

Wild Night 431

Chapter 431: Not Amusement

Immediately Amy walked out of the restaurant, she saw a cab dropping off a lady in front of the restaurant and she got into it immediately.

She wanted to be as far away as possible from Lucas because she feared that if she didn't leave she would go back in there and throw the glasses at him.

If she had been pissed when she walked out of the restaurant earlier, then she was enraged now as she gave more thought to his thoughtless words.

Of all idiotic things to say! How could he accuse her of being with Miley for financial benefits? How dare he? Who did he think he was to say that to her? What did he know about her friendship with Miley or how far they had come? What did he know about her loyalty to her best friend? Did he think he loved or cared about Miley more than she did? Amy thought as angry tears dropped from her eyes and she swiped at them angrily.

Halfway through the cab ride, Amy had managed to calm herself a bit, but that quickly changed when she opened her handbag only to discover that her purse wasn't in the handbag.

She tried to think about the last time she had seen it and she remembered dropping it on the table. If it was on the table, that was fine. She could easily go in and get the purse to the driver, she thought, until it suddenly occurred to her that she had not seen her key while searching for her purse.

She poured out all the content of her bag in search of the key, but it wasn't in her bag. Her brows pulled together when it occurred to her that Miley had been the one who locked the door on their way out earlier, and so she was with the key.

Amy groaned in protest when she picked up her phone to give Miley a call, but then remembered that her battery was dead.

"Can we go back please?" She asked as she glanced at the driver, and he met her gaze through the rearview mirror.

"To the restaurant?" The driver asked, and she nodded.

Without asking any questions, he made a U-turn and took her back to the restaurant. Once she got there, she asked the driver to wait for her while she hurried inside to find Miley. Unfortunately, she was informed that Miley had just left.

Assuming that she had missed Miley who was already heading home, she immediately returned to the cab and asked the driver to take her home.

By the time the cab finally pulled to a stop in front of her apartment, there was no trace of her car or Miley.

She politely enquired from the driver if he would be kind enough to help her power her phone so she could give her friend a call, but he had no charger in his car, and she wasn't friendly with her neighbors enough to make such a request.

"Is there a problem?" The driver asked, and she shamefacedly explained her predicament to the driver who looked at her, not sure whether or not to buy her story.

Never in her life had she felt so embarrassed as she did at that moment. This was all Lucas' fault. She wouldn't be facing such an embarrassment had he not been so careless and insensitive.

"I promise you, I'm not trying to deceive you or scam you. If you will be kind enough to come back here tomorrow, I promise to pay you twice the amount I owe you," Amy rushed to assure him when she saw the displeasure on his face.

"How do I know you live here?" The driver asked, seeing as she was claiming she had forgotten her key with her friend.

"My name is Amy. Amy Grant," Amy said before hurrying to her mailbox to pick up one of the envelopes with her name on it which she handed to the driver.

The driver looked at the envelope skeptically, "If you're trying to deceive me I will report you to the police when I come here tomorrow and don't find you," he told her, before driving off angrily.

Once he left, Amy sighed. Seeing how Miley had left the restaurant and was not at home yet, she doubted that Miley was returning home anytime soon. Miley had probably gone to hang out somewhere else with Lucas.

She was certain that Miley had forgotten that she was with the apartment key, and had no idea either that she wasn't with her wallet or else she would have returned already.

She wished she could get mad at Miley for choosing to stay back with Lucas rather than go home with her, but she couldn't.

Miley didn't have much time left and she deserved to spend it doing something she liked with whoever she liked, whether or not she liked the person.

Miley liked Lucas and wanted him, and despite her annoyance at Lucas for saying something as insensitive as what he had said, she believed he was good for Miley, as she could tell that what he had said had come from a place of concern...

'No, Amy! No! You are not going to make any excuses for him or defend him!' Amy muttered under her breath.

Although it was getting dark already, but not wanting to just stand there and wait around until Miley returned from her date, she decided to walk down the road to a friend's house close by where she had left a spare key for days like this.

As she walked down the road, the heel of her sandals broke, making her swear angrily. Talk about having a bad day. As if the day could not get any worse, she thought in annoyance as she took off her sandals and picked them up with her left hand before continuing on her way barefooted.

This was all because of Lucas Perry. She was going through all this because of him. If he had just chosen to get drunk in a different bar that night, Miley would not have met him or taken him to her place.

If he had not shown up in Miley's life they would not have had to make this impromptu trip to Ludus just to see him. All the time she would have spent resting from that stupid trip had been spent dolling up to meet him. She had been cranky all day, and Lucas had succeeded in ruining what was left of her day by saying the nonsense he had said.

If he had not annoyed her she wouldn't have been in this situation right now. Walking down the road barefooted like a homeless beggar when she should be comfortably relaxed on her sofa eating and watching television.

"Lucas? Sounds more like Look Ass to me," Amy hissed to herself angrily, not caring about the fact that she would look like a crazy person to anyone who saw her talking to herself.

"What an ass! Dr. Hottie my ass! What ever nonsense made me think he was cute or calm? I must have been out of my mind!" She said with a humorless chuckle.

"Senseless idiot! Little wonder he ended up with a stupid bitch like Rachel!" Amy hissed to herself angrily as she continued to walk towards a side alley.

"Water is too good for him. I should have poured the spicy sauce on him instead," Amy muttered angrily, and just as she got to the entrance of the alley, she abruptly stopped when she realized that she wasn't alone. Someone was following her.

She noticed that a male shadow was walking closely beside hers. Too closely. Was she about to be mugged? Was this going to be one of those cases where a lone female was mugged and killed in a dark alley? No way! There was no way she was going to let something like that happen to her.

She tightened her grip on her handbag as she swirled around immediately and used her handbag to hit him right in the face before she could make out his face.

"Ahhhh!" Lucas cried out as he raised a hand to protect his face from the assault.

"What made you think you can rob me?" Amy asked angrily, and without waiting for him to recover, she hit his head with the heel of her sandals and attacked him.

"Christ, Amy! It's Lucas!" Lucas cried out as he tried to hold her off. How did he ever think she looked innocent?

His protest fell on deaf ears as she threw aside her handbag and sandals, and attacked him with her teeth and fingers this time. Biting and pinching him.

Amy was still too blinded and deafened by her anger at Lucas and her fear of being mugged to make sense of anything he was saying.

Right now she needed a place to pour all her anger and frustration, and this thief was just good enough.

When he couldn't take it anymore, Lucas grabbed her hair and he tried to push her away gently, "Can you just stop?" Lucas snapped at her angrily.

His head ached where she had hit him with her sandals, his face was burning and hurting from the scratches her nails and handbag had inflicted on him, not to mention his arm which was hurting, where she was presently biting him.

"You've got to be kidding me, you thief!" Amy hissed as she dug her nails into the hand on her hair, but Lucas grabbed her arm with his other hand and shook her.

"Have you lost your mind?" Lucas yelled at her, and Amy blinked in surprise when she finally recognized his voice and peered into his face to see if it was really Lucas.

"Lucas?" She asked as she let go of him and looked him over. Sure enough, it was the same outfit that Lucas had been wearing earlier at the restaurant.

He glared at her, "No. It's Look Ass!" He said, annoyed. Who would have thought she was such a hellcat?

To his surprise and annoyance, she raised a hand to her lips to stifle what sounded like a giggle but she didn't succeed. That was the last reaction he had been expecting. Embarrassment? Yeah. More anger? Yeah. But definitely not amusement. He didn't find anything amusing in what had just happened.

Chapter 432: Come In

Lucas watched in annoyance as she tittered with laughter. It seemed to him like she found his annoyance amusing.

"What is funny?" He asked, glaring at her.

She wasn't usually a violent woman, but after unleashing her anger on him in that manner, she suddenly felt better. Especially knowing that it was Lucas who she had attacked and not a random thief.

Amy cleared her throat and squared her shoulder as she took a step back, "What are you doing here? And why were you sneaking up on me like that?" Amy asked, and then remembered Miley, "Where is Miley?" She asked with a worried frown.

Lucas gritted his teeth as he ran his hand over the spots where she had bitten him. It was obvious to him that he wasn't going to be getting an apology from her. That was okay. He wasn't going to apologize to her either. They could say they were even now.

"She said she will be hanging out with the lady she met at the restaurant. I wasn't sneaking up on you. Your line wasn't going through, so I came over to apologize for being a jerk, and Miley asked me to bring your wallet and key..." He paused when he realized that he was no longer holding the wallet or the key. It seemed like he had dropped both while trying to protect himself from the assault.

