

Wild Night 461

Chapter 461: Text From Ex.

Once Sonia got to the bedroom, she frowned when she realized that Bryan was in the shower. Why was he bathing without her when they had made it a habit to always shower together?

Sonia walked over to the door, "How can you shower without me?" She asked from the doorway, but Bryan ignored her as he continued to lather his body with soap.

Seeing that he was bent on ignoring her, Sonia locked the bedroom door and took off her clothes before joining him in the shower.

Immediately she approached him, Bryan turned his back to her, "You are going to catch a cold," he told her grudgingly, reminding her that she needed to cover her hair.

"So you are talking to me now? No longer stuffing your ear with your airpod or ignoring me?" Sonia asked as she wrapped both arms around his waist and kissed his back.

"Don't do that," Bryan said grudgingly wanting to finish up quickly and leave, but she held on and slowly began to glide both hands up and down his body.

While one hand went up his abdomen, the other went to his groin, and Bryan sucked in a breath when she grabbed his cock, making it jerk in her hand.

"Why not?" Sonia asked in a husky whisper as she moved her hand up and down the entire length of it.

"I don't..." Bryan tried to speak but couldn't concentrate because all the blood in his brain had gathered in his groin.

"You don't what?" She asked in a sultry voice as she walked around him and came to stand in front of him without letting go of his cock.

"Sonia..." Bryan swallowed when she went on her knees in front of him and kissed the tip of his cock while looking into his eyes.

"Let's fuck and make up," she suggested, but Bryan was not having that. His ego was more important to him at the moment than sex. He didn't want to be used or feel so.

"No. I don't want to. Just... stop," Bryan said, trying to keep his head straight, despite the distraction of her hand on his cock, and Sonia reluctantly let go of it.

"Have you called Lucy yet?" He asked, and Sonia shook her head as she stood to face him.

"I believe Lucy can wait. But this can't wait," Sonia said, but Bryan shook his head as he stepped away from her.

"I don't think so. You should call her first. That way I don't have to worry about you zoning out halfway while I make love to you," Bryan said in a tight voice wanting to turn away, but Sonia held his hand.

"Did I hurt your feelings that much?" She asked with a frown.

Bryan turned away, not wanting her to see the hurt in his eyes. For someone like him who was used to being the center of attention, he had felt more than a little bit hurt by her behavior earlier

especially since he had really wanted to clear some doubts he was having. Her behavior had only made it worse.

"Bryan?" Sonia called as she cupped his face in her hands and held him so she could look into his face.

"It's nothing," Bryan said without meeting her gaze.

"If you are hurt, then it's not nothing. I'm sorry about earlier," she said apologetically as she raised herself on tiptoe and kissed the tip of his nose.

"What are you sorry for?" Bryan asked, wanting to know if she understood what he was upset about.

"For not giving you my attention," she said, but Bryan shook his head.

"Do you realize that you always put your relationship with Lucy before us?" Bryan asked, and Sonia frowned as she let her hands drop to her sides.

"Always? What do you mean always?"

"You broke up with me because you wanted to be with he...."

"That was a one-time thing, and you know why I did that. I don't get why you are bringing that up right now," Sonia cut in with an annoyed expression.

"You don't?"

"Are you jealous of Lucy?" She asked incredulously, not sure she liked Bryan's attitude.

"I'm not jealous of her. I respect and care about her, and I doubt she is handling her relationship with Tom the way you are handling ours. How would you feel if the situation was reversed and I'm too busy thinking about Matt to give you my attention?" Bryan asked, and Sonia frowned.

"I'm not sure I would feel a certain way. I understand that Matt is your best friend so it's only natural that you worry about him."

"Really? Matt is my best friend, but you are my girlfriend. I would never let my relationship with Matt affect what I have with you. I will never put my relationship with anyone else before ours," Bryan said, and Sonia sighed.

"Babe, I don't know what you are thinking, but I love you. I don't think there is any room for comparison between our relationship and mine with Lucy," Sonia said as she looked into his eyes.

"You don't act like I'm your boyfriend. You behave as if I'm just your fuck buddy or a character in your story," Bryan said, and Sonia looked at him incredulously.

"Christ! Where is all this coming from? Just because I was absentminded for a couple of hours, you've jumped to these conclusions already?" Sonia asked, and Bryan shook his head.

"It's not just that. It's more than that," Bryan said with a frown, not knowing how best to express how he was feeling without sounding like an insecure or whiny boyfriend.

He wasn't usually the type to feel insecure but right now he was feeling that way and he couldn't even explain why. Perhaps it had something to do with the disturbing text he had received earlier that morning from someone who claimed to be her ex-boyfriend.

It had taken his mind back to something he had read in her journal in the past but hadn't attached much meaning to. Her attitude all morning didn't help matters either, especially when he remembered her complaint the previous day about their relationship lacking conflict. He was beginning to feel like he was boring her or something.

"Your anger isn't about what happened in the car or about Lucy, is it?" Sonia asked with a frown, and Bryan shrugged.

"I don't know," Bryan said without meeting her gaze.

"Do you doubt that I love you?" Sonia asked with a frown, and Bryan shrugged once again.

"I don't know. You tell me," Bryan said, and Sonia sighed.

"Is there something you want to say to me?" Sonia asked as she reached out and turned off the shower. It was obvious they weren't going to be having a nice time in the shower anymore, so she grabbed the towel on the railing and handed it to him, but he didn't take it.

"You should use it on your hair," he said as he walked out of the bathroom into the bedroom.

Sonia followed him and stood some feet away from him as she watched him quietly while he opened his bag and took out another towel to dry his body.

"Talk to me, Bryan. What's going on?" She asked with a worried frown as she wrapped the towel around her body.

"Do you know any Derek?" Bryan asked without looking at her, and Sonia frowned.

"Derek? Yes. My ex-boyfriend. Why?" She asked, wondering how he knew about Derek, and why he was talking about him.

"The male leads in your stories are usually guys you've been with, am I wrong?" Bryan asked as he turned to look at her, and her frown deepened.

"What are you talking about?" She asked in confusion, wondering why he was jumping to another subject.

"The male lead in your last story was Derek. And the male lead in the story before the last was the guy you dated before Derek. Now I'm the male lead in this story, am I right?" Bryan asked, and Sonia blinked in surprise as she looked at him.

"Who told you all this?"

"Am I right or wrong?" Bryan asked, but Sonia said nothing as she looked at him.

"How did you know about Derek? And who told you he was the male lead I wrote about in my last story?" Sonia asked after some time.

"I received an Instagram text from him. He wanted to warn me beforehand that you are a man-eater, and he wanted to be sure I knew about it. He also told me how good you are in bed and how easily you move on when you are bored so he advised me to enjoy myself while it lasts. He even sent me some very convincing photo evidence."

"Photos? He sent you photos?" Why would Derek do something like that?

"I'm boring you already, am I not? All that talk about not having enough conflict and wanting to change the main characters in your story, is because you are bored, isn't it?" Bryan asked without answering her question.

"Bryan..."

"Who will be the male lead in your next story?" Bryan asked without letting her speak, and Sonia's heart skipped a beat as she took a step forward.

"I'm not sure what Derek told you, but you've been with countless ladies in the past and I've never judged you because of that," Sonia said, and Bryan shook his head.

"It's not just about your past. I saw your journal. I saw the initial plot of your story before you changed it. You planned on taming me by making me fall in love with you and getting you pregnant, then you would leave with the baby," Bryan said, and Sonia frowned.

"That was just a story plot. And you saw it, I changed it," she pointed out, but Bryan shook his head.

"You said the story was a mix of fiction and nonfiction. I don't know what part is real and what part is not. I don't want to be taken for a fool. I don't want to just be used to satisfy your sexual cravings or be your muse for your next big story" Bryan said, and Sonia looked at him like she had been slapped, but before she could respond, a knock sounded on the door.

"Sony, we are ready to leave," Evelyn called out.

"I will join you soon," Sonia called back and sighed as she faced Bryan who was already dressing up.

"I don't know what to say to you right now. I'm both surprised and disappointed that you are saying all this. I'm accompanying your parents to visit Lucy's parents. Let's talk later," Sonia said before returning to the bathroom to shower.

By the time she got out of the bathroom, Bryan had left. She tried not to feel too disappointed as she also dressed up to leave.

Chapter 462 Jealous And Insecure

"Are you okay, dear?" Evelyn asked as she placed a hand on Sonia's arm when she noticed how distracted Sonia was as she sat in the car with them, often sighing and muttering under her breath.

"I'm not. I had some kind of stupid misunderstanding with Bryan," Sonia said honestly as she turned in the passenger seat to look at the couple who were seated in the back seat.

She was upset about her misunderstanding with Bryan and was even more upset now when she realized halfway after leaving the house that she had left her phone on the dressing table in her haste not to keep them waiting.

"Do you want to talk about it?" Desmond asked, and Sonia glanced at the driver hesitantly making Evelyn smile in understanding.

"Don't worry about him, and speak if you want to," Evelyn assured her confidently.

"I know he is your son, and I'm probably going to be sorry I said this later, but Bryan is fucking dumb!" Sonia hissed in annoyance, and the couple exchanged an amused glance.

"How can he doubt what I feel for him? So what if my ex-boyfriend decides to be unfortunate and sends him a stupid text or some foolish photos? Is Bryan supposed to just bottle it all in and not talk about it? How am I supposed to know what he is feeling if he doesn't talk about it when he is the same person who asked me never to keep things to myself? So I'm at fault now because I confided in him about our story needing conflict? The best he can do is hurl accusations instead of sitting down like a mature adult to discuss it?" Sonia asked in anger wishing she could yell or throw something.

"Sonia dear, we understand that you are upset, but can you relax a bit and tell us exactly what it is our dumb son did to annoy you? You are not making much sense, and we can't answer your questions without getting the details," Evelyn said, and Desmond nodded in agreement.

Sonia took a deep breath, "One minute we are in the car and I'm trying to figure out the connection about something Lucy told me and Jade's case, and the next minute Bryan is asking me to choose between him and Lucy..."

"Bryan said that?" Desmond and Evelyn asked in unison.

Sonia paused, "Well, he didn't say it in those exact terms, but he tried to imply that I care more about Lucy than I care about him. I was lost in my thoughts no doubt, and I may have snapped at him when he tried to get my attention in the car. I realized my wrong, and then I went upstairs and joined him in the shower..." She paused and winced when she realized how that must sound to his parents.

"Unnecessary information. Sorry," Sonia said, and Desmond chuckled at her embarrassment while Evelyn bit back a smile.

"Go on," Evelyn urged her. It was needless to remind her that she had seen them in bed together in the past and heard her say worse stuff than that.

"Well, I was trying to make up with him, but he kept talking about how I put my relationship with Lucy before ours, and that didn't make any sense..."

"Yeah, it doesn't," Desmond agreed. He didn't want to believe that his son was jealous of Lucy and acting so insecure over Sonia's bond with Lucy.

