

Wild Night 491

Chapter 491 Cousin Not Girlfriend

Candace sat on the bed as she watched Jamal dress up in readiness for Tom to drive them to the hospital when he gets back.

"Jam?"

"Hm?" he asked distractedly, and Candace smiled at how adult-like he sounded.

"Why are you so silent? What are you thinking about?" she asked, and he gazed at her.

"I was just wondering if grandpa Aaron is okay. Do you think I should hold his hands again when we get to the hospital?" Jamal asked, and Candace smiled.

"You seem to care about him a lot."

"Yes, I do," Jamal said as he tried to stay still while his mother brushed his hair.

"Why is that?" she asked, and he shrugged.

"Lucy and Tom care about him," he said simply, and Candace giggled, wondering what she had been expecting to hear.

Of course, he cared about Aaron because the two people he loved had shown him Aaron was important to them.

"Do you think he is a good person?" Candace asked, and Jamal bobbed his head.

"He asked them to get me Ice cream and chocolate," Jamal said, and Candace doubled over with laughter.

"I guess that makes him a good person," she said in amusement. She often forgot that Jamal was a kid because of the way he acted matured most times. It was only at times like this, when he said such childish things, that she remembered he was only a kid.

"Do you like him?" Jamal asked in return.

"Aaron?"

"Yes. You hugged him, and you cried with him," Jamal reminded her.

"Yes, I did. I think he is a good person," she said softly, and Jamal nodded his head in agreement while Candace tried to figure out how to ease into what she wanted to say to him.

"Do you think Andy is going to like him too?" Jamal asked, and Candace bobbed her head.

"Yes, she will."

"Is she going to come and live with us here?" Jamal asked, and Candace sighed inwardly.

"She traveled. So we won't be able to see her until she returns from her trip," Candace said, and Jamal looked at her curiously as he sat on the edge of the bed since she was done combing his hair.

"Where did she travel to?"

"I don't know yet."

"She didn't tell you where she was going? I thought you told each other everything?" Jamal asked, and Candace nodded.

"We do, but this trip was unplanned."

"She is okay, right?" Jamal asked with a worried frown.

"I believe she is," Candace answered as honestly as she could, and Jamal sighed.

"Jam?" Candace called again after he had been silent for some seconds with a thoughtful look on his face.

Jamal looked at her, and she took his hand, "Remember what I told you when we talked about my parents?" she asked, and he bobbed his head.

"Can you tell me what I said?" she asked, and he gave her a nod.

"You said that you are an orphan, and your parents are the sisters at the orphanage home," Jamal said, and Candace cleared her throat.

"I found out that I'm not an orphan," she said and watched as surprise and confusion flickered in Jamal's eyes.

"You now have real parents?" he asked in surprise, and Candace gave him a nod.

"I found out that grandpa Aaron is my father," she said, and Jamal's eyes widened in surprise as he let out a loud gasp.

"You are kidding, right?" Jamal asked in disbelief after some seconds.

Candace would have been amused by his reaction if the topic wasn't an important one.

"I'm not."

"But he is Harry's daddy. How can he be your dad too?" Jamal pointed out.

"I found out Harry is my twin brother," Candace said, and Jamal raised his hand to his lips as he looked at her with wide eyes.

Candace wished she could know what he was thinking as he looked at her, but apart from the obvious surprise on his face, his face wasn't revealing any other emotion.

"You should Say something, pumpkin," Candace urged him when he remained quiet.

"I don't know what to say," he said with a slight frown.

"You can tell me what you are thinking," Candace said, wanting to understand him since his opinion mattered.

"Was that why you were both crying?" Jamal asked, and Candace gave him a nod.

"What about your mommy? Why did you grow up alone?" he asked, and Candace shook her head.

"Remember the bad lady that made his heart hurt?" she asked, and when Jamal gave her a nod, she went on, "That's the lady that gave birth to Harry and me. She separated us after giving birth to us," Candace said, not wanting to give Jamal the details.

That would be too harsh for a child. That wasn't the kind of world she wanted her son to know. Experiencing Jamal was enough.

Jamal looked at his mother with sad eyes, "She must be very bad," he said quietly, and Candace nodded.

"How do you feel about this?" she asked curiously.

If she was going to be accepting Aaron and Harry as her family, too, as they had accepted her, Jamal had to understand and be in support since they were a pair.

"How do you feel?" Jamal asked back, surprising her.

"Why are you asking me that?" Candace asked, and Jamal shrugged.

"I want to know if you are happy. Are you happy to have them?" Jamal asked with concern, and Candace felt tears rush to her eyes.

"Grandpa Aaron and Harry are good people, and they are Lucy's friends. I don't mind them being your family," Jamal said, and Candace touched his hair.

"They are not going to be just my family, Jam. They are your family too. Aaron is your granddad, and Harry is your uncle," Candace pointed out, and Jamal's eyes lit up as though he had not thought of that.

"I can have my own granddad and an uncle now?" he asked excitedly, and Candace gave him a nod.

"Yes," she said and laughed out loud when Jamal screeched happily as he jumped on her and embraced her fiercely, making a tear drop from her eyes as she laughed.

"Are you that happy?" Candace asked with a smile as she buried her face in his hair.

"Can I tell Lucy about it?" Jamal asked as he pulled away from her and got off the bed.

"Lucy is aware. And she traveled," Candace reminded him with a smile.

"What about Samantha? Can I tell her?" he asked as he adjusted his hair. He wanted nothing more than to go out and share the good news with someone.

"Did I mention that Lucy is my cousin?" Candace asked, and he paused.

"Lucy? How?" he asked with a confused frown.

"Janet is my aunt. She is my mother's twin sister," Candace said, and Jamal paused for a moment, not sure whether or not he should be happy about this piece of information.

"But she is not my cousin," Jamal said thoughtfully, and Candace laughed.

"She is your cousin."

"Can my cousin be my girlfriend?" he asked curiously, and Candace laughed even harder.

"No."