Lucas dimmed his eyes as looked around the darkly lit alley until his eyes fell on the pink wallet which was lying on the floor a few feet from them.

He picked it up and continued to look around until he found the key, and he picked it up too, "Here," he said as he handed both to Amy, who had also picked up her handbag and sandals, and was now staring at him as she took them from him.

"I was just going to get my spare key from a friend," Amy said as she walked out of the dimly lit alley and Lucas followed her.

She saw the car parked ahead of them and recognized it to be Lucy's car, but she said nothing as she continued to walk while he walked behind her without saying a word.

When they got to where the car was parked Lucas looked at her, "Get in, I will drop you off at your apartment before leaving," he said, and Amy turned to look at him.

Looking at the scratches on his face, guilt tugged at Amy's heart, and she didn't know whether to apologize for what she had done or to call them even now.

While one part of her mind told her that all of it was his fault, and he deserved what he got, another part told her to apologize.

"You don't have to. I can walk," she assured him, but Lucas said nothing as he went around the car and held open the passenger seat.

"Get in. Aside from the fact that Miley asked me to make sure you get home safely, I also have to make sure you get home safely so that no one else has to experience what I just experienced," Lucas said, and Amy's lips twitched in amusement as she got into the car.

She directed him to her apartment, and Lucas silently cursed himself when he realized he had driven past her apartment twice while searching for the place.

Once they both got out of the car and he escorted her to the door, Lucas eyed her skeptically, "I take it we are even now?" He asked, wanting to get it done with and leave.

Amy's lips twitched with amusement. Even though the thought had crossed her mind that they were even now, hearing him say it, she changed her mind, "You said you came here to apologize. I haven't heard your apology," She said, and Lucas frowned.

"After all you just did to me?" He asked incredulously.

"Both are separate incidents. I didn't do it knowing it was you. I thought I was about to be mugged, and I reacted as any normal person..."

"Normal? I don't think so. A normal person would scream for help or run away as fast as they can not turn around and attack a man who you have no idea whether he is armed or not," Lucas countered, and Amy shrugged.

"That might be the way you react to things like that, not me. I work hard for everything I have and I won't let anyone steal anything from me. As I said, I'm yet to get your apology," Amy said, returning to the main subject.

"If your action wasn't deliberate on your part shouldn't I get an apology from you as well?" Lucas asked with a slightly raised brow.

"You wronged me first, and you put me in this situation. If anything had happened to me it would have been on you. You should apologize and then I could think about apologizing to you," Amy said, and Lucas scoffed.

"Think about apologizing? I could be suffering from internal bleeding right now..."

"Fine. I will apologize, but only after you have apologized," Amy said, and Lucas sighed as he ran his fingers through his hair.

"I shouldn't have said what I said. I don't know what I was thinking. I'm sorry," Lucas said, and as simple as the apology was, it sounded genuine.

Without responding to his apology, Amy turned around and opened the door, "Come in," she said and walked in without waiting for a response.

Lucas looked at her, wondering why she was inviting him into her apartment just like that. All he wanted was to apologize and get going. He didn't want to indulge in any more conversation with her or Miley for that matter.

"Are you not coming in?" Amy asked from somewhere inside, and Lucas hesitantly walked in and shut the door behind him.

Standing inside the apartment, he didn't take a step further and just stood by the door as he looked around the place. The apartment was small. Not tiny, but perfect enough for one or two persons.

Everything was well organized in their place, and the interior decor was mainly a blend of sugar white and rose. The little apartment was feminine and cozy in a way.

"I didn't invite you in just so you could stand watch by the door. Come sit," Amy said as she walked in carrying a little first aid box which she dropped on the table.

Lucas eyed her unpleasantly as she jerked her head to the rose-colored twin sofa in the living room, "I can take care of myself. I will like to take my leave now that you are settled," Lucas said politely.

"My mother taught me that until your apology has been accepted and your offense is forgiven you shouldn't stop apologizing. I'm yet to accept your apology," Amy said patiently, as she sat on the table opposite the couch as though she was waiting for him to sit so she could treat his wounds.

"Good thing we were raised by different mothers. That is between you and your mother. I admit that I was wrong and I have apologized despite what you did to me..."

"Do you want to leave without getting a proper apology?" She asked, and Lucas shrugged.

"It doesn't matter. I deserve it. Goodnight," Lucas said as he turned around to leave.

Chapter 433: Marry Miley

"Why are you always in a hurry to use the door?" Amy asked before he could open the door and he turned around to look at her.

"Then should I use the window instead?" He asked sarcastically and scowled when Amy giggled.

If there was one thing he had learned about her this evening, it was the fact that she was easily amused and she laughed a lot.

"I'm sorry. I really wouldn't have done that if I had known you were the one..."

"I have strong reasons to doubt that. I'm pretty sure you were transferring your aggression and luckily for you, you got just the right person. I can't imagine how happy you must be," Lucas cut in, and Amy frowned as she looked at him.

"I'm not usually that aggressive," she explained, but Lucas raised a brow.

"You sure could have fooled me," Lucas said dryly, and Amy tried not to laugh.

"I'm serious."

"It doesn't matter. I was a jerk, you were a hellcat. It's been a rough day. Let's just call it a night," Lucas said, and Amy sighed.

It truly had been a long day for her, and she was sure he didn't even know the half of it.

"You should at least let me treat you. You are bleeding," she said, and Lucas raised a hand to the right side of his temple to touch where he was feeling the most pain. He wasn't sure if it was her handbag or heels that had cut him.

"I am a medical doctor. I'm capable of taking care of myself," he said matter-of-factly.

"I guess it is true that doctors make the worst patients. You can't always take care of yourself. Even the best doctors get treated by other doctors," she said as she rose from the table and approached him.

"Besides, I might lose my job if Director Perry sees these marks on your face and finds out I was responsible for them," Amy said as she grabbed his hand and pulled him towards the couch.

"Just give me five minutes. I will clean your wound and you can leave," Amy promised as she opened the box and took out the items which she needed to treat his wound.

Lucas looked in every other direction but hers as he let her treat his wound. He couldn't help wondering what he was doing here right now in her apartment.

Amy on the other hand tried to be as careful as she could while treating his wound. She tried not to go too closely to him and keep some space between their faces. She had to admit that she didn't think it through before offering to treat his wound.

Being alone with a man in her apartment this way wasn't ideal. Not that she thought that anything could happen between them, but she should have let him leave and treat his wounds himself. She couldn't even breathe comfortably because she was so close to him and damn Miley for that nonsense she had said about seducing him, because now it was coming back to her.

"Why do you call her Director Perry? I thought you were close?" Lucas asked when the silence between them suddenly became awkward and uncomfortable.

Amy said nothing for some time as she contemplated his question, "I feel more comfortable referring to her in that manner. Maybe in the future that might change," Amy said after some time, and Lucas nodded.

The room became silent once again, and Lucas cleared his throat, "Why did you believe her? Lucy, I mean. Why did you choose to believe that she was innocent?" Lucas asked, and Amy shrugged as she focused her attention on applying Neosporin ointment to his wound.

"It seemed like everyone else at the office believed that she was guilty without hearing her story. I know how frustrating and depressing that can be so I wanted to give her the benefit of doubt," Amy said as she looked away from his face to pick a bandage.

"I'm done," she announced once she had covered his wound, and stood up.

"Thanks. For treating me and for helping my sister too," Lucas said as he also stood up, not seeing any reason to tell her that wasn't the only wound he had sustained.

Amy gave him a nod, "Once again, I'm very sorry. For reacting that way at the restaurant, and for this. I'm really not that kind of person," Amy apologized and Lucas gave her a nod.

"I deserved that at the restaurant. So it's alright. I will be on my way now," Lucas said as he headed for the door, and just when his hand touched the knob, it occurred to Amy that she had left before they could make their proposition to Lucas.

"Did Miley tell you why we came to Ludus?" Amy asked quickly, and Lucas turned to her.

"No."

"Are you going to meet with her tomorrow?" Amy asked, wondering if Miley had postponed telling him to the next day.

"No. I have no plans of meeting with her after today," Lucas said, and Amy bit her lower lip as she considered whether or not she should have the conversation with Lucas on behalf of Miley.

At least that way she would know where they stood and whether or not she should start working on finding Miley someone else.

"Do you mind sparing me some minutes of your time?" Amy asked as she moved from one foot to the other anxiously.

Seeing how uncomfortable she suddenly looked, Lucas hesitantly gave her a nod while wondering what was wrong with him.

"Have your seat while I clear this," Amy said as she covered the first aid box and took it back inside.