"I figured there was more to it so I probed further, and then he's talking about some text he received from my ex-boyfriend. I just don't get him!" Sonia said, and the couple exchanged a look again.

"What did your ex say to him?" Desmond asked and Sonia shrugged.

"I didn't see the text. Just some stuff about how the male characters of my novels are usually guys I've dated and how easily I get bored," Sonia said leaving out the good in bed part. That wasn't something to tell your future parents-in-law.

"Is it true?" Evelyn asked, and Sonia shrugged.

"Well, they were good looking and that was the only reason I approached them in the first place. It's only natural that I use their physical features and some of their nice and romantic attributes in describing my male leads. I wasn't the female lead in any of the stories. And yes, I easily get bored. They were not exciting. But the situation with Bryan is entirely different. How can he not know that?" Sonia asked with a frown, and Desmond gave her a nod.

"How can he not know that?" Desmond echoed.

"Was that why he left the house earlier?" Evelyn asked, and Sonia shrugged.

"I think so. I didn't know what to say to him because I was surprised, angry, and disappointed. I told him we could talk about it after I get back," Sonia said, as Evelyn sighed.

"He must be dumb as you said. Maybe stupid and blind too not to see that you love him too," Desmond said, and Sonia scowled.

"You shouldn't call him names," Sonia chided, and the couple shared a silent laugh.

"Is Bryan the male lead in your ongoing novel?" Desmond asked, and Sonia gave him a nod.

"Does he know about it?" Evelyn asked this time, and Sonia gave her a nod too.

"He is aware. I'm the female lead too. It's the first time I'm writing about myself," Sonia said, and Evelyn sighed.

"Then don't you think it's only natural that he feels this way after hearing from your ex?" Evelyn asked, but Sonia shook her head.

"I expect him to understand that things are different. This is the first time I'm letting myself get close to the family of a boyfriend. I even told him I promised to birth your first grandchild. Does that sound like I'm not serious about the relationship?" Sonia asked, Evelyn, shook her head.

"Maybe instead of you to expect him to understand, you should focus on making him understand," Evelyn suggested, and Desmond nodded in agreement.

"I understand how you feel, but sometimes it is difficult to be reasonable or logical when emotions are high. I think right now Bryan is high on jealousy so he isn't thinking straight," Desmond said, and Evelyn grinned.

"You would know, wouldn't you? After all, he got all that jealous traits from you," Evelyn said in a teasing tone, and Desmond scowled at her making her giggle.

"You get jealous too?" Sonia asked, eyeing Desmond with curiosity.

"Why not? What is love without some healthy jealousy?" Desmond asked, and Sonia tried not to roll her eyes as she returned her attention to the road when she noticed they were almost at the Perrys' apartment.

"There it is," Sonia said as she pointed at a building in front of them, and the driver parked in front of the place.

Away from there, Bryan's brows were pulled together in a deep frown and he gritted his teeth as he re-read the texts he had received from Derek earlier that morning for the fifth time.

[Hey, Bryan! I know you probably might not read this message since I'm sure celebrities like you are fond of ignoring texts from nobodies like myself, but I'm going to drop this here all the same, in case you just happen to check it.

My name is Derek, and I'm Sonia's boyfriend... Perhaps her ex, although I don't remember is breaking up. She moved on without a word. Lol. One moment I think we are dating, and the next moment she is all over the news as the fiancée of a big-shot actor. Can you imagine my shock?

I guess she moved on because she is done with my story. Did she tell you yet that the male leads of her novels are usually patterned after the guys she dated or was dating at the time? I'm guessing she is currently writing a romance story about you both, isn't she?

I'm not writing this out of jealousy or anything, I love Sony. Fuck! I'm crazy about her. That girl does things to a man in bed that leaves him craving for more. I'm sure you get what I mean, yeah? Back to the point, I just thought you should know. I wish someone told me. That way you would be prepared for when she gets bored and chooses to move on. You have no idea how fast she moves on. Enjoy yourself as much as you can since you don't know when she will be done with you.

I think she has a problem with committing, so I don't think it's exactly her fault. The only person I think she is committed to is her best friend, Lucy. I'm sure you must have noticed that yourself.

Well, I'm attaching a little present to this message. Say hi to Sony for me. Tell her I still miss the feel of her cunt around my cock.]

Bryan's gaze shifted to the photo of Sonia sprawled on the bed. The only thing she was wearing was the grin plastered on her face as she looked into the camera with both hands covering her breasts, and her legs crossed to hide her feminine slit.

This was her past, and he shouldn't be jealous of it, right? So why was he burning with anger the more he read the last line of the text and saw the mixture of arousal and mischief gleaming in her green eyes? Bryan mused as he dumped his phone on the couch next to him.

He had left the house and had gone to hang out at a lounge away from his home just so he could think about things logically and clear his head. He wasn't sure that rereading the text was helping him clear his head in any way.

The only thing the text was succeeding at was making him feel more jealous, bitter, insecure, and doubtful.

Sonia had said she was disappointed in him for opening up to her, and he had felt a stab of guilt in his heart when he saw the hurt in her eyes, and despite every attempt to assure his heart that Sonia could be trusted and she wasn't messing with him or using him as Derek had implied, he just couldn't get rid of the fear of being used and dumped.

He didn't want to be made a fool of. He had shown everyone just how much he loved Sonia and had even fallen out with Paul over it. What if Derek was right and she decided to move on after she completed this story?

What if she had meant it earlier when she said she was beginning to get bored? Wasn't that why she said she would change the lead of her stories?

'But she is changing the leads to Tom and Lucy, not another guy' his voice of reasoning reminded him, and he sighed.

Maybe their case was different? Perhaps she truly was in love with him. She might not have loved the others, but she had fallen in love with him. She was the one who had said she wanted him. She was the one who had wanted commitment from the beginning.

Was it really from the beginning? She had taken him to a club and had asked those strippers to take care of him. He doubted she would do something like that if she was in love with him. Perhaps she had fallen in love with him after they started living together?

He recalled every moment they had spent together and tried to figure out if he had ever doubted her feelings at any point in time but he couldn't find any.

The first time he saw her journal and read her story plot, he had thought about it as just a plot and hadn't read any meaning into it, so why was he doing so now? Was it simply because of the text from some dude he didn't know? Was he going to believe the dude's words over Sonia's love for him? Why had he been quick to believe the dude? Was it simply because of what Sonia had said the previous day about their story being a whirlwind romance and lacking conflict? Was he overthinking everything?

"Fuck it!" Bryan swore as he picked up his phone and stood up. He was tired of thinking and guessing. He wanted them to talk about it and clear the air because the more time he spent thinking about it, the more hurt and doubtful he became.

He dialed Sonia's line as he walked out of the lounge, but the phone rang for some time and she didn't receive her call.

He dialed her line again two more times and when she still didn't receive her call, he gave up and called his dad instead.

"Hey, Dumbass!" Desmond who had been watching ESPN with Andrew greeted him as he got off the couch and excused himself.

Bryan pulled back his phone from his ear to be sure he was speaking with his father, "Dad?"

"Were you expecting someone else to receive my call?"

"Why is Sonia ignoring my call? Please put her on the line," Bryan said impatiently.

"She left her phone in your bedroom, and she is not here right now. She left for her apartment after we got here," Desmond said, and Bryan frowned.

"We were supposed to go there together, what did she go there for?"

"Her place is not far from Lucy's home, so she wanted to stop over there. I guess she wanted to be alone. You really got her upset you know?" Desmond asked, and Bryan sighed as he combed his fingers through his hair.

"Can you text me the address? I will stop over there and get her."

"I don't have it. Give Dimitri a call and have him text it to you since he dropped her off," Desmond suggested, referring to their driver.

"Alright, thanks..."

"Son?" Desmond cut in before Bryan could finish and hung up.

"Yeah?"

"Sonia is a nice girl, and you'd be a fool to let anyone tell you otherwise," Desmond said before hanging up.

Bryan sighed as he dialed Dimitri's line, and immediately he was done with the phone call and Dimitri texted Sonia's address to him, he drove off to find Sonia.

Chapter 463 Numb

Janet and Evelyn sat in the kitchen, drinking tea while Evelyn laughed uncontrollably as Janet told her how she had taken her advice and ruined Rachel's clothes. That was of course after Evelyn had told Janet all about her and Desmond's date the previous day.

"I can't believe you really did that," Evelyn said in amusement since she hadn't exactly expected Janet to go along with it.

"You have no idea how upset I was until you gave me that suggestion. And even though I realize how petty and childish it was, that was the only thing I could do to express my anger at that moment. I'm surprised the brat hasn't said a word or done anything. I was counting on her coming over here to create a scene or something so I can do some hair pulling," Janet said, and Evelyn giggled as she took a sip from the ginger and honey tea.

"You wouldn't do that."

"Oh, trust me, I would have. To think she has been tracking Lucas this whole time. Can you believe that?" Janet said angrily, and Evelyn shook her head.

"She needs to get a mental evaluation. How is Lucas by the way?" Evelyn asked curiously, and Janet told her about Lucas' trip to visit Tyler.

"Oh, that's such a relief! There is nothing like a nice vacation to clear the head," Evelyn said with a relieved smile, and Janet sighed as she nodded in agreement.

"Are you okay?" Evelyn asked after some time, and Janet looked at her.

"Yeah. Why?"

"When you opened the door your face was dull and your eyes were puffy like you had been crying for some time. I assumed it was because you were worried about Lucas, but now I'm not so sure anymore. Did something else happen?" Evelyn asked, and Janet sighed.

"What do you know about Harry?" She asked, wanting to talk about it.

"By Harry do you mean Tom's best friend?" Evelyn asked, since that was the only Harry it made sense that Janet would be asking her about it.

"Yes. What is he like?" Janet asked curiously.

The family Sara abandoned had been all she could think of since Lucy told her about Aaron and Harry the previous evening. She was both worried and curious about Harry and his father.

Evelyn looked at Janet in confusion, wondering why she was asking her about Harry at that moment. "He is a nice boy. Can hardly tell a lie without getting caught. He's loyal too and very good-looking. Why do you ask?" Evelyn asked, and Janet sighed, not sure if it was okay to tell Evelyn about it yet.

"Have you ever met his parents?" Janet asked, but Evelyn shook her head.

"No. His mother is late, but I've spoken with his father over the phone a couple of times. He's a pleasant man. Funny and sweet," Evelyn said with a fond smile as she thought of Aaron.

"Are you going to tell me what is going on or do you plan on asking me more questions?" Evelyn asked when she noticed the tears that were gathered in Janet's eyes.

"Oh, Evelyn! What am I supposed to do now?" Janet asked with a snuffle, and Evelyn's brows pulled together.

"What are you supposed to do about what? Did Lucy say she is in love with Harry? I suggest you ask her to get her sights off him! She belongs to my Tom, and Harry belongs to my Jade," Evelyn said, and despite her tears, Janet smiled.

"Jade?"

"Yeah. Although those two are slow, but there's something between them. At least Desmond and I are hoping so," Evelyn confided, and Janet sighed.