"But I want her to be my girlfriend, not my cousin," he complained.

"Sorry, pumpkin. That can't be helped. Besides, she already has a boyfriend, remember?" she asked, and Jamal sighed.

"Yeah."

"You should be happy Lucy is family. Don't worry, when it's time for you to get a girlfriend, you'd find someone as beautiful and nice as Lucy, okay?" she assured him, and although Jamal wasn't convinced that there was any girl more beautiful or nice than Lucy, he gave his mother a nod.

"Can I go down to meet Samantha now?" he asked, and Candace smiled at him.

"Yeah. I will join you after I freshen up," she said as she watched him leave.

"Don't run down the stairs, Jam," she called out to him, but before she could get the words out, Jamal had shot down the hallway like a rocket.

Some minutes later, as Candace made her way down the stairs to see if Tom was back and also check in on how far Jamal had spread the news, she faltered in her steps when she saw Bryan seated with Mia and Jeff and having breakfast at the dining.

"You are back," Bryan said when he saw Candace.

"Yes. I came back yesterday. Good morning," Candace said with an awkward smile, not sure if Bryan had heard the news about her and the Jonas yet. Although, she doubted he had since he had his own scandals to worry about.

"Good morning. Pardon my manners. This is Jeff and Mia. Meet Candace," Bryan said casually, and they all exchanged pleasantries.

"What about Sonia? Didn't she come with you?" Candace asked when she noticed Sonia's absence.

"No. We are taking a break," Bryan said so casually that Candace frowned while Mia and Jeff exchanged an awkward look.

"Sonia had something to do, so we had to leave without her," Jeff explained awkwardly, and Bryan glared at him.

"Says who?" Bryan asked in annoyance while Candace looked at them as she shifted on her feet uncomfortably.

Mia cleared her throat, "Bryan, you need to calm down."

"I'm calm," Bryan said before looking at Candace.

"Sorry about that. As I was saying, Sonia and I are taking a break. Or maybe it's a breakup. I'm not exactly sure which it is yet..."

"So much unnecessary information no one asked to know," Tom said, and they all looked up to see him standing in the living room.

"My business is always public business anyway, so there's no need to keep any information private," Bryan said as he continued to eat while Jeff and Mia stood up.

Candace immediately excused herself and went to the kitchen to find Jamal.

"Please, you can enjoy your breakfast," Tom said to Mia and Jeff, but they remained where they stood.

"Bryan, come with me," Tom said as he turned and walked away from there to the Den, expecting Bryan to follow him.

Once Bryan walked into the Den and shut the door behind him, Tom faced him, "Do you mind telling me what is going on?" he asked calmly.

"I'm sure you must have heard from mom or dad. There is no reason to bore you with any unnecessary detail, so I will give you the summary. I got into a fight with Sonia's ex. Got arrested and then broke up with Sonia," Bryan said as though it was the most natural thing in the world, and Tom's temper flared.

"Are you out of your mind? Don't you realize the sort of damage your action can do to your career?" He growled at him, and Bryan snorted.

"Don't sound like you are really concerned about my career. You are only worried about your company and how this might affect your plans," Bryan said, and Tom's hand balled into a fist beside him.

"And what is wrong with that? As your brother, I have every right to worry about the damage you are doing to your career, and as the CEO of I-Global, I have as much right to worry about the effect of your actions on the company. It would do you well to remember both and not mix them up," Tom snarled at him.

"Why are you so mad? Wait, let me guess. Because I'm the only one, this scandal is about and not your girlfriend, right? When she was in the news a short while ago, you weren't this mad at her or worried about the effect of that scandal on my career. But since it's just me..."

"What the fuck are you talking about?" Tom asked angrily as he roughly grabbed Bryan's shirt and pushed him onto the couch before clenching his fists beside him to stop himself from hitting him.

"Why? Am I lying? Is the truth too bitter for you to swallow? Go on. Be honest. If Lucy was also involved in this scandal, would you have been so mad at me or worried about your company?" Bryan asked bitterly as he tried to sit up.

"What has Lucy got to do with your bullshit? Are you out of your mind?" Tom asked as he looked at him incredulously.

"I'm not even allowed to talk about her? I hope she breaks up with you and goes to be with Sonia now that she needs her. Or is Sonia the only one that puts friendship and loyalty above her relationship?"

"You should be ashamed of yourself. Cause right now, I'm ashamed of the words coming from you. Let's talk when you return to your senses," Tom said with a shake of his head as he walked out of the Den.

Chapter 492 Pathetic

Once Evelyn and Desmond got to the airport, they found a comfortable spot where they could sit until it was time for their flight while also waiting for Andrew and Janet to join them.

"Maybe we shouldn't have let Sonia leave on her own. Do you think she will be fine?" Evelyn asked with a worried frown after they had sat in silence for some time since Desmond was busy on his phone.

"Of course, she will be okay. Lucy would arrive in a couple of hours to cheer her up. Although she is hurt, don't forget that things like this happen all the time between lovers. It's not something out of the ordinary, so let's not make a big deal out of it more than we have already. She said she wanted to return to her apartment and be alone for some time before her meeting with her editor, and that's okay," Desmond said reasonably, and Evelyn sighed.

"I know you are right. I just can't help being worried," Evelyn said as she glanced at her wristwatch.

"Janet and Andrew are supposed to have gotten here by now. What's keeping them?" she asked as she took out her phone from her handbag to give Janet a call.

"Andrew is most likely ready, but Janet is delaying him with her makeup the way you always do to me," Desmond joked, and Evelyn scowled at him, but before she could say anything, his phone rang.

"It's Andrew," he informed her as he received the call.

"Hey, what's keeping you?" Desmond asked immediately after he received the call.

"You will have to leave without us. Some police officers just came to our house and took Janet to the station," Andrew said, and Desmond immediately sat up.

"The police? Why? What did she do?" Desmond asked, and hearing the alarm in his voice, Evelyn looked at him with questioning eyes.