"Do you care for wine or coffee?" She asked as she returned to join him.

"Neither. Let's just talk," Lucas suggested, and Amy gave him a nod as she sat on the sofa adjacent to him.

She cleared her throat, not knowing how to start. It was crazy that she was about to ask the same man, who had said their plan was crazy, to marry Miley and be their sperm donor.

"I know you think we are crazy for wanting to find Miley a husband and..."

Lucas cut in before she could finish, "I have moved past that. It wasn't in my place to question your decision. I'm sorry for everything I said. I no longer care about the subject. You are both free to do as you see fit," Lucas assured her politely.

She was probably crazy for thinking about this, but this was one of those things people do for love and friendship, Amy thought as she took a deep breath.

"Marry Miley. Please."

Chapter 434: Dr. Tyler

Marry Miley? Lucas repeated the words in his head as he looked at Amy, wondering if she had truly uttered the words or if someone else had said them. He didn't want to believe that she had just said those words to him despite everything he had said to her both in Heden and at the restaurant.

Amy shifted uncomfortably in her seat as she met his gaze. That hadn't come out right. That wasn't the way she had planned to say it in her head. Perhaps she should try another approach.

"It's not for free...."

"I beg your pardon?" Lucas asked in a slightly raised voice, and almost immediately Amy realized that she had said the wrong thing again and had just insulted him in the same manner he had insulted her earlier.

Judging by his tone, Amy could tell that he was on the verge of losing his temper, so she hesitated before speaking again, "Listen, I'm sorry, Lucas. I shouldn't have said that. I know I'm going about this the wrong way, and I understand that this is a lot to ask for but..."

Before she could finish speaking, Lucas rose from his seat, cutting her off, "No. I don't think so. You don't understand anything! If you did, you wouldn't be so bold as to make such a request in the first place," Lucas spat out angrily.

He couldn't believe the nerve of these women. He really couldn't!

She knew that it didn't make sense that she was making such a request from him. Ordinarily, she would never do something as shameless as this, but she would rather she did it on behalf of Miley and get a response from him than let Miley do it herself. She could handle Lucas' rejection, but Miley would be too sad.

Amy stood up and ran her hands down the side of her dress nervously, "Lucas, if it weren't so important to Miley I wouldn't ask you..."

"Of course, it is important to Miley! It always has to be about both of you and no one else, doesn't it? Tell me, what business of mine is it if this is important to Miley?" Lucas asked, and without waiting for her response he continued.

"Sure, she took me home when I was drunk even though she honestly didn't have to, but so what? Do I have to marry her because of that? Do I have to go through more emotional torture because she took me home that night?" Lucas yelled at her, unable to control his temper anymore.

Amy's brows pulled together, "No. You don't have to. That is not what I meant. She likes you..."

"So what if she likes me? Do you think she is the first lady to take interest in me? Do I have to get involved with her just because she likes me?" Lucas asked, and Amy swallowed as she shook her head.

"She is dying..."

"And somehow you think she is the first young lady I've met who is dying? Do you think death is such a big deal to someone like me who watches people die most times?" Lucas asked, not sure if his anger right now was just because of what Amy had said or if part of it was a transfer of his anger at Rachel.

Amy looked at him, not knowing what to say. The truth was that she understood him the same way she understood Miley. She was the one who had advised Miley at the salon some hours ago, not to pressure Lucas into doing anything if she really liked him. She had only asked him that on behalf of Miley and not because she really wanted him to do it. It would be weird for her to be a surrogate for Lucy's brother and Miley.

She would rather Miley's partner be a stranger she wouldn't have to deal with after the whole process, rather than Lucas who she would likely have reason to encounter again in the future.

"You know what I think? I think you all are a selfish lot. Right now I don't think there is any difference between both of you and Rachel. You all are the same. You only care about yourselves," Lucas said coldly, and Amy stepped back as though she had just been slapped on the face.

"Lucas I'm sorry..."

"Don't! Don't talk to me. I'm done here. I never want to have anything to do with any of you. Going forward I have no business with you. Stay away from me, and tell Miley not to call me or my sister either," Lucas warned as he headed for the door.

Amy watched him, not knowing whether to follow him and beg him to listen to her or just let him go.

Thinking that there was no need to part on bad terms with him, Amy ran after him to apologize to him, but her steps faltered when she saw Miley standing just outside the door.

Judging by the stunned look on her face, it seemed like she had heard everything they said, or at least most of it.

Ignoring her, Amy ran past her to stop Lucas who had already gotten into his car and was reversing the car.

She waved at him to stop and called out after him, but Lucas ignored her as he drove off. As far as he was concerned, he was done with them. There was no way he was going to have anything to do with selfish women like them ever again. He and his family had been burned once by one, and he would be a fool if he walked that path again.

He was still fuming as he drove, and he glared at his phone when it started ringing, thinking it was a call from Amy or Miley, but when he saw that the call was from a foreign number, he quickly connected it to the car's Bluetooth device and received it.

"Dr. Luca," a familiar masculine voice at the other end of the line drawled in a teasing tone, and Lucas who had been fuming a second again, found himself grinning in disbelief.

Only one young man called him Luca. "Dr. Ty? For real? Tyler?" Lucas asked, eliciting a chuckle from Tyler.

"Sup man? Judging by your excitement you must have missed me a lot, huh?" Tyler asked in amusement.

"Where have you been? And why didn't you respond to any of my emails?" Lucas asked with mild annoyance now.

"I'm sorry, man. I lost my phone shortly after I left the country, and I couldn't access my email account either so I didn't see any of your emails," Tyler said, and Lucas raised a brow.

"How then did you get my number now? Don't tell me you came into the country and left without seeing me?" Lucas asked suspiciously, and Tyler sighed.

"I was hoping to catch up on lost times before getting into that," Tyler said, and Lucas' brow shot up.

"Getting into what?" Lucas asked, his interest piqued.

"Before that, tell me something. How is Princess Lu? I've really missed the both of you," Tyler said, and Lucas smiled at the fond name Tyler still used to address Lucy.

"She is fine. Doing quite well for herself. Now tell me," Lucas urged.

"It was Rachel. She called me," Tyler said, and Lucas' brows pulled together in confusion.

Chapter 435: First Love

Lucas couldn't help wondering how Rachel had been able to contact Tyler so easily when he had been searching for means to reach him all this time and she knew it.

"She called you? How?" Lucas asked curiously.

"She used her psychic abilities, I suppose? How else was she supposed to call me if not through the phone?" Tyler asked dryly.

"That's not what I mean. I just didn't know she had a means of reaching you. How did she get your number?" Lucas asked with a thoughtful frown.

"I don't know about that, but she did say something about her dad helping her pull some strings to get it. Don't know, don't care. I'm just glad she found a way to reach me. At least I got your number from her," Tyler said before delving into the subject for which he had called.

"Before you ask why she called, she called to say you broke up with her, and she wanted me to plead with you to forgive her and give her another chance," Tyler said, and Lucas scowled.

"Don't waste your breath," Lucas warned.

"Are you crazy? No, hold on. I have to be sure of something before I say anything else. Are you sure you're not going to get back with her? She mentioned you were engaged and about to wed before you called things off. Is it just wedding jitters?" Tyler asked curiously.

"No, Ty. I didn't just develop cold feet. I'm done with her for good," Lucas said passionately.

"Good then. I guess I can say what I wanted to say. Are you crazy? Why would you believe I'd ever plead on behalf of Rachel?" Tyler asked, and Lucas raised a brow.

"Why wouldn't you?" Lucas asked, wondering if Tyler was like Lucy and their parents who thought Rachel wasn't good for him but had let him have his way.

"Are you for real? She was too possessive and controlling! Everything changed right after you started going out with Rachel. She cut you off from me, remember? We used to be inseparable until she came into the picture. All that time I spent at your place with you and Princess Lu, she made sure she took up all your time and I couldn't even visit anymore. I thought things would change when we got to college and became roommates but I only got to see you during classes. She practically rendered me friendless. I always hold a grudge remember?" Tyler said, and Lucas sighed wistfully.

"You never said anything. I'm sorry. I didn't know that was how you felt," Lucas said apologetically.

"It's fine as long as you aren't going back to her. How do you feel about the breakup? I know it must not be easy even though you ended things. She also mentioned that you quit your job," Tyler said, his tone filled with concern.

"I don't know how I feel. And trust me, things are more messed up than you think. I just really need a break right now. I'm going to travel around and just relax until I'm in a good place emotionally and mentally," Lucas confessed.

"That's good. Breaks are good for healing. So how about you include me in your list of places to visit? And then we can catch up on lost time?" Tyler offered, and Lucas smiled.