"Did Tom tell you anything about Harry?" She asked, and Evelyn shook her head.

"Anything like what? Did something happen to Harry?" Evelyn asked with a concerned frown, and Janet quickly shook her head as she looked at the woman who she now considered her friend, and not just Tom's mother.

She had been surprised to see Tom's parents standing outside her door with Sonia when she opened the door.

Despite the close relationship they had shared at Tom's home, she never would have expected them to come down to visit them immediately after they got back from their trip. That was touching.

"Did I tell you I was born a triplet? Two girls and a boy?" Janet asked, and Evelyn's eyes lit up with interest.

"We both know you didn't! You wouldn't be asking me that question if you did," Evelyn said as she leaned forward in her seat.

"So where are the others? I heard multiple pregnancies is some times hereditary. I guess it's true seeing how you have twins yourself," Evelyn said, deliberately choosing not to ask her why she was talking about her siblings when she had asked a question about Harry.

She believed that whatever it was, Janet was eventually going to get to it, so there was no need to push or rush it.

"The boy died. And my sister... Well, we are estranged. I haven't seen her in thirty years until last night," Janet said, and Evelyn's eyes widened.

"Thirty years? What could have happened to make you stay away from each other for that long? What about your parents?" Evelyn asked, and she listened patiently as Janet told her about Sara and their parents.

"Oh, dear! I can't imagine how upset you must have been when she showed up. To think she wasn't even remorseful," Evelyn murmured when Janet finished her story.

"I am even more upset now after I heard from Lucy. If Lucy had told me the details of their meeting before I saw her, I don't know what I would have done to her," Janet said, and Evelyn looked at her curiously.

"Lucy met with her? Why?" Evelyn asked, and Janet sighed as she told her what Lucy had said about Sara being Harry's biological mother.

"Harry? Do you mean his mother is not dead? She not only abandoned her son but also sold her own daughter?" Evelyn asked as she shook her head in disbelief.

Was it possible that any sane mother would do something like this?

"I have been unable to think about anything else since I heard from Lucy. My heart keeps aching and I find myself crying each time I think about them," Janet said and Evelyn shook her head.

"Both Harry and his father are going to be devastated when they find out the truth about the missing twin they assumed was dead. Perhaps I should give Tom a call to find out what's going on," Evelyn said as she took out her phone, but Janet shook her head.

"I don't think that's a good idea. He probably hasn't told you about it because he doesn't want to do so yet. I should give Lucy a call instead and find out how they're doing," Janet said as she stood from there and went to get her phone from the living room, leaving Evelyn who was still stunned by the fact that Harry was Janet's nephew.

Janet dialed Lucy's line as she returned to join Evelyn, and almost immediately Lucy received the phone call.

"Hey, Mom!" Lucy greeted as she rose from her seat.

"I will be outside the door, Jam," Lucy told Jamal, who was still holding on to Aaron's hand, before walking out of the room.

"Is Jamal there with you? Aren't you at the office?" Janet asked curiously immediately she heard his name, and Evelyn's ears perked up at the mention of Jamal's name.

"Yes. We took him to the office with us, but we are at the hospital right now. Harry's dad suffered a heart attack earlier..."

"Oh, no! How is he doing?" Janet asked in alarm, and Lucy sighed.

"He's not awake yet. He finally told Harry the truth, and I told him about Sara being your sister, and about the missing twin. I guess his heart couldn't take it," Lucy said, and tears gathered in both their eyes.

"Oh, poor man! What about Harry? How is he taking everything?" Janet asked with concern.

"He's trying to act like everything is alright, but I know he is hurting, mom. Especially now that he knows Candace is his twin sister..."

"His twin sister? You've found her already?" Janet asked in confusion as she looked at Evelyn who was motioning to her to place the call on speaker so she could hear what Lucy was saying.

"Yes. It's Candace. Jamal's mom," Lucy said just as Janet placed the call on speaker, and immediately Janet exchanged a look with Evelyn.

"Candace?" Evelyn asked without thinking, and Lucy frowned when she heard another voice.

"You are not alone?" She asked her mother.

"I'm here with Evelyn. She and Desmond are visiting," Janet said after glaring at Evelyn.

"Oh!" Lucy said with a slight frown, not impressed that her mother hadn't told her that someone else was listening in on the call. What if she had said something she wasn't supposed to say?

"Hello, Lucy! I hope you don't mind that your mom told me everything?" Evelyn asked politely.

"Of course, I don't..."

"What do you mean that Jamal's mom is Harry's twin sister?" Janet cut in with a frown as she thought about Candace and the few times they had shared the same space.

"We already took the DNA samples to the lab for testing, the result should be out by tomorrow. But Jade and Candace already confirmed it," Lucy said, and Janet's brows pulled together.

Candace was Sara's daughter? How possible was that?

"How? How did they confirm it?" Evelyn asked curiously, and Lucy explained that Jade had been the first to notice a resemblance between Candace and Sara.

"How can Jade notice a resemblance when even your mother didn't notice any similarities?" Evelyn asked, and Janet frowned.

In the short time they had stayed at Tom's place, she had noticed that Candace preferred to be alone. It was as though she was uncomfortable being in their company, and preferred to spend time with the helps in the kitchen instead.

She only joined them when she was bringing Jamal to them, or coming to take him, so she couldn't say she had spent enough time in Candace's company to notice any similarities between her and Sara.

She paused when she recalled that the first time they saw Candace and Jamal, Andrew had jokingly said Candace reminded him of her when she was that age, and they had laughed over it.

But did she really not notice any resemblance between Candace and Sara? Janet mused. Perhaps she had just not taken note of it and even if she had thought anything, she wouldn't have made a big deal out of it since she couldn't even remember the last time she thought of Sara.

"Does that mean Jamal is Sara's grandson?" Janet asked no one in particular since she had zoned out of the conversation between Evelyn and Lucy.

"Candace is on her way there?" Evelyn was asking Lucy.

"Yes, I need to go back in now. I can't leave Jamal alone with Aaron for too long."

"Of course. Give my love to Jamal and let him know I'll call back to speak with him soon. Let us know whatever happens, Lucy," Evelyn said and touched Janet's arm to get her attention.

"Let me know when he wakes up," Janet said with a sigh before hanging up the call.

"None of this makes sense. I should ask Andrew about it," Janet said with a frown as she stood up to go meet Andrew, and Evelyn followed her wondering what she wanted to ask Andrew about.

"Did you mean it when you said Candace reminded you of me when I was young?" Janet asked as she walked into the living room, and Andrew's gaze shifted from the television screen to his wife.

"Did he tell you that?" Evelyn asked Janet curiously, and she gave her a nod.

Desmond's gaze shifted to his wife when he heard her voice, making him wonder what the women were about.

"Candace? Who is Candace?" Andrew asked in confusion.

"Jamal's mom," Evelyn supplied, and Desmond raised a brow.

"C'mon, I said that a long time ago, how can you be bringing that up now when you laughed over it when I said it? Are you itching for a fight?" Andrew asked, and Janet hissed impatiently.

"Did you mean it or not?"

Andrew glanced at Evelyn for help, "What were you ladies discussing?"

"Lucy just told us that Candace is her twin sister's daughter," Evelyn explained, and Andrew glanced at his wife immediately.

"Jamal's mom is Sara's daughter? How? Does that mean she is Tom's best friend's missing twin sister?" Andrew asked, and Desmond looked at all of them in confusion.

"Are you talking about my son's best friend, Harry?"

"Yes, Des. Apparently, Harry and Candace are twins, and their mother is Janet's twin sister," Evelyn explained, making Desmond look at her in disbelief.

"You mean Harry's late mom is your twin sister? Are you close to Harry?" Desmond asked, thinking that if she was Harry's aunt she would have a close relationship with Harry.

"She is not late. I will explain it to you later," Evelyn said, but Desmond was still confused.

"Did Tom know about it before letting Candace live with him?" Desmond asked, but Janet shook her head.

"No. They just found out about everything," Janet said as she sat down on the couch and Andrew went to sit beside her and placed his arm around her.

"This has to be the coincidence of the century," Desmond murmured as he looked at his wife.

"How are you?" Andrew asked, and Janet shook her head.

"I don't know. I just feel numb with shock. I just can't believe all this," Janet said in a daze.

Chapter 464 Good Job

Apart from wanting to be alone for some time to sort through her thoughts and clear her head, the other reason Sonia had decided to stop by her apartment was to pick up her other phone which she had left behind when she traveled to pay Bryan a surprise visit.

She hadn't expected that she would spend so much time away from her apartment when she left to visit Bryan. Who would have thought that a lot would have happened between them in such a short time?

She had been able to remain unreachable in the last couple of weeks because she had traveled with only her private phone with her which she used in communicating with Lucy and in special emergency cases her editor.

Being a writer there were times she wanted to shut out the world, and at times like that she often left her general phone off and only used her private line which was strictly meant for communicating with Lucy.

She had left the Hank family house without her phone and her apartment key since the plan had been to drop by her apartment with Bryan, but thankfully, she had a spare key which she always left under the flowerpot beside her door, so getting into her apartment wouldn't be a problem.

Standing in front of her apartment now, she reached under her flowerpot for the key and unlocked the door.

Her brows pulled into a frown when she stepped into her apartment and noticed that the place didn't look as abandoned as she had expected.

As a matter of fact, it looked like someone had been living there for some time and a male shirt was strewn across the single couch in the living room.

She decided not to close the door behind her following her self-preservation instinct.

What was going on? She mused as she headed for the bedroom, and she froze by the bedroom door when she heard the sound of the shower.

"Who is in there?" She called from the doorway without going into the bedroom.

"Sony? Is that you?" A male voice that she recognized called back, making her frown.

Derek? What was he doing in her apartment? How did he get in?

A moment later Derek stepped out of the bathroom with her towel wrapped around his waist, "I see you are back. Welcome home," Derek said with a pleased smile.

"What the fuck are you doing in my apartment?" Sonia hissed in annoyance.

"I needed a place to chill so I figured I could stay here since you are not around," Derek said with a shrug.

"And so you invited yourself into my apartment just like that?" Sonia asked unable to believe what she was hearing.

"I tried calling but there was no way to reach you. And I texted you on Instagram but you didn't respond to my text," Derek said, and Sonia scowled at him.

"How did you get in here without a key?"

"I have a duplicate of your apartment key," Derek said, and Sonia shut her eyes as she prayed for self-control.

"How long have you been coming here like this?"

"You are my girlfriend..."

"WAS!" Sonia snapped at him.

"You know what? I don't care how you got the key or when. Get your stuff and get out of my apartment this moment before I'm forced to call the police," she said, jerking her head to the door.

"Is the big shot actor not here with you?" Derek asked, looking behind her.

Sonia's eyes flashed angrily when she remembered what Bryan had said about receiving a text from Derek, "What did you say to Bryan?" She asked, and Derek smiled as he let the towel fall to the ground.