"Rachel, Lucas's ex-fiancee, reported her to the police for destroying her property. I'm on my way to the police station right now. I'm driving behind them. I have already asked our lawyer to meet us at the station. You can travel ahead of us," Andrew said, and Desmond sighed.

"I will find a way to have them sell our tickets to someone else, that way; we can take the next flight together. We will meet you at the station once you let us know the location," Desmond said before hanging up.

"What's wrong?" Evelyn asked, and she raised a brow when Desmond told her what had happened.

"She reported to the police? Does she not realize the kind of people who would get involved in this?"

"We can't leave without them. I hope you don't mind?" Desmond asked, and she shook her head.

"Of course, I don't mind. I was the one who advised Janet to do that after all," Evelyn said with mild annoyance.

"It's not time to blame yourself. Let's fix it."

"You can speak to them about changing the time of our flight if it's not too late to do that. I will talk with the chief of police," Evelyn said, and Desmond gave her a nod as he rose to do so while she dialed Tom's line first. Choosing to talk to him before calling the chief of police.

"If you're calling to ask me about Bryan, I have nothing to say," Tom who had just walked into his bedroom after his exchange with Bryan, responded tersely immediately after he received the call, and Evelyn paused.

"Did you both get into a fight?" Evelyn asked with a concerned frown.

"I'm much too busy to get into a fight with him. I don't know what has gotten over him, but he is acting like an idiot right now, and I can't stand him," Tom said, and Evelyn sighed.

"Let's talk about that later. Lucy has gotten on the plane, I suppose?" She asked since Janet's situation required more urgency.

"Yes, she has. Your flight should be leaving soon," Tom said as he glanced at his wristwatch.

He needed to get dressed and leave for the hospital with Candace and Jamal.

"There is a little problem. Although we can handle it, I thought you should know. Janet was picked up by the police a short while ago. According to Andrew Lucas's ex-fiancee laid a complaint against her to the police for damaging her property. I plan to give the chief of police a call after I hang up," Evelyn explained, and Tom scoffed.

"She did that?" Tom asked, thinking about all the things they had against her already.

"Yes. I could call them to release Janet, but if the girl stubbornly decides to press charges...."

"She won't. You can call the chief of police. I will give her father a call," Tom said, and Evelyn nodded.

"Alright. Please be patient with Bryan. I don't know exactly what is going on with him, but try to exercise a little patience," Evelyn said before hanging up.

While Evelyn placed the call across to the chief of police, Tom picked up Rachel's phone from the bedside drawer where Lucy had left it, and he dialed Wilson Peterson's line.

"Rachel?" Wilson asked in confusion as he received the call since he couldn't understand why Rachel was calling him when they were under the same roof, especially with a line she claimed to have lost.

"This is Thomas Hank, CEO of I-Global," Tom said in a cool tone, and Wilson sat up immediately while his wife, who had been on the bed with him, looked at him with interest.

"Mr. Hank?" Wilson asked with a frown, wondering why Tom was calling him, especially with his daughter's line.

"We are both busy men, so I won't waste my time or yours. Your daughter had Janet Perry arrested. You have ten minutes to clear it up, or I will not only jeopardize your political ambition but also have you thrown in jail. I believe you wouldn't want the demise of your brother and his family looked into," Tom said, and without wasting another breath, he hung up, leaving a stunned Wilson holding his phone to his ear speechlessly.

Some moments later, away from there, in Rachel's bedroom, where she sat in front of the dressing mirror getting dolled up to leave for the police station, her father barged into her bedroom.

"What did you do?" He roared at her angrily, and she jolted out of her seat in shock.

"Dad?" She asked, looking from her father to her mother, who was standing behind him in confusion.

"I asked you a question. What did you do?" He barked at her once again, and she flinched.

From the way his hands were balled in a fist, she could tell he was doing his best not to lose his temper and hit her.

"I didn't do anything wrong, I swear it...."

"Then why did I receive a call from Thomas Hank and the chief of police?" He asked angrily, causing panic to flash through Rachel's eyes as she looked at her mother.

Her mother looked both mad at her and afraid for her at the same time as she shook her head for Rachel to leave her out of what was happening.

"She ruined my clothes! She went into the apartment I share with Lucas, and she ruined all my expensive belongings," Rachel cried.

"And you thought it best to have her arrested without telling me? Do you have any idea what you have caused?" He asked angrily while Rachel cried.

"I was angry, and I thought maybe if I did that, they would want to reconcile and call it even, and then Lucas would...."

"Reconcile?" His father barked at her before facing his wife.

"Can you hear your daughter?"

"What family would want to reconcile with a person that arrests her mother-in-law? What were you thinking?" Rachel's mom asked in annoyance.

"I don't know," Rachel cried in frustration.

"You don't know? Did you forget that the Perrys are going to be in-laws with the Hanks? You made Lucas call off your engagement, and instead of trying to win him back and unite the families, you have the guts to have his mother arrested? Do you know how much embarrassment you are causing me? Do you have any idea what going against the Hanks means?" He continued angrily.

"I'm sorry. I didn't think things through," Rachel cried apologetically.

"I have told the chief of police to dismiss the case that it was an error. If you do anything silly that affects my political ambitions, I'm not going to forgive you. Call them and apologize!" He snapped at her as he headed for the door, and then he paused when he remembered something.

"And why does Thomas Hank have your phone? Didn't you say you lost it some days ago?" He asked, and Rachel's eyes widened in surprise.

"M--y phone?" She stuttered, and when her parents kept staring at her, she looked down.

"Lucas seized it," she confessed, and her father shook his head.

"You better get your act together! One more strike, and I will send you far away from here," he threatened before walking away.

"Why didn't you tell me about it?" Her mother asked from the doorway.

"It's all Anita's fault! If she didn't do that, none of this would have happened," Rachel cried, and her mother raised a brow.

"Anita? Your cousin? What has she got to do with this?" She asked as she walked further into the room.

She listened as Rachel told her how Anita had used the information she gave her to stir the scandal that tore her and Lucas apart.