"Really?"

"Sure. I'd love to see you and show off too. I'm not doing so badly for myself, you know?" Tyler said smugly, and Lucas chuckled.

"But you would be busy with work," Lucas said since Tyler was a doctor too.

"Don't worry, I run my own clinic now..."

"You own your own clinic?" Lucas asked in disbelief.

"C'mon! Don't let me ruin the surprise. When are you coming over?" Tyler inquired excitedly.

"Is tomorrow too soon? I could book my flight tonight," Lucas said, wanting to leave immediately so he wouldn't have to see Miley again.

"For real? That would be great! It would take you at least thirty-six hours to get here, depending on the stops. But I'll be looking forward to seeing you. Make my day by telling me you will bring Princess Lu along with you?" Tyler pleaded, and Lucas chuckled.

"No, I'm not. Don't tell me you still have a crush on her?"

"Of course, I do! You know she is my first love!" Tyler said, and Lucas laughed.

"After all this time? Too bad for you she has a boyfriend now..."

"What? Lucy has a boyfriend?" Tyler asked in disbelief.

"Yep."

"But she said she was never going to be interested in men. I feel cheated," Tyler complained.

"I'm sure you wouldn't feel so when you see how happy she is now," Lucas said, but Tyler scowled.

"I'm sure I could have made her more happy than she is now," Tyler protested.

"That's a road you never traveled so we would never know," Lucas said, and Tyler sighed.

"Well, for what it's worth, I'm glad she finally recovered and moved on from what that psycho did. Do me a favor and text me Lucy's number. I should at least reach out to her. Who knows? I could still have a shot at her heart and snatch her from her boyfriend. Then we would end up being in-laws," Tyler said with a grin, and Lucas chuckled.

"You're just setting yourself up for rejection and heartbreak. Tom already has a clear picture of Lucy carrying their kids," Lucas said with a grin as he remembered his conversation with Tom.

"And I already have a clear picture of Lucy and I old and toothless, smiling and kissing..."

"Eww! You still say the most disgusting things!" Lucas exclaimed making Tyler roar with laughter.

"How is Sony, by the way?" Tyler asked curiously.

"She is dating a big-shot celebrity now. Sonia and Lucy are dating two brothers."

"Wow! You really should come over. I need to catch up on everything and everyone. You're not deceiving me, right? You will be on your way tomorrow, for real?" Tyler asked hopefully.

"If you're in doubt you can just book my flight yourself. You could book the next available flight," Lucas said jokingly.

"You know what? I think that is what I will do. I will do it immediately and send you the details. Where is your present location?" Tyler asked, making Lucas laugh.

"Ludus. I'm driving right now. I should go now. I will return your call when I get home," Lucas said before hanging up.

By the time he pulled into Lucy's driveway twenty minutes later, Tyler had booked his flight and sent him the details. Lucas raised a brow when he saw that the next available flight leaves in two hours.

He dialed Tyler's line and Tyler picked up immediately, "What's the time over there?" Lucas asked curiously.

"It's morning. And yes, I booked the next available flight as you suggested. That won't be a problem for you, right?" Tyler asked, and Lucas shook his head.

"Not at all. It's perfect. I will just give my parents and Lucy a call right now and get ready to leave for the airport," Lucas said, and Tyler smiled.

"Great then! Can't wait to see you. I will have my secretary reorganize my schedule for the week," Tyler said eagerly.

Chapter 436: Vile Creature

Janet had a cheerful smile on her face as she sat on the couch waiting for Andrew to join her so that they could see a movie on Netflix together.

It had been quite a while since they were last able to do that. Because of all that had been happening lately, she had been too worried to do any of this, but after receiving a call from Lucas some minutes earlier informing them that he was leaving the country and his first stop would be to see Tyler, she had been more than relieved. Tyler wasn't a stranger to the family, so she was glad to know that Lucas would be safe.

"You must be very happy about Lucas' decision. You haven't smiled that way for some time now," Andrew observed as he joined her with a bottle of wine and two glasses.

"What way?" Janet asked with a grin and Andrew shrugged.

"Relaxed and happy," Andrew said as he poured some wine into the glasses and extended one to her, before sitting down.

"I'm just very glad that Lucas decided to visit Tyler instead of going off to some unknown destination. I was really worried he would do that. I'm glad the kids are doing okay despite all that has happened. I have a good feeling that they are going to be fine," Janet said, and Andrew gave her a nod.

"Definitely. We may not exactly be the best parents, but we did what we could, and I'm thankful to them that they turned out alright," Andrew said as he picked up the remote control and scrolled through the movie options on Netflix.

Despite her happiness with Lucas' decision, something else seemed to be nagging on the back of her mind, and she couldn't seem to place a finger on what it was. She tried to think about all that she had done that day and she paused when she recalled Lucy's phone call to her earlier that morning.

Her brows pulled together as she glanced at Andrew, "Did Lucy call you lately asking questions about Sara?" Janet asked, and Andrew turned to her with a curious look in his eyes.

"Why would she call me to ask about Sara all of a sudden? Did you tell her about Sara?" Andrew asked, and Janet shook her head.

"It's strange that she is asking that out of nowhere, right? She called earlier when you were out and she kept asking weird questions," Janet said, and Andrew narrowed his eyes.

"Do you think Sara might have contacted her? Perhaps she is trying to reach you through Lucy?" Andrew asked, but Janet shook her head once again.

"I don't think so. Lucy said she didn't," Janet said, and Andrew narrowed his eyes thoughtfully.

"What sort of questions did she ask?" Andrew asked, and Janet tried to recall all they had talked about.

"She wanted to know Sara's name, and she asked if Sara was married with kids, and if I've heard from her recently or if she is sick," Janet said, and Andrew sighed.

"We both know that Lucy is not the type to ask meaningless questions. Something must have prompted that. Perhaps we should..."

Before he could finish speaking, the doorbell rang, and they both turned to the door and their gaze moved to the wall clock before returning to each other.

Who could be at the door by that time of the night? It was past 9 PM already, "Are you expecting anyone?" Janet asked Andrew, and he shook his head.

"No. I take it you are not either. Then perhaps, it's one of the neighbors," Andrew said as he rose from his seat to see who was at the door.

"Who is there?" Andrew asked as he approached the door.

"It's Sara," Sara called from outside, and immediately Andrew's heart skipped a beat and he stopped in his track as he turned to look at Janet.

Janet who had been busy scrolling through the movie list, raised her head when she noticed that Andrew wasn't opening the door and he was standing on one spot, "What?" She asked, wondering why he was staring at her like he was in shock.

"I think you should get the door yourself. It's Sara," Andrew said, and immediately the calm and relaxed look disappeared from Janet's face as she got off the couch and marched to the door, while Andrew moved away from her path.

Janet swung the door open, and true to Andrew's words, Sara stood there proudly with her chin in the air as she smiled at Janet.

"Hello, Janet! It's been a while!" Sara said, and unable to control her anger, Janet raised her hands and before either Andrew or Sara could tell what she was thinking, she slapped Sara hard across the cheek.

"You must have some nerves to show your plastic face around my house," Janet hissed angrily, and Sara blinked at her in surprise as she looked around them to make sure no one had seen what had happened.

"What? Do you feel embarrassed?" Janet asked with an evil laughter, "My hand on your face will be the least of your problem if you don't disappear from my face this instant, you lowlife thief in expensive clothes!" Janet yelled, and Sara sighed as she straightened her spine.

"I thought we could have a reasonable conversation like two adults," Sara said and just as Janet raised her hand again to hit her, Andrew held her.

"Don't. She is not worth it. Let it go," Andrew advised.

Sara's gaze moved to Andrew who was standing behind Janet, "I'm not surprised you both got married. You both make a decent pair even though you could have done better," Sara said condescendingly.

"Watch it!" Andrew warned and Sara raised both hands defensively.

"That wasn't meant to be an insult. It's actually a compliment," Sara said, and this time Andrew stepped forward.

"What do you want here?" Andrew asked, and Sara shrugged.

"To talk and make peace. Let's have a decent conversation like adults," Sara suggested, and Janet shook her head.

"Talk and make peace? You don't sound like you came here for any of that," Andrew observed.

"I have nothing to say to you, and there is nothing you have to say that I'm willing to listen to," Janet said, and Sara's lips twitched.

"I won't be so sure about that if I were you," She said, suspecting that Janet didn't know about her meeting with Lucy.

"Quietly crawl back into whatever hole you came out from..."