"Nothing that isn't true. I guess he's not here with you. Do I sense trouble in paradise already?" Derek asked, not minding that he was naked as he approached Sonia.

"If you take one more step towards me, I will make you regret it for life," Sonia warned in a deadly tone.

"C'mon, Sony! Don't you miss me? Does Bryan fuck you better? You always said you loved the size and feel of my cock inside you. You even wrote about us, remember? You called me your favorite man. Don't you miss this?" Derek asked as he dangled his rod in front of him.

"Shut your fucking clueless mouth and get lost before I'm forced to cut off your cock and stuff your rotten mouth with it!" Sonia yelled angrily, feeling both angry and disgusted as she looked around her for something she could throw at him.

She couldn't believe that she had been crazy enough to have gotten herself involved with a fool like Derek.

"Relax, babe..."

Without letting him finish Sonia stormed out of there and went to the kitchen drawer to get a knife, "Get the fuck out this moment before I make good my threat!" She yelled at him and seeing how angry she was, he could tell it wasn't an idle threat so he raised both hands.

"Alright. No need for violence or threat. You know how to find me when things go south with Mr celebrity," Derek said with an easy smile as he picked up his trouser from the bed and pulled it on without wearing any underwear.

Still pointing the knife at him, Sonia held the door open as she waited for him to pick up his belt and get out of her bedroom, and once he did she followed him with the knife and watched as he picked his shirt from the couch.

"Not so fast. Where is my key?" she said when he started heading for the door, and Derek hesitantly dipped a hand into his pocket and took out the single key that he placed on her table.

"Now get lost," Sonia said, and Derek winked at her before walking out of the house.

Once Derek shut the door behind him, he pulled on his shirt and started to wear his belt. He was still putting on his belt when Bryan arrived, and immediately he saw Bryan, he chuckled as he adjusted the waistline of his trousers.

Bryan froze when he saw Derek. He recognized him from his display picture on Instagram. What was he doing at Sonia's apartment? Bryan mused, and his stomach churned when Derek raised a hand to his wet hair and combed through it.

Why was his hair wet? Did he have his bath in there? Bryan mused, unable to hide his curiosity.

"You are late to the party, buddy," Derek said with a suggestive grin as he walked past Bryan who remained where he stood, staring at him as he walked away while wondering if there was any need to go in to see Sonia again.

Once Derek walked away from there and got into a cab, he dialed Jeff's line, "You are such an evil genius! It worked out even better than I imagined," Derek said excitedly.

"Did something else happen?" Jeff asked curiously when he heard Derek's excitement.

"I guess the universe is on your side. Sonia didn't only show up, Bryan did too. He saw me leaving her apartment and judging by the look on his face I don't think he's going to believe anything she has to say," Derek said, and a satisfied smile tugged the corners of Jeff's lips.

"That means they will be breaking up soon, right," Jeff said with approval.

"Did your man get the pictures?" Derek asked, thinking about how famous he would be if the photos got out with the news that he was screwing Bryan's fiancée.

"Yes, they did. Good job. I will send the rest of your money immediately after I hang up," Jeff said before hanging up the call.

Chapter 465 Bad Dream

"I thought you left with Harry?" Lucy asked as she turned away from Aaron and Jamal to the door when Tom walked inside the room.

"I dropped him off at his apartment. He wants to be alone so I left. How is Aaron doing?" Tom asked as his gaze moved to the bed where Jamal, who was now lying down on the little space beside Aaron, was sleeping.

"He has been stable. He was crying in his sleep initially but he is calm now. How is Harry?" Lucy asked as she rose from her seat to meet Tom, and he sighed.

"I don't know. I wish I knew. He is not saying much. I'm even more worried because he's trying so hard to act like he's fine," Tom said with a worried frown.

"Maybe you shouldn't have left him alone?" Lucy said, but Tom shook his head.

"He's better off alone right now. I think he needs to be alone to process everything," Tom said, and Lucy sighed.

"Your mom is aware of everything. I spoke with her a short while ago," Lucy said, and Tom raised a brow.

"Why did you tell her about it?"

"They are visiting my parents," Lucy said as she explained the details of the phone call to him.

"I see. I will give her a call later then," Tom said, and Lucy gave him a nod.

"When will they get here?" Lucy asked, referring to Jade and Candace as she glanced back at the bed to look at Aaron and Jamal.

Tom glanced at his wristwatch, "They should get here within the next hour. They moved two hours ago," Tom said, and Lucy nodded.

"That's fine. Have you been able to come up with a plan yet?" Lucy asked, but Tom shook his head.

"Let's not talk about that right now. I have to return to the office to take care of things. I already asked Adolf to deliver lunch to you here," Tom said as he kissed her forehead.

"Let me know if you need anything," Tom said and before he could walk away, Lucy grabbed his hand.

"I'm sorry about the incident in the car. I've been thinking about it, and I was wrong..."

"I can't talk about that right now, Lu. Let's talk later," Tom cut in as he glanced at his wristwatch.

"I have to take care of something at the office," Tom said as he kissed her lips, and she gave him a nod she watched him walk away.

Lucy turned to the bed when she heard Aaron groan behind her.

"Harry?" Aaron called softly.

She walked over to the bed quickly, "Aaron? Are you awake now? How are you feeling?" She asked as she looked at him with concern, but Aaron was looking at the kid who was holding his hand and sleeping next to him.

Slowly he raised his eyes to meet Lucy and his brows furrowed in confusion, "Lucy?" He called looking disoriented as he looked down at the kid who was lying next to him.

For a moment there he had thought he was dreaming and the kid beside him was little Harry, but seeing Lucy now he wasn't so sure anymore if he was seeing things or dreaming.

Seeing the way he was staring at Jamal, Lucy quickly understood his confusion, "His name is Jamal. He is with me," she said, not sure if it was time to tell him who Jamal was. She wasn't sure it was her place to make such introductions.

She was just going to wait for Candace to arrive and then let them do the introduction themselves.

"Why am I here? Where is Harry?" Aaron asked as he tried to sit up, rousing Jamal from sleep in the process.

Lucy was quick to place a hand on Aaron's shoulder to stop him, "You shouldn't sit up yet. I have to get the doctor," Lucy said as she pressed the tiny bell beside his bed.

Jamal's eyes lit up when he realized that Aaron was awake, and he sat up and faced Aaron, "It worked. You are awake," Jamal said with a cheerful smile.

"What worked?" Aaron asked as he looked into Jamal's brown eyes which seemed to remind him of Harry's.

"He said you will feel better if I hold your hands like I held his hand," Jamal explained making Aaron look down at his hand which Jamal was still holding, before looking at Lucy with sad questioning eyes.

"Harry said he could hold your hands," Lucy explained. She could tell he had a lot of questions, but it was best to start by answering the easier ones.

"Who is the kid? And where is Harry?" Aaron asked once again as he returned his gaze to Jamal, wondering who the kid was and what he was doing there with them.

Lucy refrained from saying, 'Your grandson' but before she could say anything Jamal spoke again.

"My name is Jamal. I've been wiping your tears and holding your hands while you slept," Jamal said, and Aaron looked at Lucy with questioning eyes, but before he could ask any more questions a doctor and two nurses walked in to check his vitals.

Jamal watched with curious interest as they checked him, and once they were done, Lucy walked out with the doctor to hear what he had to say, leaving Jamal alone with Aaron.

"Where is my son?" Aaron asked Jamal since he seemed to know a lot of things.

"He left with Tom," Jamal said thoughtfully, and Aaron sighed.

Was Harry still mad at him?

"But you don't have to worry, Lucy won't leave you. I won't leave too," Jamal promised with a reassuring smile, leaving Aaron no choice but to smile back at him.

"Why are you in a hospital? Where are your parents?" Aaron asked curiously.

"I don't know where my father is. My mother traveled with the lawyer lady to catch some bad people, so I'm living with Tom and Lucy. They are my gardners," Jamal said, while Aaron looked at him thoughtfully.

"Gardners?" Aaron asked, and then his lips twitched when he realized what Jamal meant.

"They are your guardians," he said in amusement, and Jamal bobbed his head.

"Is your heart still aching?" Jamal asked as he looked at him curiously and let go of Aaron's hand to place a hand on Aaron's chest.

"My heart?" Aaron asked curiously.

Jamal bobbed his head, "When people feel sad their heart aches and it makes them cry," Jamal explained reasonably.

Aaron nodded, "My heart still aches," he confessed, and Jamal's brows pulled together.

"Are you going to get sick again? Do you need me to hold your hands again until you feel all better?" Jamal asked and took Aaron's hand again just as Lucy returned to join them.

"How long have I been here? I had a bad dream," Aaron cut in, and Lucy looked at him curiously.

"What dream?"

"We were in Harry's office. Me, you, and Harry. I think Tom joined us. You said something about my daughter," Aaron's eyes filled up with tears as he spoke, and Lucy's brows pulled together.

"What did I say?"

"You even played a voice recording..."

Oh, dear! Was he thinking all of that was a dream? Lucy mused with a concerned frown.

"It wasn't a dream?" Aaron asked when he noticed the worry on Lucy's face.

"Let's not talk about that until you are well, okay?" Lucy said as she touched his shoulder lightly.

"Does that mean I told Harry the truth?" Aaron asked, and Lucy reluctantly gave him a nod.

"The kid says Harry left with Tom?" Aaron asked Lucy, and she gave him a nod.

"Yes. He went home. I will give him a call..."

"Is that why he is not here? Is he mad at me because I told him the truth?"

"Not at all. You don't have to worry. Harry's not mad at you. All his anger is directed at Sara," she assured him with a forced smile.

"Are you telling me the truth?" Aaron asked, and Lucy gave him a nod.

"He said he needs to clear his head and come up with a way to take care of Sara," Lucy added when Aaron continued to look at her skeptically.

"She is telling you the truth. He said he's upset but he's not mad at you," Jamal supplied, surprising Lucy who hadn't expected Jamal to understand what they had been talking about earlier.

"Did he really say that?" Aaron asked, and Jamal gave him a nod.

"I was there when he said it. That was what he said when Lucy asked him not to leave so you wouldn't think he was mad at you when you wake up," Jamal explained, and Lucy made a mental note to be careful of her words around Jamal. The kid seemed to be more intelligent and observant than she had thought.

"I should let Harry know that you are up now. That will make him feel better," Lucy said as she took out her phone from her handbag and dialed Harry's line.

Chapter 466 Conflict

Inside Sonia's apartment, she threw the towel Derek had used into the trashcan in the kitchen and went about cleaning up the place to remove every trace of him before going to take out her phone from the drawer she had kept it.

She sighed when she turned on the phone and many texts came up. Some of the texts were from bloggers and journalists who had texted to know if the rumor about her fake engagement with Bryan was true or not, and a couple was from Derek telling her he loved her and begging her to get back with him.

It was funny how she was just seeing their texts now. She was glad that she had left this phone behind after all.

She contemplated giving Lucy a call but decided against it since she wasn't really in the mood to speak to anyone. She was still very pissed.