"Your cousin was smarter than you. I know Rebekah. She is going to stop at nothing to make Thomas Hank her son-in-law," Rachel's mother said with displeasure.

"I guess we lost this one to them. And maybe Lucas was also looking for an excuse to end things with you," she said with a sigh.

"It's Miley. That bitch!" Rachel cried, and her mother shook her head with disapproval.

"Who is Miley? And I suggest you mind your language," her mother cautioned.

"I caught them together at the hotel. She is the one making Lucas act this way! I'm not going to let her go! I won't forgive her for this!"

"You are becoming pathetic. If Lucas doesn't want you, let him go. You heard your father; you better don't pull any more silly stunts. You've ruined your chances with that family. Have some pride and move on," her mother advised before walking away while Rachel collapsed on the bed and broke into a sob.

She had thought doing this would at least make Lucas talk to her, but once again, her plan was ruined. She had no idea what to do anymore.

Chapter 493 Not Interested

Mia and Jeff remained at the dining table, looking down at their food as they both tried to figure out what to do about the situation.

They had overheard the exchange between the brothers and had watched as Tom angrily left the Den and headed for the stairs. The atmosphere around the house was awkward.

Too awkward.

"This wasn't the way I envisaged moving to Ludus or spending my weekend," Mia said with a sigh, and Jeff glanced at her.

"Me neither."

"You neither? Are you not the reason everything is such a mess right now?" Mia asked, glaring at him.

"What do you mean by that?" Jeff asked in annoyance.

"Whose fault is it that Bryan and Sonia had a fallout? You better come up with a good plan to fix everything," Mia said angrily, and Jeff glared at her.

"Have you paused to think that none of this would have happened if Bryan hadn't tried to create a conflict in the first place? So instead of blaming me, put the blame on Sonia, who thought she needed a conflict, and Bryan, who thought it was a good idea to create one," Jeff snapped At her.

"Yes, anybody else but you. This is what happens when adults have brains the size of a chicken brain. They both messed up, no doubt. But you? Of all idiotic ways to create a conflict, what ever made you think bringing up a real ex was a good idea?" Mia asked, and Jeff rose from his seat.

"How was I supposed to know that Bryan and Sonia were going to take things so far? I'm cranky enough already, do not upset me any more than you've already done," Jeff warned.

"You have no right to be upset right now. Fix what you've ruined," Mia hissed at him before walking away to find Bryan.

Once she walked into the Den, she met Bryan seated with his face buried in his palm, and she took the seat beside him.

She sat quietly for some seconds, and then she cleared her throat, "Bryan..."

"I'm not in the mood to talk."

"Well, I am. So you should listen. I didn't give up my job to do this. I chose to keep working with you because I believed you've grown up since you met Sonia, and there would be no more of those unnecessary scandals..."

Bryan sighed impatiently as he looked at her, "Mia..."

"LET ME FINISH," she snapped at him, surprising him.

"You are free to fire me if you want to. I'm probably better off without a job than working for your self-absorbed ass anyway," Mia hissed at him.

"You want to break up with Sonia? That's fine by me. It's your loss, not mine. And it's definitely none of my business anyway. But if you plan to ruin your career, then you should give me a heads up, so I can leave now while I can. I don't want to be here to watch you act this way. I'm going out to find a place to stay. When you make up your mind on whether or not you still want me to work with you, let me know," Mia said and walked away without giving him a chance to respond while Jeff watched her walk out of the house without so much as sparing him a glance.

"What has gotten into her?" Bryan asked Jeff when he walked into the Den.

"She has always been this way. I should be asking you the same Question. Why are you taking things so far?" Jeff asked, and Bryan scowled.

"I need to be left alone," he said as he rose from his seat and headed out of the Den.

"What am I supposed to do?" Jeff asked in confusion.

"Ask the boss. He asked you to bring me here, so maybe they should tell you what's next," Bryan said as he headed up the stairs.

"What about that apartment you talked about?" Jeff called after him.

"Ask Tom," Bryan called back, leaving Jeff at the foot of the stairs.

As Bryan walked upstairs, Tom walked past him without sparing him a glance as he called out to Candace and Jamal to meet him in the car while Jeff followed Tom outside.

Where was Tom taking them to? Bryan wondered as he watched from the top of the stairs as Jamal and Candace hurried out of the kitchen carrying a food pack.

Where was Lucy anyway? Bryan mused as he continued up the stairs, he saw two maids walking out of a room down the hallway carrying a laundry basket, and he followed, wanting to ask them about Lucy when he overheard their conversation.

"I still can't believe it myself. It doesn't make sense that Candace is Harry's twin sister," one of the maids said with a shake of her head.

"Although I'm very curious to know the whole story, I'm very happy for them. Jamal is so happy," the other one said with a bright smile, and the first one smiled.

"Yes. It's hard not to be happy when Jamal is so happy."

"Candace is Harry's twin sister?" Bryan asked, startling both ladies, who almost jumped out of their skin.

"Mr. Hank," one of them said in surprise since they hadn't heard him coming behind them.

"Did you just say Candace is Harry's twin sister? Tom's best friend?" he asked again, and they both nodded.

"Jamal told us, and Candace confirmed it earlier," one of the maids told Bryan.

Candace? Harry? Bryan mused with a confused frown. It didn't make any sense. He was just going to ask Jade about it later. He knew she would know about it.

"Where is Lucy? Do you know where I can find her?" he asked. One of the maids shook her head while the other gave him a nod.

"She left early this morning. I overheard her telling Jamal that she was traveling to see Sonia," the maid said, and Bryan nodded.

"Thanks," he said as he walked away from there. He was relieved to know that Lucy had gone to be with Sonia as he knew Sonia would have done for her. At least it wasn't a one-sided loyalty.

Once he got into his bedroom threw his phone on the bed and lay down, wanting to get some sleep.

He turned and tossed on the bed when he remembered that a few days ago, he had made love to Sonia on that bed, and now they were miles away from each other both physically and emotionally.