"Funny that was the same thing your daughter said while we had brunch earlier. What was her name, Lucy? Lucinda Perry, isn't it? Did she tell you she had lunch with her aunty? I bet she didn't. Funny I didn't even know who she was until she introduced herself to me," Sara cut in with a cold smile, and Janet raised a brow.

"What are you talking about?" She asked, and Sara smiled as she shrugged.

"You see why I told you not to be so sure about that? Now you are interested in hearing what I have to say, aren't you? Can I come in? We should talk, don't you agree?" Sara asked, and both Andrew and Janet exchanged a look, but Janet shook her head.

As much as she was curious to find out what had transpired between Sara and Lucy, Sara wasn't the best person to hear it from. Sara was a liar and she couldn't believe any word from her. She was just going to hear it from Lucy instead.

"No, I don't agree. You are bad news, Sara. I don't want you inside my house. I don't care about what you discussed with Lucy, what matters is that she saw you for what you are," Janet said, and Sara sighed.

"That is fair considering what I did. But can you at least hear me out? I won't bother you again after now," Sara promised.

"Because I don't want you pestering me or my family again, I will hear you out, that way my husband and I can return to what we were doing inside before you interrupted us," Janet said, and Sara tried not to roll her eyes.

"How about we go out then? Maybe sit at a cafe or a restaurant?" She offered, but Janet shook her head.

"No. I'm not spending that much time with you. Besides, I don't want to be seen anywhere with someone like you. Aren't you worried that people might find out we are related and you aren't really an orphan as you claim?" Janet asked, and Sara smiled.

"I see you still care about me irrespective of your anger. I've missed you, Janey. I'm sorry I left the way I did," Sara said, and Janet shook her head.

"Care about you? You must have hit your head somewhere on your way here. Let me tell you something, the only reason I didn't expose you is because mom made me promise not to expose you, not because I care about you. Do you really think I am gullible enough to buy the bullshit you came here to sell? After thirty years you suddenly realize that what you did was wrong?" Janet asked, and Sara gave her a nod.

"I understand this might be difficult for you to believe and understand, but it is the truth. I'm sick, Janey. I'm dying. As my last days are approaching I have come to realize the futility of life. How meaningless and empty life is without family. I have everything money can buy but I have no one aside a bunch of strangers serving me. All I want is to spend my last days with you. With my family. I need your forgiveness. I want to also pay back the money I stole from dad. I will pay it back in ten folds to make up for all the trouble," Sara said as she opened her purse and took out a cheque note which she handed to Janet.

"I already stopped by the cemetery to apologize to dad and mom. I really want to make amends. I need to be able to face dad and mom when I meet them after I die," Sara said with a snuffle as she raised her handkerchief to her eyes to wipe her nonexistent tears.

Watching Sara's act, Janet suddenly burst into a fit of uncontrollable laughter, and Sara blinked at her in confusion.

Janet shook her head, "Your acting seems to have gotten better. You seem to have forgotten something, Sara, and it makes me wonder if the plastic surgeries affected your brain. I know you better than anyone else. You are my twin sister, remember? I know just how evil, deceptive, and cunning you are. You can't deceive me. I can always see through you and I know when you are telling lies. Did you really think this miserable cheque was enough to settle everything and make things right between us? What a joke!" Janet hissed as she tore the cheque in two, surprising Sara.

"There is nothing I wish more than for you to die a slow, painful, and lonely death. I wish that you experience in ten folds the pain you caused our family. You don't even deserve to have a dog by your side when you die, you vile creature," Janet cursed, and spat in front of her before walking into the house and shutting the door in Sara's stunned face.

Janet was the nice, sweet and forgiving one. What changed? Sara thought with a sigh as she stared at the door not knowing what to do now. She had hoped to at least win Janet over.

Now that her plan was ruined and both Janet and Harry were no longer part of her options, her last hope was her daughter. She hoped her daughter was alive, and they would be able to find her soon.

She would do whatever it would take to win her daughter over, even if it meant bequeathing her entire property to her, not that she had any plans of dying soon.

Chapter 437: Bedtime Stories

Tom eyed Jamal with mock annoyance as Lucy lay on the bed beside him, reading a bedtime story while Jamal giggled each time Lucy switched her voice to suit the character she was reading about.

Tom sighed when Lucy finished the second story and Jamal was still wide awake, "Shouldn't you be fast asleep now, young man?" Tom asked, and Jamal shook his head.

"No. I love listening to Lucy's voice," Jamal said, and Tom scowled at him.

"Aww!" Lucy exclaimed with a giggle as she leaned forward to kiss his forehead and cheeks.

"You seem to like everything about her. Is there anything you don't like about her?" Tom asked, and Jamal bobbed his head, surprising both Tom and Lucy.

"And what may that be?" Lucy asked curiously, and Jamal pointed at Tom.

"Your boyfriend. I don't like that you have a boyfriend," Jamal said with a grin, and Lucy burst into a peal of laughter, while Tom chuckled at Jamal's sense of humor.

"You got jokes, huh?" Tom asked as he poked Jamal's abdomen, making him squeal with laughter as he scrambled closer to Lucy.

"Can you sleep here tonight?" Jamal asked Lucy with puppy eyes, but before Lucy could respond, Tom responded.

"No!"

"Why? Because you want to do adult stuff?" Jamal asked, making Tom and Lucy's exchange amused glances.

"What do you mean by adult stuff?"

"Where did you hear that from?" Tom and Lucy asked simultaneously, and Jamal shrugged.

"Preston always talks about how he hears his parents doing adult stuff at night," Jamal whispered conspiratorially, and Lucy looked at him with amused interest.

"I assume Preston is your friend?" She asked curiously.

"Preston is my best friend in school," Jamal said, and Lucy nodded thoughtfully.

"Does your mom know about Preston?" Lucy asked, and Jamal gave her a nod.

"That's good then," Lucy said as she glanced at the hour hand of the clock which was almost hitting ten.

Who would ever have thought that her once ordinary life would become so filled with activities? From the moment they had gotten out of the car to meet Jamal, until this very moment she had barely had a minute to herself apart from the time she spent in the shower freshening up before dinner.

After freshening up she had gone to take over from Tom in helping Jamal with his school work, while Tom went in to freshen up. And when Tom returned they had to have dinner.

From the dinner table, they had gone to the Den to have dessert while watching Tom and Jerry. While they were doing that, Lucas called to inform her that he was on his way to the airport to visit Tyler.

She had offered to go see him off at the airport but he had insisted that there was no need for that.

She had then asked for details of his date with Miley, but he had said he wasn't in the mood to talk about it, but had promised to call her after he arrived.

He had asked for her permission to send her phone number to Tyler, and she had been more than happy to let him do that since she missed Tyler too.

After her phone call with Lucas, she had also received a phone call from Sonia asking her when she would be able to talk so they would have a conference call with Jade, and she had promised to call them back after putting Jamal to bed.

So here she was now, trying to get the kid, who was most likely her relation, to sleep so she could return Sonia's phone call before going to bed.

"You have to go to sleep now, Jam. It's late," Lucy said as she patted his hair.

"Can you sleep here tonight? I can let Tom sleep with us if you want, but I will sleep in the middle," Jamal offered, and Tom chuckled.

"Did you just say, LET? This is my house, buddy. I can sleep wherever I want without your permission," Tom pointed out.

"But this is my bedroom. You can't stay unless I want you to," Jamal countered matter-of-factly, and Lucy giggled.

"Okay, boys. No fighting. We can do this," Lucy said, and they all glanced at her phone when it started ringing.

"I have to take the call. It's my mom. Read him another story, Ace. I'm sure your voice will put him to sleep," Lucy said with a wink at Jamal before walking away with her phone to receive her mother's call.

"Hello, mom!" Lucy greeted cheerfully immediately after she received the call, and walked into Tom's bedroom.

"Lucas called..."

"Lucinda Perry!" Janet interrupted in a tight scolding tone, that made Lucy snap her mouth shut, while Andrew who was listening to the call since it was on speaker, shook his head at Janet.

Lucy knew that tone. Her mother only referred to her that way when she was upset. Did she do something wrong? Lucy mused.

"Did I do something wrong?" Lucy asked with a slight frown.

"Did you meet with Sara today despite my warning to you?" Janet asked harshly, ignoring Andrew's warning to her not to overreact.

The crease between Lucy's brows deepened in confusion. She hadn't expected Sara to do that.

"She told you about our meeting? I thought you said you were not taking her calls?" Lucy asked in surprise, and Janet prayed for patience not to yell.

"Do you mean you had no intention of telling me that you met with her?" Janet asked in a controlled voice.

