene look better," she added.

'Look better at the expense of getting my cheeks all swollen up?' Michelle thought to herself as she gritted her teeth silently.

"I understand," she replied with a tight smile.

Kace glanced at her before he scoffed loudly, not hiding his intentions at all.

**

At the highest building of the Wallace company, in the CEO's office, Xavier was getting through with his paperwork when he received a text on his phone.

He reached to take a look at it. He opened the text, finding out it was Kace and when his eyes landed on the image, a faint smile crept on his lips.

He checked the caption.

Sister-in-law is ready for her first shoot.

The smile on Xavier's face faltered when he realized he was smiling unknowingly.

He glanced around his office as if someone was watching him. His eyes went back to the picture again as he continued to admire it. His eyes suddenly went cold when he noticed another hand on Selene's. From how large the hand was, it was obvious it was a man's hand.

Suddenly, a phone call came through, interrupting him from finding out who was shaking the hand of his wife. When Xavier saw the name of the caller, he picked it up without wasting a second.

"Yes?"

"Xavier, we have located the hideout where the kidnappers had kept the girls. Should we attack tonight?" The voice asked Xavier.

"We have to, else they might find out and decide to relocate," Xavier replied through gritted teeth. "I'm on my way to our hideout," he added before hanging up on the call.

Quickly, Xavier carried his briefcase and his suit jacket before he left the office. He saw his secretary outside the office and ordered, "Cancel all my meetings."

The secretary immediately nodded, "Yes boss," surprised to see her boss leaving the office early. It was just noon.

Xavier entered his car and drove towards the location of his hideout, a place he and his men had been working illegally without the approval of the government since they had decided not to help. So he was left with no choice but to take matters into his own hands.

Xavier drove for about two hours before he arrived at the hideout which was deep into the jungle. But there was a safe path cleared for cars to drive in and out without getting noticed unless it was already on the main road.

Xavier got out of his car and went into his two-storey building hideout. Huge bulky men with guns in their large hands greeted Xavier as he walked inside the hideout as they followed behind him.

"Have you heard anything from the men at their hideout, Maxwell?" Xavier questioned the man, Maxwell, who had called him back when he was in his office, informing him about the location of the hideout of the kidnappers.

Maxwell, a man in his late 20s with black hair and black eyes, with glasses holding on the bridges of his nose nodded his head, dropping the gun he was checking out.

"They said the kidnappers are still there. So far, they haven't sensed the presence of our men there," Maxwell replied, intending to pick another gun.

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"And any report regarding the conditions of the girls?" He asked.

Maxwell sighed before he replied, "So far, they said a young girl was dragged into a room with them but they didn't hear her scream anymore."

Xavier gritted his teeth in anger as he ordered, "Everyone, suit up. We are going to rescue the girls tonight. I'm giving you half an hour before we leave!"

"Yes sir!!" The men answered in unison.

Without wasting any time, Xavier changed his business suit into a battle suit. He wore a bulletproof vest with guns attached to his battle suits.

He looked different from the usual business tycoon.

The men loaded their cars with all the weapons they would need for their mission.

At exactly thirty minutes, the men were ready.

Xavier was about to leave when his hand was grabbed by a girl. She looked at him with wide eyes as she asked, "Savior, where are you going? Are you going to leave me here alone?"

"Amanda," Xavier called. "We are going to catch some bad guys and we will be back soon," he added as he patted her head.

Amanda's eyes lit up in excitement.

"You are going to bring me some toys to play with? Yay!!" She rejoiced happily.

"That's right, we are going to bring some toys for you to play with once we are back," Xavier replied.

"Yay!! The toy you gave me last week is so weak, he died after only a few tortures. Alright, I won't hold you back. Go and bring me some toys savior," said Amanda.

Xavier patted her head one last time before he got into the van and zoomed off.