Although it hurt him to know they were both hurting, but he was still mad. He was angry at Sonia. He was mad at himself. He was mad at Jeff for bringing Derek into the picture.

Bryan frowned when he remembered that, in his annoyance, he had forgotten all about their plans.

He was meant to escort her to the meeting with her editor, and they were supposed to travel together to visit her mother's graveside.

He sighed as he reminded himself that Lucy had gone to be with Sonia and would most likely accompany her to all those places. Lucy was more important to Sonia than he was, anyway.

He sat up when his phone started ringing and received the call when he saw it was from Matt, "Hey!"

"Sup? What's going on with you?" Matt asked curiously.

"Nothing serious. I'm in Ludus right now. Sup with you?" Bryan asked casually.

"I'm cool. What's this I hear about you getting into a fight with some guy at a club and getting arrested? And there have been rumors around the set about a possible breakup between you and Sonia. Is it true?" Matt asked, and Bryan punched the bridge of his nose.

"Yes. Whatever you heard is true..."

"Hold up. It's true that you're breaking up with Sonia? Why?" Matt asked in confusion.

"Why do people break up? Let's talk about something more exciting," Bryan said dismissively.

"You can't be serious," Matt said, unable to believe that Bryan and Sonia were breaking up.

"I am. Don't make a big deal out of it. I just heard something crazy about Candace," Bryan said, wanting to change the subject, and as expected, that got Matt's attention.

"What is it? Is she alright?" Matt asked with concern.

"Well, she's back at Tom's house. I just heard that she is Harry's twin sister..."

"Harry? Do you mean Tom's best friend?" Matt asked, thinking about how Harry had been with Jade while they worked on Candace's case.

"Yes. I don't know the details yet, but I will let you know what I find out," Bryan promised.

"You don't have to do that," Matt said with a shake of his head.

He was just beginning to take control of his emotions once again, and he didn't want to have a relapse by getting all caught up in Candace's business. If she wanted him to know, she would tell him about it herself.

"Why not?"

"Because I'm not interested. I have a date later tonight...."

"A date? With who?" Bryan asked, wanting to talk about everything else but himself.

"A girl," Matt said simply.

"A fling or a rebound?"

"Why don't we talk about you since I called? Tell me what really happened, Bryan. I know better than anyone that you love Sonia, and I know she's just as crazy about you. So what's wrong?" Matt asked, and Bryan sighed as he sat on the edge of his bed.

Matt listened as Bryan told him all that had happened, and when he was done, Matt sighed.

"Although I understand how you feel. Sonia has her faults, no doubt. But it's crazy that you would let something like this come between you both," Matt said with a frown.

"She let it come between us, not me," Bryan corrected.

"Come on, Bryan. How can you be jealous of her best friend? You are the same person who told me all about their history. They've been through stuff together. You can't possibly blame her for putting

her best friend over you at the time. If you take some time to think about it, you'd see that it's petty of you to even think about it. They've come a long way together, and it's naturally going to take some time and work on both your ends before you both can get there," Matt said with a sigh.

"Are you really going to give that bastard what he wants and let him come between you both?" Matt asked, and Bryan ran a finger through his hair.

"I don't know. I need some time to think. I think she also needs some time, too," Bryan said, and Matt nodded thoughtfully.

"Thinking is good. Just don't waste too much time thinking. And don't make a mess of your career while you're at it. I heard your fans had a lot to say against Sonia. Things must not be easy on her right now," Matt said in a concerned tone.

"She is with my parents, so I'm sure she's okay," Bryan said, even though he wasn't convinced.

"I will go over to check on her after I'm done with my last shoot for the day. I got to go now. Be good, and stay off the news for all the wrong reasons," Matt warned before hanging up.

Bryan threw his phone on the bed and lay on the bed with his face buried in the pillow as he tried to block out the image of Sonia's hurt facial expression so he could get some sleep.

As hard as he tried to sleep, he couldn't, so he lay on the bed staring at the ceiling as he thought about everything Matt had said as well as his discussion with his father, Jade, and Tom too.

Deep down, he knew he was wrong for feeling the way he did concerning Lucy's and Sonia's friendship, but he just couldn't help it. And that was his problem not Sonia's problem.

He cared about Lucy, and he wouldn't even tolerate anyone speaking ill of her, so why did he say all that to Tom?

Bryan sighed. Everyone was right. Maybe he really needed to take some time to think and set his head straight.

That didn't mean he was going to forgive Sonia for what she did at the station or for going back on their plans. They were still going to take that break, so she could make up her mind whether or not she wanted to be in his life while he also would do the same.

Chapter 494 Surprise Me

"Tom?" Jamal called from the backseat of the car after Tom had driven for some time without saying a word.

"Hm?" Tom, who was driving, responded absentmindedly.

"Why are you always mad?" Jamal asked reasonably, and his mother, who was in the front seat, turned to cast him a warning glance while Tom scowled at him through the rearview mirror despite his mild amusement at the question.

"Who said I'm always mad?"

"Me. You are mad all the time," Jamal said, ignoring his mother.

"That's not true. I'm not always mad," Tom countered.

"Yes, you are. You were mad when we came to your house. You were mad yesterday, and now you are mad," Jamal retorted.

Tom sighed. He couldn't deny the fact that he had been mad when they came to his house. He had made it clear in the manner he had received them that morning. However, he was surprised that Jamal had noticed that and did not forget it.

"You can't say I'm always mad because of those few occasions when you've seen me in a better mood at other times. That's a hasty generalization fallacy," Tom said, and Jamal looked at him in confusion, not understanding the big words he had just spoken.

"You've been with me at times when I was in a good mood, so doesn't that tell you that I'm not always mad? I only get upset when people don't act as they should...."

"Does that mean you were mad at me because I was running..."

"No. I was not mad at you. I was mad at my sister. She did not inform me that you were coming until you had arrived," Tom explained for both Jamal's and Candace's benefit.