"Calm down, mom. Trust me, I had good reasons for meeting with her and not telling you about it yet," Lucy said, and before Janet could snap at her, Andrew snatched the phone from her.

"Hey, Princess! I trust you're good? Listen, we trust you, and we know you must have your reasons for doing whatever you did or are doing. But can you tell us why you chose to meet with her and what you both talked about?" Andrew asked, and Lucy shook her head.

"It is complicated, dad. I can't tell you about it yet," Lucy said apologetically.

"Lucy..."

"Can you tell me what she said? Did she tell you how and why we met?" Lucy asked curiously.

"Lucy, we called to hear from you not to be questioned by you. We want to know why you met with her despite your mom's warning," Andrew said in a disapproving tone.

Lucy sighed, and after a moment's hesitation, she decided to tell them why she met with Sara without mentioning Harry even though they had only heard of him without seeing him.

"I can't give you all the details right now. But somehow I'm friends with her husband and son whom she abandoned over twenty-eight years ago and I only just realized it today..."

"What?" Janet and Andrew asked in disbelief as Janet took the phone back from Andrew.

"What are you talking about? Sara got married?" Janet asked in disbelief.

She was more shocked by the fact that Sara with all her selfishness had gotten married in the first place than by the fact that Sara abandoned her husband and kid.

Chapter 438: Can I Meet Him?

Of all the reasons Janet had been expecting to hear from Lucy, this had never come to mind. Andrew had even suggested that Lucy had probably approached Sara for business to help model a new clothing line or something, but this? Janet mused in complete shock.

"Yes, mom. She stole his money and left him alone with their newborn baby. She gave birth to twins. Lied to her husband that the girl died at birth, but actually sold her off," Lucy explained, and Janet felt goosebumps rise all over her arms.

That explained Lucy's question to her earlier. She knew how selfish and wicked Sara could be, but she would never have imagined that Sara was capable of such evil. How could a mother sell her own child? How could she lie to her husband that his child was dead? How could she abandon her newborn child?

"I called earlier because her husband showed me a picture of her, and I thought she looked familiar, so I needed to confirm with you. I accompanied him to his meeting with Sara," Lucy said and paused when she heard Janet's snuffle.

"How did you become friends with them, Lu? Who are they? Did he find his daughter? Why did he meet with Sara? Can I meet them?" Janet asked in a shaky voice, unable to control her emotion as

tears ran down her cheeks at the thought that Sara had not only ruined their family but had also caused such emotional damage to someone else.

She couldn't help feeling partly responsible because Sara was her sister. Not just her sister, her twin sister. She felt she owed the poor man and his kids an apology.

Andrew moved closer to Janet and placed his arms around her to comfort her.

Hearing her mother cry, Lucy couldn't help her own tears since she understood how her mother must feel, "Not yet, mom," Lucy said, before explaining the situation between Aaron and Harry to them. And also telling them that Aaron was yet to know the truth about what happened to his daughter.

"Oh, no! What are they going to do now? Oh, my God! What is the poor man going to do?" Janet asked as she broke into a sob, and Andrew stood to go and get her the box of tissues.

If she had known about this before Sara's visit she would have done a lot more to Sara than just hitting her. There were no names in the dictionary that would perfectly describe what she thought about Sara right now or what she wanted to do to her.

"Calm down, honey," Andrew said as he returned to her side with the box and gave her some to wipe her tears.

"How can I help, Lu? Is there no way I can help?" Janet asked with a sniffle as she accepted the tissues and blew her nose noisily.

"Maybe you can tell me what happened? Did she call?" Lucy asked, and Janet told her what happened.

Lucy sighed when Janet finished, "Don't worry, Tom and I are doing our best to handle things over here. I will also let you know if and when you can meet him," Lucy promised.

"Why did she want to meet them?" Andrew remembered to ask just before they could hang up.

"She is ill. I think she is in need of an organ donor or something," Lucy said, and Janet shook her head.

Of course, that made sense. It sounded so much like something Sara would do. Sara never did anything without a selfish motive.

"Let me know if you need me," Janet said, and Lucy raised her head just as Tom opened the bedroom door.

"Sure. I will let you know," Lucy said as she self-consciously raised a hand to her cheeks to wipe her tears.

"I love you, Lucy. Thank you for being there for them," Janet said, and Lucy smiled.

"I love you too, mom. Try not to worry too much about it, everything will be taken care of," Lucy promised before hanging up.

"Is everything okay?" Tom asked as he sat down beside her on the bed and watched her curiously.

"Is Jamal asleep now?" She asked, and Tom gave her a nod.

"He must have really loved listening to your voice. He slept almost immediately I started reading," Tom said dryly, and Lucy smiled.

"So what is up? Is everything okay with your parents?" Tom asked, and Lucy gave him a nod before telling him about Sara's visit to her parents.

"Let's wait until Aaron tells Harry everything. After that we can let Harry decide on how he wants us to handle her," Tom said thoughtfully.

As much as he would like to take care of her and make her disappear, he owed it to Harry to let him decide how best to deal with the woman who had given birth to him and abandoned him.

"Yeah, I agree," Lucy said with a yawn as she glanced at the wall clock. It was twenty-five minutes past ten already.

"We should go to bed now," Tom suggested as he followed her gaze.

"I have to return Sonia's phone call. I'm supposed to have a conference call with both her and Jade," Lucy said, and Tom shook his head.

"You look exhausted. I'm sure it's not an emergency phone call. You can do that during the day tomorrow," Tom suggested.

"I'm sure they've been waiting for my call. It would be rude to cancel on them. You can go to bed. I will join you after speaking with them," Lucy said as she rose from the bed.

"Why do you need to leave?" Tom asked with a slight frown.

"It's girl talk, and I don't want to disturb you. Go to bed, Ace. I will join you later," Lucy said as she headed for the door.

"No bedtime stories for me or good night kiss?" Tom asked, and Lucy smiled as she returned to his side to kiss him.

"No bedtime stories for adults that do adult stuff," Lucy said, and giggled when he tried to pull her back on the bed, "You are wasting more time," Lucy pointed out amidst her laughter, and Tom sighed in resignation as he let go of her.

"How about you don't leave? I could stuff my ear so I don't hear your discussion," Tom suggested.

"That won't do," Lucy said with a shake of her head.

"Can you sit on the balcony then? I won't be able to fall asleep if you're not within my view," Tom said, and Lucy eyed him.

"Are you trying to say you won't be able to sleep when I go to my apartment?" She asked dryly.

"That's different. You can't be under the same roof with me and be far away while I go to sleep," Tom said, and Lucy sighed.

"Alright. I will shut the balcony door but leave the curtain open so you can see me," Lucy said, and Tom gave her a nod.

"That's good enough," he said, and Lucy smiled as she kissed the edge of his lips before walking away to the balcony to give Sonia and Jade a call.

Chapter 439: Conference Call (1)

Sonia who was seated on the couch, watching a movie with Bryan, turned to him when the clock struck 10 PM, "Shouldn't you call them? They've been gone all day," Sonia said, worried about Evelyn and Desmond who were yet to return from their date.

"They are not kids. I'm sure they will be back soon, and if not, they will call. Don't worry about them," Bryan assured her as he ran his hand down her arm.

Sonia looked at him unconvinced, "Let's give them a call just to be sure they're fine. I could act like I need something," Sonia insisted as she reached for Bryan's phone.

Bryan sighed as he paused the movie and dialed his dad's line and after the third ring Desmond received the call, "Sonia wants to speak with you," Bryan said before passing the phone to Sonia.

"Hey, Sony girl! Missing me already?" Desmond asked cheerfully, and Sonia smiled in relief.

"I guess so."

"I hope that rascal isn't stressing you out. Do you want us to get you something on our way?" Desmond asked, and Sonia smiled.

"No. I guess I was just missing you both," Sonia confessed.

"We just left the movie house now. We will be home soon," Desmond assured her before hanging up.

"Are you okay now?" Bryan asked, but before Sophia could respond, her phone started ringing with a video call and she flashed Bryan an apologetic smile as she picked it up.

"Sorry, it's Lucy. This might take a while, so go on without me," Sonia said as she stood up.

"I will just play soccer instead while I wait for you," Bryan said as Sonia kissed him before leaving.

She had been waiting for this phone call all day since Jade called to inform her that they would be having a conference call that night. It was just what she needed to get new ideas for her story.

"I was almost beginning to think you forgot to call back," Sonia said immediately after she received the call and grinned at Lucy.

"It took a while trying to get Jamal to go to sleep, and I had to talk with mom," Lucy explained apologetically.