She had a lot on her mind as she lay on her bed thinking about her misunderstanding with Bryan and his parents' advice to her to help him understand that their relationship was different.

Although she understood what they meant, she couldn't help feeling angry and hurt that Bryan would easily jump to such conclusions about her and trivialize their relationship.

Regardless of whatever text he had received from Derek, she expected him to know better. She expected him to talk to her about it reasonably not hurl accusations at her the way he had done.

She glanced at the door when she heard the doorbell and she ignored it, thinking that Derek had come back.

She tried to focus on her thoughts but when the doorbell remained persistent, she picked up the knife from where she had left it on the table and stormed to the door angrily.

"You must have a death wish..." The rest of her words were forgotten when she saw Bryan standing by the door instead of Derek.

"Were you expecting someone else?" Bryan asked, as his gaze traveled from her angry face to the knife she had been brandishing a moment ago.

He had been on his way back home when he decided to go back and confront her, but this wasn't the scene he had been expecting to find. Fuck, he didn't know what he had been expecting, but certainly not an enraged Sonia.

"What are you doing here?" she hissed at Bryan in annoyance as she returned inside the apartment leaving Bryan to decide if he wanted to go in or not.

Sonia threw the knife on the table and sat on the couch as she waited for him to come in, and once he shut the door behind him she glared at him as she stood up.

"What was he doing here?" Bryan asked, and Sonia's eyes flashed angrily.

"If you saw him leaving, why are you asking me such a stupid question? Why didn't you ask him that? It's not like you are going to believe anything I say anyway, so what's the point? Go to him and get some more information. Get the fuck out," Sonia yelled, pointing at the door for him to leave.

"Sonia..."

"I don't care whatever nonsense that idiot said to you, but you had no fucking reason to insult me or talk to me the way you did earlier, you hear me? Yes, I was absentminded for a while today, so what? Weren't we in bed together just last night talking about our future? Is what we have so fickle that any fool like Derek can get into your stupid head with some fucking text..." Sonia glared at Bryan when he opened his mouth to speak and she raised a finger.

"No, I don't want to hear a word from you! You had your chance earlier in YOUR house and you did a fucking good job of pissing me off with it. Now you are in MY space and you are going to listen to me or you can get the fuck out of here and never show your dumb ugly face around me again," Sonia said as she moved closer to him, and Bryan's brow arched.

"Yes, I have fucked around with my fair share of guys but so have you. You are not exactly snow white yourself, so you have no fucking right to judge me by that! Yes, I've written about some of them too and that is perfectly natural. I do not owe you any apology for choosing to use my ex-boyfriend as my muse. If you have a problem with it, then go fuck yourself!" Sonia yelled, poking his chest with her fingers.

"You don't want me to write about you? That's fine. I will tear up the whole goddamn book about us, but this had better be the last time you insult me and my feelings for you, or we are done," Sonia finished, and when she stopped to catch her breath, Bryan pulled her close and kissed her passionately, but Sonia bit his lips and she pushed him away.

"Don't you dare think I'm the kind of girl you can shut up with a kiss! I demand an apology for that shit you pulled!" Sonia hissed, while Bryan licked his lip where she bit.

"I also demand an explanation for your attitude earlier, and I also want to know why he walked out of your apartment with his hair wet. And why you were holding a knife," Bryan said, and Sonia crossed both hands in front of her.

Sonia took a deep breath, but before she could speak, Bryan's phone started ringing, and he scowled when he saw that it was a call from Jeff.

"What?" He asked impatiently immediately after he received the call.

"Is the conflict to your liking?" Jeff asked excitedly, and Bryan frowned.

"What?"

"Last night you asked me to work on a conflict for you and Sonia," Jeff reminded him.

"What? You planned all of this?" Bryan asked as he looked away from Sonia.

"If you're asking about Derek, yes I did. It caused conflict, didn't it?" Jeff asked matter of factly.

"Are you crazy?" Bryan yelled at Jeff, and he held the phone away from his ear in surprise.

"What is wrong?" Sonia asked with a concerned frown when she noticed how angry Bryan looked.

"I'm sorry. Jeff set the whole thing up," Bryan said apologetically, and Sonia raised a brow as she took the phone from Bryan.

It made sense that it was Jeff's plan. Jeff had been aware of all their movements from the moment they left Sogal. Fuck! How could he not have guessed it was Jeff? That crazy motherfucker!

"Hello, Jeff? Are you still there?" Sonia asked as she placed the call on speaker.

"I don't know the details of what your ex-boyfriend did over there or why Bryan sounds so annoyed when I was only doing him a favor. Bryan said you both needed some conflict in your relationship, and we both agreed I find one of your ex-boyfriends to create one. I don't understand why he is so surprised and pissed," Jeff explained, and Sonia didn't know whether to be annoyed or amused.

"You didn't give me a heads up or tell me that you got one already, you asshole!" Bryan snapped at him.

"How would it be a real conflict if I gave you a heads up? I should as well have given Sonia a heads-up too you ungrateful bastard!" Jeff snapped back equally pissed.

"How did you know about Derek, and how did you get him to do this? Does Derek know the details?" Sonia asked curiously, wondering why Derek would voluntarily make a fool of himself.

"It's hard not to know he's your ex when his comment is all over your posts. I checked his profile and saw some of your photos together.

He doesn't know I'm Bryan's manager, and he doesn't know it's all a game either. He only believes I'm trying to destroy your relationship so he's happy to help. In exchange for his service I promised to pay him and publish his photos on the internet as your ex-boyfriend," Jeff explained and Sonia sighed.

"Thanks. This is more than enough conflict. We will take care of the rest," Sonia said as she hung up the call before facing Bryan.

"I'm sorry. I didn't know things would go this far," Bryan said shamefacedly.

"I appreciate your trying to help me create conflict, but everything that happened goes to show you don't trust me. We need to fix that," Sonia said as she pointed to the couch for Bryan to sit on it.

Chapter 467 Sound Asleep

As soon as the plane touched down at the airport, Jade took Candace's hands and pulled her with her as she walked in hurried step away from there to the spot they were to pick up their bags.

After they had gotten their bags and were headed out of the building, she took out her phone and dialed Tom's line, "We are in Ludus now. Where are you guys?" Jade asked in an urgent tone.

"I just left the office. I'm on my way to the hospital to join Lucy and Jamal. Aaron is awake now. Where are you? I sent someone to get you from the airport. His name is Gad," Tom said just in time as Jade spotted a man who was dressed in a chauffeur uniform, standing beside a black car and waving a placard with her name on it.

"That's great! Give me a moment I think I've seen him," Jade said as she turned to Candace.

"That's our ride," Jade said to Candace as they walked towards the man.

"Miss Hank?" The man asked politely when they stopped in front of him, and Jade gave him a nod when she saw the name tag on the front of his shirt.

"I received instruction from Mr. Hank to bring you to I-Global hospital," the man said as he held open the passenger door for them to get in.

"What about Harry? Where is he?" Jade asked Tom as they got into the car.

"He went home. He wanted to be left alone," Tom explained, leaving out the fact that Harry was not receiving his phone call.

He had received a call from Lucy, informing him that she had tried reaching Harry several times to inform him that Aaron was up, but Harry was not picking up his phone.

He had tried reaching Harry too, but there was no response either.

Although he was worried about Harry and was feeling tempted to check on him, he knew that Harry wouldn't do anything stupid. If he was ignoring their phone calls, it was most likely because he really wanted to be left alone so there was no cause for alarm. At least not yet.

Jade glanced at her wristwatch. As much as she cared about Aaron and wanted to see him, she wanted most to be with Harry right now.

"Candace will meet you guys at the hospital, but I will drop by at Harry's first. I will join you after I've seen how he's doing."

"I don't think that's a good idea. I just told you Harry wants to be alone. He's not even receiving his phone calls..."

"That's all the more reason I should check on him. He's the reason I'm here, Tom. I will let him be alone after I've made sure he's okay," Jade insisted stubbornly and hung up the call before Tom could protest any further or discourage her.

Jade turned to Candace whose hands were folded on her thighs as she stared ahead of her with a worried expression as she gnawed on her lower lip.

Jade took her hands, causing Candace to turn to her with questioning eyes, "Did you say something?" She asked, thinking that Jade had said something which she missed.

"No, I didn't. I guess you are still feeling very nervous," Jade observed with a small smile which Candace returned stiffly.

"Yes, I am. You would be too if you were in my shoes," Candace said as she placed a hand on her stomach which was churning nervously.

"Yes, anyone would be nervous. But you are not just anyone. You are a strong, brave, and beautiful woman. I do not doubt that you will handle yourself properly. Don't worry, everything will turn out fine. Thankfully, Aaron is conscious now," Jade said, and Candace gave her a nod.

"That's good," Candace said with a sigh.

"I know this might sound crazy considering the fact that I dragged you here, but do you mind going there alone? Tom, Lucy, and Jamal are there. I need to stop by Harry's house and see how he's doing before climbing to the hospital," Jade said, and Candace frowned.

"What am I supposed to say to them or do when I get there?" Candace asked as she looked down at her hands.

"All you have to do is get there. Tom and Lucy will be waiting for you. And I'm positive they won't be doing any introduction without Harry. So you have nothing to worry about," Jade assured her.

"Is he okay? Why is he at home when his dad is in the hospital?" Candace asked, and Jade sighed.

"He must be upset and wants to be alone. Who wouldn't be after finding out that the angelic mother he thought was dead his whole life is actually alive and had actually abandoned him?" Jade said, and Candace sighed.

"You're right. You should go to him," Candace encouraged, and Jade embraced her.

"I will give you a call to find out how you're doing, alright? And I will see if I can pull Harry with me to the hospital," Jade said, and Candace gave her a nod as she embraced her back.

"Pull the car over at the next stop, please. I have to get out," Jade told the chauffeur, and he did as he was told.

"Be good," Jade called to Candace as she got out of the car with her handbag and luggage bag.

Although Candace was tempted to ask her why she was going over to Harry's apartment with her luggage bag, Candace resisted the urge and waved at her as the driver drove off.

Jade took a deep breath before flagging down a cab. As she got into the cab she tried to assure herself that she was doing the right thing by going to be with Harry.

Although she wasn't sure yet how to go about whatever it was they had between them, she believed she could be there for him as a friend for the time being, in the same manner, he had been there for her when he flew down to be with her.

Jade got out of the cab when it stopped in front of Harry's apartment and after paying the driver she took her luggage bag and slowly made her way to Harry's apartment floor.

When she got to his door, she shut her eyes and took a deep breath as she placed a hand on her chest where her heart was beating really fast like it was going to explode.

"Relax, Jady. He won't send you away. It's Harry," she assured herself and once she believed she was calm enough she pushed the doorbell.

She waited for some seconds and when there was no response from inside she repeated the process two more times. When there was still no response she keyed in the passcode that he had shown her the last time, hoping he had not changed it yet, and thankfully, the door opened.