"It makes me frustrated when things don't go according to plan," Tom tried to explain, and Jamal felt relieved to hear that.

Deep down, he had thought Tom didn't want them in his house and that he was only being nice to them because of Lucy.

"But things can't always go according to plan, right, mom?" Jamal asked, and Candace cleared her throat awkwardly at being drawn into their conversation.

Without looking at Tom, she gave Jamal a nod. That was a line both she and Andy often used, especially on days when she had to do her part-time job and couldn't pick him up from school but had to send his nanny.

"See? Things can't always go as planned, and people can't always act as you think they should, so you shouldn't always get mad," Jamal said reasonably, and Tom turned to Candace.

"Are you sure he is only seven? Maybe you had his birth date mixed up or something," Tom said, and Candace laughed in amusement.

There were times when she also found it difficult to believe his age, despite the fact that she was his mother. She often felt amazed by Jamal's insight. He sometimes behaved like a little man trapped in a kid's body.

"Did you know that Lucy is my family? She is my aunt," Jamal told Tom when he noticed that Tom seemed relaxed now and more approachable.

He had wanted to share the news with Tom earlier, but he had seemed too angry, and Jamal had been wary of him in that mood.

"You are her cousin once removed. She is not your aunty," Tom corrected.

"Once removed from where?" Jamal asked in confusion, and Tom laughed.

"I have no idea. You should ask her that when she gets back. I'm sure she can explain better," Tom said, and Jamal sighed.

"So I guess she gets to be your girlfriend now," Jamal said, and Tom chuckled.

"She has always been my girlfriend," he said as he met Jamal's gaze in the mirror.

"But I guess now that she is your family, I need to get your approval to be with her," Tom said when Jamal continued to stare at him.

"Will you still give me the car if I leave her alone and let you have her?" Jamal asked, and this time both Tom and Candace laughed.

"You can't leave her alone anymore. Don't worry, I don't mind sharing her with you since she's your cousin," Tom said, and Jamal's brows pulled together.

"But it's not the same."

"I will give you the car, but you don't have to leave her alone. She likes having you in her business," Tom assured Jamal, and this time he smiled.

"That's cool! Did you hear that, mom?" Jamal asked, and Candace smiled.

"Yes, I did. Congrats Jam. You will become a car owner," Candace said, and Jamal shook his head.

"The car will be for us. You can use it until I'm big enough to buy you a new one," Jamal said, and Candace felt her heart swell with love for her kid. Jamal was just too precious.

"Thank you, baby," Candace said, but Jamal had moved on from there and was facing Tom again.

"So we made breakfast for grandpa Aaron and Harry...."

"Uncle Harry," Candace corrected, and Tom looked at her as it dawned on him that she had told Jamal about Aaron and Harry.

He hadn't really thought of it when Jamal had said Lucy was his family. He smiled as he glanced at Jamal through the rearview mirror.

He did not doubt that Jamal was all they needed to fix their family. With him in their midst, they would bond in no time.

"If Harry is your uncle, then I'm also your uncle. You know that, right?" Tom asked, but Jamal shook his head.

"Uncle Harry is mommy's twin brother. You are not," Jamal pointed out.

"But Harry is family to me, and he is just like my brother, so that means you are also family to me. You have to call me Uncle Tom," Tom said, and Jamal looked at him thoughtfully for some seconds.

"If you are my uncle, does that mean the lawyer lady is my aunt too?" Jamal asked, and Tom gave him a nod.

"Yes. Jade is family, too," Tom said, and Jamal's brows pulled together.

"That means she can't be Ha... uncle Harry's girlfriend, right?" Jamal said, and Tom looked at Candace.

Candace shook her head, "I didn't tell him that. Where did you hear that from, Jamal? Who told you she wants to be his girlfriend?" Candace asked, and Jamal shrugged.

"I heard Abigail telling...."

"You shouldn't listen to such things," Candace quickly cut in, not wanting Jamal to mention the name of the other person so they won't get in trouble.

No employer would like to know that his employees were gossiping about his best friend and his sister.

She wondered why they all kept talking freely in front of Jamal when they knew how sharp he was.

"So?" Jamal asked Tom.

"So what?" Tom asked, not understanding his question.

"If she can be his girlfriend, that means Lucy can be my girlfriend, too, right?" Jamal asked, and Tom sighed.

"I thought you were done with that already?" Candace asked, and Jamal shrugged.

"I just wanted to know," Jamal said as Tom drove into the hospital.

Once Tom parked the car, he glanced at Jamal as Candace got down to open his door and take out the food packs, "So I'm Uncle Tom, right?" Tom asked, and Jamal shook his head.

"No," Jamal said as he got out of the car, leaving Tom, who was scowling at his back.

As they all walked into the hospital, Jamal ran ahead of Tom and Candace, eager to see Aaron.

"Slow down, Jamal," Candace called, and he stopped running, but that lasted only for a few seconds before he resumed again, and Candace sighed as she shook her head.

Jamal burst into Aaron's room, startling the father and son in the room, "Mommy says you are my grandpa," Jamal announced happily as he threw himself at Aaron.

Aaron laughed happily and exchanged a look with Harry as he embraced the kid, "Did she now?" Aaron asked, and Jamal bobbed his head.

"Yes. And she said you are my uncle," Jamal informed Harry, and he grinned at him.

"That's right," Harry said, and they all turned to the door when Tom and Candace walked into the room.

"Jamal," Candace called in a disapproving tone, but seeing the happy smile on Aaron's face and the gratitude in his eyes, she didn't scold him as she had wanted to.

"Good morning. I hope you haven't had breakfast yet. We brought you breakfast," Candace said to both Aaron and Harry as she carried the food pack to the table in the room.

"Mommy cooked. I helped, too," Jamal whispered to Aaron.

"You didn't have to bother yourself on our account," Aaron said softly, even though he appreciated the gesture.

"It wasn't a bother. I wanted to do it," Candace said, and both Harry and Aaron exchanged a look as neither of them had the heart to tell her that they had eaten already.