"You sound like a mom," Sonia joked, wanting to see Lucy's reaction, but Lucy giggled.

"I sound like an aunt. That's the way I will also look after your kids, and Lucas' kids when they visit me," Lucy said, resisting the urge to tell Sonia that she suspected she might be related to Jamal and Candace.

"We should give Jade a call now before she goes to bed," Sonia suggested as she walked into the bedroom and dropped on the bed.

"Before we do that. I received a call from Lucas earlier. He is leaving the country tonight. And guess where he's going?" Lucy asked excitedly.

"Africa?" Sonia asked, making Lucy roll her eyes.

"Would I be excited if he was going so far away? Anyway, he's going to see Tyler!" Lucy announced, making Sonia sit up immediately as she looked at Lucy with round eyes.

"Tyler? You mean your Tyler?" Sonia asked in surprise, and Lucy rolled her eyes.

"What do you mean MY Tyler? What makes him mine?" Lucy asked with a giggle.

"Well, don't blame me for calling him that. I still remember clearly how you used to go on and on about Tyler. Besides, he was the one you planned to make out with on prom night before everything went haywire," Sonia reminded her and winced when it occurred to her that she shouldn't have brought that up.

Lucy on the other hand smiled at the memory of how excited she had been when Tyler asked her to be his prom date. She mused those days when they were young and carefree. Jamie had stolen that from her.

"That seems like ages ago," Lucy said with a sigh.

"Don't let me ruin the mood. What did Lucas say? Is Tyler married now? The last time I saw him was on their graduation day," Sonia said, and Lucy shrugged.

"Me too. I didn't have the chance to ask any questions as Lucas was sort of in a hurry. Although, he did say Tyler asked for my number," Lucy said, and Sonia giggled.

"He did? What if he is still interested in you?" Sonia asked with a wink, and Lucy raised a brow.

"I don't think so. He is probably trying to reach out for old times' sake. It's been a while and I missed him," Lucy said with a fond smile.

"Me too. You know I would have dated him had he not been your crush? He was so my type," Sonia confessed, and Lucy giggled.

"Don't let Bryan hear you say that. I will call Jade now," Lucy said before dialing Jade's line and including her in the video call.

"I thought you two were never going to call," Jade said with a yawn of boredom.

"It's Lucy. She was busy trying to get Jamal to sleep," Sonia said, and Jade smiled.

"How is he doing?" Jade asked curiously, and Lucy smiled.

"He's such an angel. Although, I think Tom might throw him out of his house soon. They are both in some sort of contest for my attention," Lucy said with a grin, making both Jade and Sonia laugh as she told them about Jamal's exchange with Tom.

"He always seemed so calm. Who knew the kid was capable of all that?" Sonia asked in amusement.

"I never would have thought so either. But spending time with him is fun. I doubt Tom would agree with me on that," Lucy said with a happy smile as she thought about the child.

"I'm sure Tom thinks so even if he won't blatantly admit it. Tom has a huge thing for kids. You'd see it for yourself when you both start having yours," Jade said, and the smile on Lucy's face faltered a bit but only Sonia noticed it.

"So how are you doing, Sonia? How was your day? I know about Lucy's day already and she knows about mine," Jade said, and Sonia raised a brow.

"Have you both been bonding without me?" Sonia asked as she looked at them both with eyes narrowed suspiciously, and they giggled.

"That's not it. Lucy spent the day with Harry's dad. I called to ask her for a favor but she scolded me and turned down..."

"You said you were not offended," Lucy cut in with a slight frown.

"I didn't say I am offended. I was just giving Sonia a breakdown of what went down," Jade said, while Sonia followed their exchange with interest.

"What did you want her to do? Steal Harry's used boxer so you could sniff on it while you masturbate?" Sonia asked with amused interest, and Jade burst into a peal of laughter, while Lucy eyed her in mortification.

"Sonia!" Lucy called in a scolding tone.

"I can't believe you just said that," Jade said, struggling between her amusement and shock at the kind of words that had left Sonia's lips.

"You had better believe it. She is capable of saying worse things than that. I can never get used to it," Lucy said with a shake of her head.

"What did I say that is so surprising?" Sonia asked, amused by both their reactions.

"So? Who is going to tell me about this request that was turned down?" Sonia asked impatiently as she picked up her journal and pen, ready to jot down all the interesting details.

"The floor is open to you, Jade. You can tell her about it," Lucy said making Sonia's gaze shift to Jade.

"What are you doing with the pen and journal?" Jade asked curiously.

"How do you think I get ideas for my story? Or why do you think I agreed to stay up this late for this conversation? I need something to write about," Sonia said with a wink.

"You should be careful about the things you include in your story," Lucy advised, making a mental note not to slip and say anything about Harry and Aaron's situation. The last thing she wanted was for Sonia to write about such a sensitive subject.

"Yes, ma'am. Now if you don't mind can you tell me about it already?" Sonia asked, urging Jade.

"Well, it was some sort of mix-up. Nothing that involved Harry's undies, I assure you," Jade said as she went on to explain her request to Lucy and what had promoted it. She also told her about Candace's orphanage story.

"I see. But I'm curious about something. Lu, did you also think that Candace looked like Harry's mom when you saw the photo?" Sonia asked, and Lucy shrugged.

"I don't know. I think there might be a bit of a resemblance there. Although I've never seen Candace with such hairstyle so I can't be as sure as Jade is," Lucy said without directly meeting Sonia's eyes.

"Since you have the photo on your phone why don't you show it to Jamal? Perhaps he might think it's his mom if the resemblance is as striking as Jade thinks?" Sonia suggested.

"That is right. Why didn't I do that?" Lucy asked rhetorically, thinking that she was going to do that the next day.

"Even if Jamal thinks so, it doesn't make any difference. It might just be a case of doppelganger or something. Harry's mom is an orphan and she is late so there is no way they can be related," Jade said, and Sonia shrugged, but Lucy said nothing.

"Well, you never can tell. You know what they say? Never say never. By the way, why do you think the orphanage home story is fishy?" Sonia asked curiously.

"According to what Candace said she was told by the sisters, they were paid a lot of money to take care of her. That means he is either very wealthy or her adoptive parents were wealthy. Think about it. If they were wealthy why didn't he get a nurse to take care of her? It is one thing to say you can't take care of your brother's adopted child if you're broke, but not when you're wealthy," Jade said matter-of-factly.

"Personally I think it is pretty normal that her adopted parents' family wouldn't want to keep her since she isn't exactly a blood relative," Sonia pointed out, as she looked from Jade to Lucy.

"Would either of you raise your brother's adopted child as your own if something happened to him?"

"Family is everything to us, Hanks. As long as the child belongs to my brother, whether by adoption or birth, that child is my family," Jade said, and Lucy nodded in agreement.

"I don't think I would give away a child that Lucas called his own whether or not the child was adopted by him," Lucy said thoughtfully, while Sonia pursed her lips in disagreement.

"We can't judge based on your relationship with your family alone. Maybe he wasn't very close to his brother. Maybe he did not just want her. Maybe he doesn't like kids. Not everyone can make such a sacrifice. Adopting your brother's adopted kid requires a lot. Especially if the child is sickly as you already stated. I'm not trying to say your hunch is irrelevant, I'm just trying to say it could be that there is nothing more to the story than she was told," Sonia said with a shrug.

"I will tell you what I think. I think he gave the sisters so much money to assuage his guilt over what he was doing. He didn't abandon her only because she was sickly and he didn't want to raise his brother's adopted kid. My hunch tells me that he did so probably because he didn't want her to benefit from whatever her adopted parents might have left her..."

"Such as a trust fund?" Sonia interjected with a thoughtful look on her face as she paused from her jotting.

Chapter 440: Conference Call (2)

"Exactly! I'm a lawyer and I've seen things like this happen before. What if she was listed in their Will before their demise and she was supposed to inherit whatever they had? The money he gave the sisters could be a little stipend compared to what she is truly worth," Jade said, and Sonia nodded slowly.

"I think there is sense in this," Sonia said, while Lucy thought about it.

If Candace was truly Sara's daughter, then from what Sara had said, the people who had adopted her daughter were very wealthy. And if they had adopted her as a newborn, there was no way they wouldn't have made financial plans and arrangements for her.

"It actually makes a lot of sense," Lucy murmured after some time.

"It would be great if we can look into this and find answers for her. Who knows? She might have a lot of money waiting for her somewhere. I'd love to see her happy. Matt cares for her deeply," Sonia said, making Jade remember that Matt had visited.