She walked into the house and paused by the living room when she saw his phone vibrating on the table. When she went closer to it and picked it up, she saw that it was Tom, and received the call.

"Hey, Tom! It's Jade," she said immediately after she received the call.

"What are you doing with Harry's phone?" Tom asked not knowing whether to feel relieved that she was there or annoyed that she had gotten there before he could reach Harry and let him know she was coming over.

"What do you think I'm doing? Playing candy crush with it?" Jade asked dryly.

"Has Candace arrived there yet?" She asked curiously.

"Not yet. Where is Harry?"

"I just got into his apartment. I'm yet to see him, but I saw his phone on the table. I will call you back after I see him," Jade said, and without waiting for Tom to say another word she hung up the call.

"Harry?" She called as she walked down the hallway to his bedroom.

"Harry are you in? It's Jade," she called again as she knocked on his bedroom door, and when there was no response, she frowned as she turned the knob.

When she opened the door, she was surprised to see Harry curled up on the bed in a fetal position still wearing his work clothes.

She quickly walked across the room to his bed, "Harry?" She called softly as she sat at the edge of his bed and observed his face.

His lashes were wet as though he had been crying, and his nose looked red and stood out in his pale face.

Her heart broke for him when she saw how pale he looked and the dark circles under his eyes. He seemed to have been having a tough time.

Seeing that he was in a deep sleep, she didn't have the heart to wake him up. So she quietly walked out of his room and picked up her luggage bag from the living room which she took with her to the guest room where she had stayed the last time.

Once she was in the room, she dialed Tom's line, "He's sound asleep," she said immediately after Tom received the call.

Tom looked at Aaron, "Jade says he's sleeping. I guess that's why he's not taking his phone call," Tom informed Aaron who had begun to worry.

"Can I speak with her?" Aaron asked, and Tom passed the phone to him.

Tom gave Lucy a nod when she looked at him questioningly. He could tell she wanted to be sure he was telling the truth and that Harry was okay since she too had begun to worry.

"Hello, Jade! It's Aaron," Aaron greeted in a weak voice.

"Aaron! I'm sorry I couldn't come directly to the hosp..."

"The apology is not necessary. I'm glad you went to him instead. I have enough people fussing over me here already. How is my boy doing?" Aaron asked in a worried voice and Jade sighed.

"He doesn't look so good. I think he cried a lot before going to sleep," Jade said honestly, knowing that Aaron would prefer an honest response. It would be crazy if anyone expected him to be fine after all that revelation.

"Please don't leave his side. Don't wake up him either. I don't think he has had a good sleep for the past two days and he looked stressed out earlier. If you can, please get him something to eat when he wakes up. He barely touched his meal last night," Aaron said, and Jade nodded.

"Sure. I will. Don't worry yourself, Aaron. Focus on getting well quickly and let me worry about Harry. I will ensure that he is fine," Jade promised.

"Thank you, Jade," Aaron said feeling very grateful that she cared about Harry enough to fly down to be with him.

Tom took the phone from Aaron and stepped away from the room, "Call me when he wakes up," Tom said, and he paused when he looked down the hallway and saw Candace heading towards him.

"Candace is here," Tom informed Jade.

"Are you going to introduce her to Aaron now?" Jade asked curiously.

"I can't do that without Harry. I'll call you back, Jade. Please take care of him," Tom said and hung up the call once Candace got to where he stood.

Chapter 468 Welcome Back

So many thoughts ran through Tom's head as he looked at Candace who was standing in front of him, but the most prominent was that not only was she the mom of his favorite kid at the moment, but she was also Harry's twin sister and Lucy's cousin.

Now that he looked at her closely, he could admit that there was a resemblance between them. One he would never have looked at her long enough to take note of until now.

Based on his experience as a businessman and how good he was at reading people, he could tell that she was feeling very anxious judging by the way she looked back at him with both hands tightly gripping her handbag.

"It's good to see you again, Candace," Tom said with a wide welcoming smile as he stepped forward and opened his arms to embrace her the way he only welcomed family since she was family to him now.

Candace stood stiffly as he embraced her. It was weird being welcomed and embraced this way by Tom especially considering the cold reception she had received from him when they first met.

Now she had to wonder if he was being this welcoming only because of Harry or if he had come to be comfortable with her since she remembered that he had promised to take care of her and Jamal even before all these revelations came up.

Tom pulled away, and looked into her face, "Jamal is inside. He will be very happy to see you," Tom said, and the worry lines between Candace's brows relaxed as did her grip on her handbag.

"I'm sorry for imposing him on you the way I did. And thanks for looking after him and for every..."

"I will stop you there. There's no need for an apology or gratitude. Especially now that we are family. I believe everything happened as it was meant to. You have raised such a fine kid," Tom said, and Candace's eyes lit up.

"He's something, isn't he?" She asked, and Tom smiled.

"He definitely is. Although he has been a thorn in my flesh. He seems to have a thing for older women. Your boy wants Lucy to be his girlfriend," Tom said, wanting to relax her since he had noticed she seemed to lighten up whenever she talked about Jamal.

"Lucy?" Candace asked in amusement. Was that why Jamal had said he most preferred Lucy?

"I have no idea why he is so smitten by her," Tom said, and Candace grinned.

Thinking about it now, Lucy was the first adult Jamal had met in the house apart from the household staff. He had run into her that morning while he looked around Tom's house. Perhaps it was love at first sight for her son. Who would have thought his first crush case would be for a lady old enough to be his mother?

"I will do my best to advise him to leave your girlfriend alone," Candace said, and Tom gave her a nod.

"That will be very much appreciated," he said with mock relief before looking at her with serious eyes once again.

"Harry is not here right now, so I won't be doing any introductions. Aaron only knows that his daughter is alive, he doesn't know we have found you already so you don't have to be pressured. This way you can see how wonderful he is for yourself, and won't have to think he's only pretending to be good to you when he finds out you are his daughter," Tom said, and Candace took in a shuddering breath and gave him a forced smile as she glanced at the door behind him.

"Please be at ease, Candace. Although emotions are high right now, everyone is happy to have you here. Aaron and Harry will be most delighted to meet you," Tom assured her since he had noticed the worry in her eyes.

"Thanks," Candace said with a nod.

"Are you ready to go in?" He asked, and she gave him a nod again.

Tom opened the door and stood back for her to go in, while the eyes of Aaron, Jamal, and Lucy moved to the door.

"MOMMY!" Jamal who was seated on the bed with Aaron screeched loudly as he tried to get down from the bed, and Lucy smiled as she stood up and helped him get down.

They all watched in amusement as Candace crouched down at once and held out her arms to catch Jamal who flung himself at her, her eyes gleaming with so much love for him.

She buried her face in his hair and inhaled deeply as she embraced him while his tiny arms went around her neck.

"I missed you so much, Jam. You missed me too, didn't you?" Candace asked with a happy smile as she pulled away from the hug to look into his face and ran her hands over his hair, face and body.

Jamal bobbed his head, "I missed you very much, but Lucy and Tom were very good to me so it wasn't so bad without you," Jamal assured her as he touched her face, and Candace smiled as her gaze moved to Lucy and she gave her an acknowledging nod without looking in Aaron's direction. She couldn't bring herself to look the man in the face yet even though she could feel his gaze on her.

"Are you back now? Did you and the lawyer lady catch the bad people?" Jamal asked curiously, and Candace smiled as she gave him a nod even though a lump had formed in her throat because his father was one of the bad people and was dead now.

She knew that a day would come in the future when she would have to tell Jamal the whole truth about Jero. Although, Jamal was very smart and already knew that Jero wasn't really a good person since they both didn't exactly have a good father-and-son relationship, but he would need to know how his father died.

"Yes. We caught the bad people so I'm back," she said, and a different worry entered Jamal's eyes as he looked at her.

"Does that mean we have to go back home soon? Can we just stay here with Tom and Lucy instead? I'm sure they won't mind since they have enough room for everyone, right Tom?" Jamal asked, and Tom gave him a nod.

"See? And Tom already promised to give you a job in his company. He has a really big company, I checked it out myself. And he said he will give us a car too if I leave Lucy alone. Can we stay here please?" Jamal asked, and Candace's brows pulled together in a puzzled frown as she looked at Tom who was looking at Jamal with a mixture of interest and amusement.

She didn't know what to make of Jamal's words about promises of a job. She could ask him about it later. This wasn't the place or time for that conversation, so she cleared her throat.

"Why don't we talk about it later, sweetie? We can discuss the pros and cons then, agreed?" She asked, and Jamal gave her a nod making Tom raise a brow since the kid seemed to know what his mother meant by pros and cons.

It was easy to see why he seemed so intelligent and mature for his age. His mother spoke with him like a grownup.

Candace straightened but continued to hold Jamal's hand as her gaze finally moved to the bed and settled on Aaron.

Both Aaron's and Candace's hearts skipped a beat as they looked at each other but neither of them said a word as they held each other's gaze.

For some reason, Aaron couldn't explain he felt his heart ache as he watched her. The kid had reminded him of Harry, and looking at the kid's mom was reminding him of Sara. Why? Was he seeing things now simply because he had been told his daughter was alive?

Looking at her, he could tell she was in her twenties. Probably her late twenties somewhere around Harry's age. If his daughter was alive then she would be around this same age.

"Mommy, come to say hello to grandpa Aaron. His heart is sick. Someone hurt him and he cried in his sleep. I had to hold his hands to help him feel better," Jamal said as he pulled Candace towards the bed.

Jamal was already calling him grandpa Aaron? Candace mused as she let herself be drawn toward the man she had been told was her biological father.

The man, who she observed was watching her with thoughtful eyes. She was familiar enough with hurt and pain to recognize them in his eyes even as they assessed her.

As they approached the bed, Lucy exchanged a look with Tom before rising from her seat, "You are welcome back," she said with a warm smile as she embraced Candace whose gaze had now shifted from Aaron to her.

"Jamal has been a delight," Lucy said as she broke the hug, and Candace smiled.

"It's good to know he wasn't too much of a bother. Thanks for watching over him," Candace said before glancing at Aaron.

"Aaron meet our friend Candace. Candace, this is Aaron," Lucy said, wanting to keep the introductions light and easy.

"Hello, sir!" Candace greeted while Aaron continued to watch her without saying a word.

"It's good to meet you. I've heard so much about you from Jamal. You raised a precious kid," Aaron said after some time, and Candace smiled.

"Thank you."

"Your boy has been keeping me company since I woke up," Aaron said as he glanced at Jamal who was standing beside his mother.

"You should embrace him," Jamal said as he pulled Candace closer to the bed.

"I always feel better whenever I'm hurt and she embraces me. Aunt Andy always says mummy's hug works like magic," Jamal said, while Lucy moved away from the bed to go stand beside Tom as they watched the scene in front of them.

"I don't think that's a good idea, sweetie," Candace said with a shake of her head.

"Please, mommy. He was crying in his sleep and he said his heart still hurts. Right?" Jamal asked Aaron, and Aaron smiled at him.