"Good morning, old man. You look better than you did yesterday," Tom greeted Aaron.

"Why don't I see Lucy with you?" Aaron asked curiously.

"She traveled," Jamal supplied before Tom could, and Candace sighed inwardly.

"Something came up, so she had to leave for Heden. She said she would give you a call when she settles in," Tom assured Aaron.

"I see. I hope everything is fine?" Aaron asked, and Tom gave him a nod.

"Thanks, KID sister," Harry said with a wink as he received the food Candace served him, and both Candace and Aaron chuckled.

"And you too, kiddo," Harry said as he playfully ruffled Jamal's hair, and Jamal laughed as he moved closer to Harry.

He was willing to let Harry ruffle his hair this once since he was his uncle. Once they were cool with each other, he would ask him not to.

"Wow! You must be delighted to be an uncle," Tom taunted when he saw the grin on Harry's face as he pulled Jamal closer.

Harry chuckled, "Why do I sense jealousy in your tone?"

"He wanted me to call him uncle, and I refused," Jamal said, and Tom glared at him while Harry, Candace, and Aaron laughed.

"Wow! It's like that now, huh? I see you're all ganging up on me," Tom said with mock annoyance.

"No wonder he is so jealous. I'm the only one you're to call your uncle, alright? If he wants a nephew so bad, he should go get one for himself," Harry said, and Tom raised a brow.

"Yeah. Aren't we all just sitting here and waiting for you to give me one?" Tom said, making Aaron and Candace laugh while Harry glared at him.

"Where is Jade, by the way?" Tom asked when he noticed that his sister wasn't around.

"She went home. Let's step out for a moment," Harry said and turned to his father.

"We will be at the rooftop. Jamal, can you help me hold on to this until I get back?" Harry asked, and Jamal gave him a nod as he took Harry's dish from him.

"How is he doing now?" Tom asked Harry once they shut the door behind them.

"He is fine. We are going home soon. That's why Jade decided to go ahead of us. She wanted to prepare the guest room for Candace and Jamal so they would move in with us," Harry said, and Tom nodded. Although he would miss the kid, the kid was needed there most.

"Did the doctor say he is good enough to leave?" Tom asked as they took the flight of stairs that would lead them to the rooftop, and Harry shook his head.

"Not exactly. But a nurse will go home with us to keep an eye on him until he is completely fine," Harry assured him.

"That's good to know. How about you? I believe you're doing better now, seeing how you are already kissing our sister. So much for asking me to get her out of your house," Tom said with a shake of his head and chuckled when Harry glared at him.

"What kind of a...."

"What kind of a brother am I? The type that wants to see my sister happy with a good man," Tom cut in, and Harry scowled.

"I was going to say what type of a friend are you."

"I know that's a lie. But I will tell you regardless. The type that wants to see my best friend happy with a good woman," Tom said with a chuckle, and Harry shook his head.

"I hate you," Harry muttered as he walked over to stand at the spot where he had stood with Jade in the early hours of the morning.

"We both know you don't mean that. You are just embarrassed that I was right the whole time. Don't worry. I don't think it's incest or anything since we both know she is not really your sister or...."

"Shut up!" Harry growled as he pushed Tom away, and Tom laughed as he placed a hand on Harry's shoulder.

"I feel so relieved that I'm able to laugh with you this way. I thought you were going to be weighed down by all of this," Tom confessed, and Harry sighed as he turned to look at him.

"I would have been if my mother didn't turn out to be someone like that. She is not worth it. Jeff called to tell me they had arrived. Have you spoken with Bryan yet? What happened?"

"I don't even want to think about him right now. He's getting on my nerves," Tom hissed in annoyance. He had momentarily forgotten about that.

"Why did Lucy travel?" Harry asked curiously, and Tom told him all about Bryan and Sonia's issue. At least the part of it he had heard from his father.

"As if that's not enough, Lucas' ex had Lucy's mom arrested," Tom said, and Harry shook his head.

"Why did she do that?" Harry asked and listened as Tom told him all about it.

"Your life is so full of drama," Harry said, and Tom sighed.

"Tell me about it. I feel exhausted. I'm no longer looking forward to the anniversary as much as I was," Tom confessed.

"Don't worry. All of this will pass soon enough. I will clear Bryan with the board. How is Barry coming along with the plans?" Harry asked curiously.

"Everything is going smoothly. Did the guys find anything at the hospital? Or you haven't put them up to it yet?" Tom asked, and Harry told him about the 'accident' at the hospital.

"Interesting. You don't intend to go easy on her, I believe?"

"I won't. Her attempts to cover up her crimes will be her undoing," Harry said, and Tom nodded.

There was no need to tell Harry yet what his plan for her was. He would present it to Harry as a gift after she had completely fallen into his trap.

"Enough of the unpleasant topics. So tell me what led to the kiss. I'm surprised you summoned the courage to kiss her," Tom said with a grin.

"Get lost."

"I guess she kissed you. You're too scared to make any move," Tom taunted.

"You'd be surprised," Harry said as he headed for the stairs.

"Really? Surprise me," Tom urged, and Harry chuckled.

"She is your sister. I can't give you the details," Harry said as he kept walking.

"C'mon!"

"That's what you get for wanting me to date your sister. It means I can't tell you stuff like this. Do you still want me to?" Harry asked with a smirk.

"Are you both dating now?" Tom asked curiously.

"No. She's on probation until the end of the anniversary week."

"Probation?" Tom asked incredulously.

"Yes. I'm observing her. I need some time to decide if I want to get that deeply involved with your nosy family. Lucy isn't even married to you yet, and she has been influenced already. I wonder what's going to become of her when she officially becomes a Hank," Harry said, and Tom smiled wryly.

"You don't have to wonder too much. She doesn't plan to become a Hank officially," Tom said casually, and Harry stopped walking and turned to look at him.

"What do you mean?"

"She doesn't want to get married."

"But you want to get married. You've always wanted to," Harry said with a slight frown.

"Yeah."