"Did Matt tell you guys he was coming over? He was here earlier to meet with her. I just realized I forgot to call to find out how she is doing and how her meeting with Matt went," Jade said with a sigh.

She had too many things on her mind and she was barely giving enough attention to any of them. One minute she was worrying about how to handle the cartel's case in court, the next second she was thinking about Candace and her adoption issue, next she was trying to figure out what package Jero had left for Candace, she was also thinking about the love triangle between Aurora, Harry, and her. And now she had to include Amos' new assignment in it. Talk about overworking one's brain.

"Matt traveled down there? Wow! I hope they are able to work things out. It seems like all the fun things are happening over there while I'm down here struggling with boredom and writer's block," Sonia complained, making Lucy remember that Aaron had said the same thing.

"You have no idea how lucky you are to not have too many things to worry about. I can't even go to bed now even if I tried. My brain keeps coming up with stuff to think about," Jade complained, while Lucy looked at them, wondering what they would think about her own situation if she told them the sort of reality drama she was featured in at the moment.

"Do you need help? You can let me know if you need me to help in any way. I have a lot of spare time right now," Sonia offered.

"I wish it was something you could do. Unfortunately, they all require my direct help... Or maybe there is something you could help me do. How good are your investigative skills? There's someone I'd like you to help me gather information on," Jade said thoughtfully.

"If the person is a public figure, I could check for every single article on them on the internet, but if not, you'd have to give me another assignment," Sonia said with a grin.

"She used to be a model so I'm sure you would find her information on the internet. I will text you her name after the phone call," Jade said, and Sonia gave her a nod.

"By the way, how are things going with Harry? Any progress yet?" Sonia remembered to ask, and Jade groaned.

"That guy is really frustrating me right now," Jade confessed, as she told them all that was going on between her, Aurora, and Harry, and her last phone conversation with Harry.

"He did that?" Sonia asked in surprise, wondering why Harry would hang up at such a crucial moment and not take Jade's call or call back.

"Honestly, I'm getting fed up right now. I think I might just give up and..."

"You shouldn't," Lucy quickly cut in before Jade could finish, and both Jade and Sonia looked at her with interest since she had been silent for some time.

"I'm just trying to say he is just really stressed out right now. You should be patient," Lucy said calmly.

Lucy was of the opinion that if Aaron and Tom believed that Harry cared about Jade and was interested in her, then it was most likely true regardless of whatever Harry was doing with the Aurora lady.

"You should listen to her. She is Harry's spokesperson. Always championing his course," Sonia said in a teasing tone.

"Really? I guess that explains why you scolded me earlier. By the way, Candace thinks I should confess my feelings to Harry. Tom thinks I shouldn't. What do you both think? Confess or not confess?" Jade asked curiously, and Sonia looked at Lucy, wanting to hear what her advice would be.

Lucy thought about it for a moment. She wasn't sure this was the best time for that. A lot was happening, and soon Harry would be shocked by everything. She wasn't sure it was the best time for either of them to start a relationship.

And maybe it would be best if Jade didn't confess first too. What would Harry think after he hears from Aaron that Sara had confessed her feelings to him first? As much as she liked to believe that Harry was wise and wouldn't let go of his rationality so easily, she wasn't sure this was a gamble that Jade should take.

"Now is not the right time. Besides, I believe Tom knows Harry best. You should listen to him," Lucy said, and Jade glanced at Sonia who shrugged.

"As much as I'm all for ladies confessing their feelings to men, I don't know Harry as much as Tom and Lucy do, so maybe you should listen to them. But make sure you don't play games with him. You can make your feelings obvious without spelling it out," Sonia advised, and Jade sighed wearily.

"At this point, I'm exhausted. I think I've tried my best. I won't call him again until he calls me. Heaven knows I have enough on my plate to worry about right now. I don't have the time to sit beside my phone waiting for his phone call," Jade said with a slight frown as her eyes fell on the documents on the bed and the picture of the little girl.

Something about the kid's smile reminded her of Candace's smile. She must be crazy to be suddenly associating everyone and everything with Candace, Jade thought with a shake of her head.

"Enough about me. How are you feeling now? And how are my brothers?" Jade asked, flashing them both a smile.

Lucy looked behind her into the room where Tom was sleeping on the bed, "Tom is asleep. He had a long day."

"Bryan had a short day. He is in the living room playing soccer while waiting for Evelyn and Desmond to get home from their date," Sonia said with a grin.

"Date? Those two are the reasons I won't settle for less when it comes to love and relationships," Jade said, and both Lucy and Sonia smiled in agreement.

"I should let you two return to your men while I return to my pillow," Jade said, and they all laughed.

"Let's do this often. And Jade, don't forget to text me the name. Goodnight," Sonia said as she closed her journal.

"Sure, I will do that right now. Goodnight. Kiss my brothers goodnight for me," Jade said before hanging up.

After the call, Lucy stood up to go in, but almost immediately Sonia called her back making her raise a brow, "Did you forget to say something?" Lucy asked immediately after she received the call.

"Yes. What are you hiding?" Sonia asked curiously.

"Hiding? Who said I'm hiding anything?" Lucy asked in mock confusion as she returned to her seat.

"I know you, Lu. C'mon! We've been friends for over fifteen years now. Don't you think I can tell when you're hiding something?" Sonia asked, but Lucy shook her head.

"Nope. I'm not hiding anything," Lucy insisted without meeting Sonia's gaze.

"I can't believe you are lying to me right now," Sonia said with a slight frown.

Knowing that Sonia was not going to let it go, Lucy decided to tell her the part of the information that didn't involve Harry and Aaron, "It's not about anything we discussed. Before I called, I told you I was on the phone with my mom. Her twin sister showed up at the house," Lucy said, and Sonia gasped in surprise.

"Her twin? The one you said she never talks about?"

"Yeah."

"I can't exactly remember the story. What happened between them? Why were they estranged?" Sonia asked, and Lucy reminded her about how Sara had run away from home after stealing from their father.

"And she is just showing up now after thirty years? What did your mom do? Welcome her like the prodigal daughter or throw her out?" Sonia asked curiously.

"Of course, she didn't welcome her. She is not a good person. I suspect the only reason she is back is that she is ill and in need of an organ donor," Lucy said, and Sonia sighed.

"That is too bad. Is she wealthy? Is she married? Does she have a kid?" Sonia asked curiously.

"I learned she is a famous international model. Sara Walker..."

"Sara Walker? I know her. One of my ex-boyfriends used to have pictures of her on his wall. Remember the guy I told you I caught jerking off on the picture of an older woman?" Sonia asked, and Lucy nodded.

"Sara Walker was the older woman. If I had known she was your aunt back then I would have stuffed the picture in his mouth," Sonia said, and Lucy giggled.

"I don't care about her. Don't let that bother you. A person like her deserves that," Lucy said and raised a brow when she noticed that Sonia looked distracted as she stared at her screen.

"What are you looking at?"

"Jade's message just came in. The person she wants me to look into is Sara Walker," Sonia announced, causing Lucy's heart to skip a beat.

Lucy swallowed, "I wonder why," Lucy said, wondering if Jade had figured out the connection already, and how.

"Do you want to tell her that Sara is your aunt?" Sonia asked, and Lucy's brows pulled together in confusion not knowing what to do.

She couldn't give Jade such information without knowing why Jade was looking into Sara. And she didn't want to tell Jade about it either since she needed to tell Harry and Aaron first.

"No," Lucy said with a shake of her head as Sonia watched her closely.

"You are not going to find anything related to my family there. She claims to be an orphan, and since I don't know why Jade is looking into her I'd rather we don't associate with her," Lucy explained, hating that she was keeping secrets from Sonia.

"Don't worry, tomorrow I will give her a call to find out why she's looking into her, and I will let you know," Sonia promised, and Lucy sighed as she gave her a nod.

"Alright. Thanks. I should go to bed now. I have to go to work tomorrow," Lucy said when she saw that it was past almost midnight.

"Sure. We will be leaving for Heden tomorrow. I need to take care of my business with my editor. I will call to let you know how it goes, and also tell you about my conversation with Jade," Sonia promised.

"Thanks. Give my love to Bryan, Desmond, and Evelyn. Love you," Lucy said, and Sonia blew her a kiss before hanging up.

Lucy sighed as she stood up and returned to the bedroom to meet Tom. How did her ordinary life become so complicated and entangled in so many webs and dramas? She mused as she lay on the bed.

She smiled when Tom opened his eyes sleepily and pulled her to himself before turning off the light in the bedroom, "Sweet dreams, Jewel," Tom murmured in a husky voice as he kissed her forehead.