"Don't wear your mother out, boy. She must be exhausted from her trip. Why don't you both go home and get some rest?" Aaron suggested, and although Candace wanted to do that, she couldn't move.

"I'm not done telling you my story yet. And I promised not to leave your side," Jamal reminded him.

"You won't be leaving me alone. I have Tom and Lucy here with me. And you can tell me the rest of the story some other time," Aaron pointed out.

"You look exhausted, Candace. Why don't you sit down for while let's get you something to drink?" Tom suggested, and Candace gave him a nod as she lowered herself to the seat that Lucy had vacated.

"Aaron, we will be back. Do you want me to get you something to drink?" Lucy asked, but Aaron shook his head.

"I'm fine," he said and his gaze shifted to Jamal.

"You can get the boy ice cream and cookies if his mom doesn't mind," Aaron suggested, and Jamal's eyes lit up as he turned beseeching eyes to his mother.

"Everyone is full of praises for you today, so I guess you earned it," Candace said, and he smiled at her happily.

"Alright then. We will be back soon," Tom said before walking away with Lucy.

Once they left Aaron sighed. Why did he feel like they had deliberately left him alone with the mother and kid to give them privacy?

If he didn't already know that Jamal had been living with Tom and Lucy for almost a week now he would have thought Candace was his missing daughter, but it didn't make sense since Lucy had only just found out about his missing daughter the previous day.

What were the chances that his missing daughter was so closely associated with Harry's best friend? It didn't make sense, Aaron mused with a sigh.

Chapter 469 I'm Not Leaving

Harry had no idea how long he had been asleep, but the first thought that hit his mind when he opened his eyes was his father. He needed to give Lucy a call to find out how his father was doing.

He stretched his hands to his bedstand hoping to touch his phone since that was the spot where he usually placed it, but his phone wasn't beside him. That was when he recalled that he had left the phone in the living room after placing a call to one of his men to help him look into the hospital where he had been born.

He glanced at his bedside clock as he sat up and was surprised to see that it was evening almost 7 PM already.

He had come into his bedroom only to get aspirin for his headache and had sat on the bed to catch his breath. He had no idea how he had fallen asleep but he knew he had been exhausted in every sense of the word. That was the only reason he could have slept for so long.

He got off the bed and stripped out of his work clothes, leaving only his boxer briefs as he walked out of his bedroom to the living room.

He needed to give Lucy a call to find out how his dad was doing, and also to know if Candace had arrived.

After doing that he would then freshen up and return to the hospital to be with his father so that Lucy could go home.

Although he still very much wished that he would be alone, he couldn't. It was his duty to stay by his father and not abandon him at such a time regardless of the hurt and disappointment that was making his heart ache.

He paused by the entrance of the living room when he perceived the aroma of something cooking in the kitchen, and his stomach rumbled in response.

Was there someone else in his apartment? Who was cooking in his kitchen? He mused as he headed for the kitchen instead of going to get his phone as he had set out to do.

He stopped by the kitchen door when he saw a lady standing by the refrigerator and he narrowed his eyes.

Although her face was hidden by the refrigerator door as she searched for something, it took him only some seconds before he figured out the identity of the intruder in his kitchen.

It was the fragrance of her perfume that first gave her away followed by the shirt she was wearing. She was putting on the shirt he had left in his hotel suite and a little black bum shorts under it.

"Esquire?" He called in confusion, wondering if he was beginning to see things or if Jade was really in his kitchen.

Hearing his voice Jade quickly straightened and hit her head against the roof of the refrigerator as she turned around, causing her to wince as she met his gaze.

"You are awake," she said as she rubbed the top of her head which was hurting.

"What are you doing here?" Harry asked, still unable to understand why she was standing in his kitchen instead of being at Varis.

Jade shrugged as she looked everywhere else but at him, "I'm trying to whip up some dinner for you. I heard you haven't been eating or resting well lately," Jade said, trying not to sound as flustered as she felt.

She was doing her best not to look directly at him, and she was surprised that Harry wasn't feeling self-conscious either. Or perhaps he was too surprised to see her to realize that he was standing in front of her dressed in just his boxer briefs?

"No. I mean what are you doing here in my house? Why are you in Ludus when you should be in Varis?" Harry asked, and Jade shifted her gaze to his, and he noticed the blush that stained her cheeks.

Jade cleared her throat, "As much as I love the sight of you in just your briefs..."

Hearing that Harry looked down at himself, and before Jade could finish speaking he turned around and walked away very quickly, but not before she saw the tip of his ears go red.

Jade giggled as she watched him leave, and then took a deep breath. She had to admit that he had a really gorgeously masculine body. What a pack of tasty snack! Jade thought with approval as she set about finishing up with dinner while she waited for him to return.

Inside Harry's bedroom, his face burned with embarrassment as he looked down at his crotch. How could he have forgotten that he was half-naked? He mused as he looked at his reflection in the mirror.

What was she doing in his apartment anyway, and why didn't anyone bother to inform him that she was coming? He knew without a doubt that she had come with Candace. That was the only explanation for her presence here.

And if she was coming with Candace, that meant Tom had known. So why didn't Tom warn him that she was coming? Harry thought in annoyance as he walked over to the door and locked it with his key.

He couldn't trust Jade not to barge into his bedroom without knocking, and heaven knew that she had seen enough for one day.

He returned to sit on the stool in front of his dressing table and ran his fingers through his hair as he tried to figure out what to do about Jade's presence and everything.

Despite all the problems he had to deal with right now, he knew that he still needed to face whatever was up between him and Jade, especially considering their interrupted conversation the previous

day. But this wasn't a good time for him. What was he supposed to do now that she showed up in his apartment uninvited?

Harry took a deep breath as he made up his mind to freshen up and go talk with her. He was going to thank her for dropping by to check on him, and then encourage her to be on her way since he was certain she had more important things to do than cook for him.

He stood up and went into the bathroom to shower. Forty-five minutes later he walked out of his bedroom dressed in black shorts and a gray polo t-shirt.

"For a minute there I thought you were going to stay in your room all night," Jade said from her seat in the dining as she watched him.

"I had to freshen up," he said without meeting her gaze as he took the seat opposite her.

Although he was very hungry and was dying to have a taste of the meal, he did not attempt to touch the food in front of him as he looked at her and cleared his throat, "I'm sorry about earlier. I didn't realize I wasn't properly dressed," Harry said apologetically, and Jade smiled.

"I don't mind. It wasn't an unpleasant sight," Jade said, and Harry felt the tip of his ears heat up.

"Aww! You're so cute, Harry!" Jade said with a wide smile as she propped both elbows on the table and cupped her chin in her hands as she looked at him.

"What are you doing here?" Harry asked as he met her gaze.

"What do you think I'm doing here?" Jade asked in return knowing that he was probably planning to send her away.

"Jade..."

"I'm not leaving, Harry! Remember how you barged into my home a short while ago and strutted around like you owned the place? I'm here to return the favor," Jade said as she angled her chin stubbornly.

Harry sighed inwardly since he recognized the look on her face. It was the look she wore when her mind was made up on something.

"Surely you have your job to..."

"I don't. I quit my job before getting on the plane. So you have nothing to worry about," Jade said, and Harry's brows pulled together.

"Still, you can't be here," Harry protested, and Jade raised a brow.

"Why not?"

"Does it make sense to you that you are in my house right now?" Harry asked, and Jade bobbed her head.

"It makes a lot of sense to me. I wonder why it doesn't make sense to you when it made sense to you some time ago to show up in my apartment uninvited," Jade said, and Harry shook his head.

"That was different. Tom asked me to go to you," Harry said reasonably, and Jade shrugged.

"It's the same. Your dad asked me to stay with you," Jade said, and Harry sprang up from his seat when he remembered that he was yet to give Lucy a call as he had intended to some time ago.

Of course, he had been distracted by Jade's presence, he thought with displeasure while Jade raised a brow, "What are you frowning for? Sit down and eat," she said, pointing to the food in front of him.

"I need to check on my dad first. Excuse me," Harry said as he headed to the living room to retrieve his phone and Jade followed him.

"He is fine. Tom, Lucy, Jamal, and Candace are there with him. They all tried reaching you when he woke up but you weren't taking your call. I let them know you were sleeping and your dad said I shouldn't disturb your sleep and to fix something for you to eat," Jade said as she followed him but Harry didn't listen to her as he picked up his phone from the table and dialed Lucy's line.

Lucy received the call on the third ring, "How are you feeling? Your dad is awake now," Lucy informed him immediately after she received the call.

"How is he doing? Can you put him on the line? I have to speak with him."

"Uhm, can you wait until I return to the hospital? Tom and I stepped out to get Jamal and Candace something to drink. He's with Jamal and Candace," Lucy explained, feeling slightly sorry that she had left his father's side when he had asked her not to.

"You left him alone with them? Does he know who she is?" Harry asked with a concerned frown as he looked around the living room for his car key.

"Not yet. We are waiting for you to do that yourself," Lucy said, and Tom held out his hand for her to give him the phone.

"Are you sure it's a good idea to leave him alone with them?" Harry asked just as Tom took the phone.

"Your dad hit it off with Jamal as I told you he would. Jamal didn't want to leave his side so we had..."

"You sneaky bastard! How couldn't you tell me that your sister was coming over?" Harry growled under his breath, and Jade who was standing behind him poked his back.

"Are you talking about me? I'm right here, you know?" Jade asked when Harry turned to look at her, and he walked away from there and headed to for privacy of his bedroom but Jade followed him.

"I tried reaching you but you were sleeping," Tom said apologetically.

"That was only after she got here, am I wrong? Or are you trying to say you were not aware she was flying down to Ludus when you dropped me off?" Harry asked as he walked into his bedroom and quickly shut the door before Jade could stick a foot in.

"Well, I didn't expect her to come directly to your place..."

"Then come get her!" Harry cut in before Tom could speak.

"I'm not leaving!" Jade called back from the other side of the door making Harry walk into his bathroom.

"Get her? Jade is not a kid. Send her away if you don't want her in your apartment. Call the cops on her if need be," Tom said, and Harry gritted his teeth.

"This is not a joke, Tom. She is not listening to me..."

"Then what makes you think she is going to listen to me either?" Tom asked, and Harry raised a hand to massage his temple.

"Do I need to remind you that she is your younger sister? How can you let her do as she pleases? This is irresponsible of you," Harry said sounding desperate.

"Because she is an adult and can do as she pleases. Send her away if you don't want her there. It's as simple as that," Tom said, knowing that Harry only wanted him to step in because he couldn't say no to Jade.

"I really can't deal with Jade right now..."

"Harry, I'm sorry I can't help you here. Whatever is going on between you two, is for you to handle. I can't interfere. I'm sorry. We will give you a call when we get back to Aaron," Tom said and hung up the call before Harry complain any further.

"Is Jade bothering him?" Lucy asked with a concerned frown.

"He sounds more like himself now than he did earlier," Tom said with a small smile.

"I take it you are not going to ask Jade to let him be?" Lucy asked, and Tom raised a brow.

"Would you let me be if I was in Harry's situation?" Tom asked, and Lucy shook her head.

"I wouldn't."

"Good. So let's leave those two to handle whatever is going on between them," Tom suggested, and Lucy sighed.

"What do you think is going on in Aaron's room right now?" Lucy asked, and Tom grinned.

"Jamal is probably championing the conversation and trying to get them to like each other," Tom said, and Lucy giggled.

"Yeah. I can see him doing that."

Chapter 470 Why Did You lie?

Harry took a deep breath as he walked out of his bathroom and squared his shoulders as he opened his bedroom door in preparation to face Jade.

"I am not going anywhere!" Jade stated as soon as he opened the door.

"Why not?" Harry asked, and Jade shrugged.

"I already made it clear I flew down to Ludus to be here with you. So, do not let my effort go to waste," Jade said, and Harry sighed.

"Jade, this is not good time."

"It's not a good time for what exactly?" Jade asked with a slightly raised brow as she folded both arms across her chest.

"It's not a good time for whatever you are here for," Harry said, and Jade's brows arched even higher.

"And what exactly do you think I'm here for?" Jade asked, and Harry merely stared back at her for some seconds.

"I don't know. You tell me," Harry said wearily, and Jade's lips twitched with amusement as she took a step towards him.

"I'm here to be a friend... But only for the time being. So you don't have to worry, I won't jump you or anything," she promised as she held his gaze.

"Besides, I will try to make myself as scarce as possible whenever you want to be alone. You will barely notice my presence, trust me," Jade said, and Harry scoffed inwardly.

Barely notice her presence? Who was she kidding? There was no way he would be within a hundred mile radius of her and not notice her presence.

"Why are you so bent on kicking me out anyway? Is it because you plan on dating Aurora?" Jade asked, and Harry sighed inwardly when he recalled that there was someone called Aurora.

He didn't need all these complications right now. He needed to find a way to make things easier for himself and his dad, and now his sister and her little boy too. There was no time to play Jade's silly games.

"This has nothing to do with Aurora. I just want to be left alone," Harry insisted.

"Too bad for you that I'm not going to leave you alone. Now stop overthinking this and come sit down let's have dinner. I will drive you to the hospital to see your dad and twin sister," Jade said as she started to walk back to the dining, expecting him to follow.

Harry winced. Twin sister? Perhaps he was wrong, but he wasn't sure he was ever going to get used to the idea that he had a twin.

"Don't call her that. It's awkward," Harry said as he followed her, and Jade giggled as she turned to look at him.

"You both must be truly blood related. She said exactly that when I called you her twin brother," Jade said in amusement, and Harry looked at her with interest.

"What did she say?"

"She said not to call you that. She said it was awkward," Jade said with a grin as she returned to where Harry stood and took his hands.

"I'm sure you have a lot of questions for me concerning my case, or don't you? Let's talk about me while you eat, and then you can decide whether or not you want to tell me how you're feeling," Jade suggested, and after only a moment's hesitation, Harry gave in and let her lead him to the dining.

Once they were seated, Jade served Harry some chicken wings with stir fry vegetables and rice before serving some for herself.

"You prepared this?" Harry asked, and Jade smiled.

"You are touched, aren't you?" She asked jocularly and a barely noticable smile tugged the sides of Harry's lips.

"Yes, I am. Thanks," Harry said as he picked up his cutlery, while Jade watched him, waiting for him to have a taste.

Jade's eyes followed Harry's hand as he raised his fork to his lips, and she watched with eager eyes as he chewed with deliberate slowness.

"It's been a while since I last cooked and I didn't want to order food for you," she explained uncertainly when Harry's facial expression remained blank as he chewed.

Harry tried not to smile when he noticed the way she shifted uncomfortably in her seat, "You didn't taste this, did you?" He asked, and she shook her head.

"Not yet. If it's bad I can just throw it all out and order something. I'm sorry," she said as she started to rise from her seat, but Harry raised a brow.

"I never said it was bad. Sit and tell me about your case and why they let you leave on such short notice," Harry said, and Jade looked at him skeptically as he cut into his chicken.

Was the food not bad? She mused as she picked her fork and took a little quantity.

She blinked in surprise when she tasted the food, "It's delicious!" She said as she scowled at Harry and eyed him with accusation.

"I never said it wasn't," Harry said with a casual shrug.

"But you deliberately made me think it was bad," she said accusingly.

"And what did I say or do to make you think that way?" Harry asked, and Jade's brows pulled together as she thought about it.

He hadn't said anything. She had jumped to the conclusion herself, but that was only because he had failed to say it was delicious.

"You didn't say anything, and that is the reason I thought that way. Usually when a person prepares a meal for you, you're supposed to compliment them by telling them how nice the meal is," Jade stated matter of factly.

"Who made that rule? And do you have so little confidence in your cooking ability that you require my approval? If the meal was bad I most likely would have pointed it out. I didn't say it was delicious only because I didn't expect anything less from you. What I didn't expect however, is to see you squirm," Harry stated, and Jade scowled.

How did she forget this annoying side of Harry? "Complimenting me is the polite thing to do..."

"What compliment could be better than saying I didn't expect anything less from you?" Harry asked and Jade shook her head.

"Forget it. Enjoy your meal," Jade said in annoyance as she dug into her food while Harry watched her in amusement.

Maybe it wasn't such a bad idea to have her here. At least she wasn't looking at him pitifully or asking him any awkward questions. She was acting as though everything was the same even though nothing was the same for him.

"How long do you intend to sulk?" Harry asked after some time and Jade whipped her head up as she glared at him.

"I'm not sulking!" She hissed at him.

"If you're not, why have you not answered my questions?" Harry asked, and Jade shook her head as she tried to remind herself that she was here to lighten his mood not fight with him.

"Jero died this morning," Jade started, and Harry raised a brow.

"He's dead? I remember you mentioned he was hospitalized yesterday but you didn't give me any details."

"I was going to give you the details but somehow we drifted to other subjects..."

She paused and they looked at each other for a moment without saying a word since they knew what the subject had been.

Even though Jade was dying to ask Harry what he had been about to say and why he had hung up the call so abruptly, she knew this wasn't the time for it.

She cleared her throat, "Cassidy injected him with poison," Jade said, and Harry paused with his fork midair.

"Cassidy? The same guy that kidnapped Candace's sister?" Harry asked and Jade gave him a nod.

"Yeah. It was his punishment for everything," Jade said before going ahead to explain everything that had happened since she returned to Varis as well as Jero's package and how it had helped them link everything together and what had transpired between her boss and her.

Harry said nothing after she was done, as he tried to process everything she had said and mix them up with everything he had heard from Lucy and Tom already.

"Interesting," Harry murmured after some time while Jade continued to look at him as she waited for him to say something else.

"How long do you intend to stay here?" Harry asked, and Jade blinked at him in surprise.

That was the last thing she had expected him to ask her after everything she had just said.

"Long enough until everything is sorted out," Jade said with an easy shrug, and Harry gave her a nod.

There was no need to argue with her. He had decided not to argue with her about this anymore. He was just going to make her uncomfortable to the point that she would have to run from him.

"How did you know about the portrait in my bedroom?" Harry asked, surprising Jade once again.

"Wow! You must be close friends with Lucy for her to have your back like this," Jade said with a scowl, both surprised and displeased that Lucy had snitched.

"She is my cousin after all, what do you expect?" Harry asked, and Jade raised a brow.

"Lucy? Your cousin? Since when?" She asked with a frown, and Harry raised a brow.

"You are not aware that Sara is Lucy's aunt? Sara and Lucy's mom are twins," Harry said, and Jade's mouth fell open in disbelief.

"Oh, my fucking god!" Jade exclaimed, while Harry merely watched her as he finished the food on his dish.

"Lucy, that god-damned tight-lipped bitch! She was aware this whole time and she said nothing to me but kept prying for information," Jade said in disbelief.

How long had she known about it? Was Sonia aware of it too? As Lucy's best friend it only made sense that Sonia would be aware of Lucy's relationship with Sara, right? Why had she left it out when she asked her to help her look into Sara?

"I'm positive your brother won't appreciate you referring to her in that manner. I know I don't," Harry said, and Jade returned her attention to him once again.

"So y'all have each other's back now and no one has mine?" Jade asked with a scowl and Harry chuckled.

"I wouldn't let anyone call you names either. Tom wouldn't too. Did he tell you he had a little talk with Tanya's father?" Harry asked, and Jade hissed.

"Don't remind me of that little idiot," she said, and then pursed her lips when something occurred to her.

"If Lucy is your cousin, that means Lucas is Candace's cousin too. So the family of Candace's cousin's ex-fiancee stole from her," Jade deduced, and Harry winced when he felt the beginning of a headache.

"Don't complicate things any more than it already is. I'm trying to keep things simple right now," Harry pleaded as he set down his cutlery, and Jade looked at him apologetically.

"Sorry. At the rate this whole stuff is going I won't be surprised if we find out that Sonia is Bryan's twin sister, and I'm actually Tom's elder sister," Jade said with a shake of her head, making Harry chuckle.

Jade returned her attention to her meal as she mused on everything, and Harry watched her in silence for some time before speaking again.

"You still haven't answered my question, Esquire," Harry reminded her in a quiet voice and Jade's heart skipped a beat as she swallowed.

"What question?" She asked, even though she remembered the last question he had asked.

Damn his memory! She had thought he would have forgotten about it by now.

"How did you know about the portrait in my bedroom?" Harry repeated.

Although she was tempted to lie, she didn't want to lie to him. He had been lied to enough already.

"I saw it in your bedroom. I wanted to see what your bedroom looked like," she said without meeting his gaze.

"When?" Harry asked in a husky voice as he continued to look at her. The knowledge that Jade had been in his bedroom evoked some imaginations in his head and triggered something inside him.

"When I came to get my bags before leaving for Tom's house," Jade said, and Harry nodded.

"That was when you met my dad, I suppose?" He asked, and Jade blinked at him in surprise. Did Aaron tell him about their discussion?

"He told you he saw me?" Jade asked, and Harry gave her a nod.

"He did." Harry said as he continued to look at her with an unreadable explanation which made her want to squirm.

For reasons she couldn't explain, his gaze seemed hot.

"Aurora said you threw out the shirt," Harry said as his gaze shifted from her face to her body.

From the way the shirt molded her body he could tell she wasn't wearing anything under it. It was either she trusted him too much, or she must have a lot of nerves to be walking around his apartment dressed in his shirt without a bra under, Harry mused as he deliberately let his eyes remain on her chest area so she would be as uncomfortable as she was making him feel.

Jade felt her cheeks flush and she quickly reached for her glass of water and took a long sip to calm herself while Harry continued to look at her body.

"I told her I did," Jade said as she set down the glass and pretended not to notice the way he was staring at her.

"But you didn't, did you?" Harry asked still without looking at her face as his eyes roved over her body.

"I didn't."

"So why did you lie?" Harry asked as he slowly returned his gaze to her face.