"So, what do you plan to do?" Harry asked, and Tom shrugged.

"What can I do?"

"You're going to give up on your plans?" Harry asked, and Tom sighed.

"I will have to do so if she doesn't change her mind. You have to keep this to yourself. You're the only one I've told about it," Tom said, and Harry gave him a nod.

"Sure. Let's talk about it some other time, and maybe we can find a way to change her mind. For now, let's take them home. Jade would be waiting," Harry suggested, and Tom nodded as they returned to join the others.

Chapter 495 A Friend

Candace watched Aaron with a smile as he ate the meal she had prepared while Jamal entertained them as usual, asking Aaron questions while telling Aaron more about himself.

As Aaron laughed at something Jamal said, he began to choke, and immediately Candace went to stand beside him and patted his back to calm him.

"Thank you. I'm okay now," Aaron said with a smile of gratitude, and Candace moved away from him with the dishes.

"Your aunt Andy seems like a fun person," Aaron said, and Jamal bobbed his head.

"She is. All my classmates love her. When she comes back, I will bring her to you," Jamal promised.

"Please do. It's good to know I have two daughters," Aaron said, and Candace smiled as she returned to join them.

"Have I told you that I'm leaving the hospital today?" Aaron asked, and Candace looked at him with concern.

"You are going home already? Are you sure that is the right thing to do? Did the doctors approve it?" Candace asked, and Aaron looked at her.

"Yes, the doctor did. A nurse will be going with us. I will be more comfortable at home and get well faster. I was hoping you would both come with us," Aaron said, and Candace's brows pulled together as she looked into his amber-colored eyes.

Come with them, as in move in with them or just go with them to know Harry's place? Candace mused. As much as she had accepted them as her family, she wasn't sure moving in with them so quickly was a good idea.

"You don't have to move in with us yet if you don't want to. I just thought it would be nice to have you close, so we can all get to know each other. You don't have to feel pressured by my request. You can take your time," Aaron rushed to assure her when he sensed her hesitation.

Surprisingly, Jamal said nothing and just looked at his mother as he waited for her to say something.

"I don't feel pressured. We will go with you today and get to know where you live," Candace said, and Aaron smiled at her.

"That's fine," he said and smiled at Jamal when he held his hand.

They all turned to the door when it opened, and Harry returned with Tom, "Why can't I find my food? Don't tell me you ate it?" Harry asked Jamal with a suspicious look in his eyes as he tickled him and Jamal laughed.

"Mommy packed it," Jamal squealed.

"Oh, I see. I guess I will have it when I get home," Harry said as he let go of Jamal and looked at Candace.

"Can I speak with you for a moment?" He asked, and Candace gave him a nod as she followed him outside.

"I'm taking him home. I understand that it is probably too soon to ask you to move in with us, but I want you to know that whenever you're ready, the door is open," Harry said, and Candace smiled.

"Thanks. I will bear that in mind."

"I also wanted to ask you not to tell him how hard your life was before now," Harry pleaded, and Candace looked at him, but before she could speak, he continued.

"I'm not saying this because he would feel embarrassed. You saw how he is. It would break him, and he is going to blame himself for it...."

"But he will eventually find out about it. One way or the other, he will know," Candace pointed out, and Harry sighed.

"I know that. But it doesn't have to be right now, does it? I would rather he recovers and bounces back...."

"And then he would break down again when he hears of it then. Do you realize that you are trying to do the same thing he did to you?" Candace asked softly.

"You are trying to protect him from being hurt by keeping the truth from him the same way he kept the truth from you. You want me to make him believe my life was rosy until now? I don't have a problem doing that. But what about you? From all I've heard about you until now, you're not that sort of person," Candace said, and Harry sighed.

She was right. He was trying to do the same thing his father had done. Hiding the truth to keep him from being hurt or blaming himself.

"Don't worry about it. I won't make him feel like my life has been all that terrible. I will tell him what he needs to know, both the good and bad, but I will keep it light and easy," Candace promised as she touched Harry's arm.

"I may have only met him yesterday, but I care about him too. So don't worry too much," Candace said, and Harry nodded.

He needed to remind himself that Candace was also Aaron's daughter, "I'm sorry," Harry said, and Candace smiled.

"There is nothing to be sorry about," Candace assured him as they both returned to the room.

Once they walked in, Harry looked at his father, "Are you ready to go home?" Harry asked, and Aaron gave him a nod.

"Let's go home," Harry said, and some moments later, they all were standing beside Harry's car in the parking lot.

"I will drive behind you," Tom told Harry after Aaron had settled in, expecting that Harry and the others would go together, but Jamal grabbed his hand before he could leave.

"I will come with you," Jamal said as he looked up at him, and they all looked at the kid.

"Why? Shouldn't you go with your uncle?" Tom asked with a mock scowl.

"You will be alone," Jamal explained, and Candace smiled while the others looked at Jamal speechlessly. They just couldn't get used to his thoughtfulness.

"Can he go with you?" Candace asked politely, even if she knew Tom wouldn't mind taking him.

"Sure. Let's go," Tom said as he took Jamal's hand and led him to his car.

Once he had ensured that Jamal was properly seated in the passenger seat with the seatbelt strapped, he got into his car and followed Harry's car.

Without Jamal in the car, the car was silent, with Harry driving, Candace in the front passenger seat, and Aaron in the back seat.

"Do you like law school?" Harry asked after some time when the silence in the car had dragged on for too long.

"Sure, I do. Although it's demanding, but I do my best. I look forward to graduation," Candace said, and Aaron nodded in approval.

"I just realized I didn't ask about your job. How have you been coping financially?" Aaron said curiously, and Candace exchanged a look with Harry.

Candace smiled as she turned in her seat to look at Aaron, "I did whatever I could to get by. I've done a lot of jobs. You would cringe when I tell you about some of them," she said with an easy laugh, and Aaron smiled sadly.

"Harry told me how you ended up at the orphanage," Aaron said, and Candace smiled.

"Don't worry. I will tell you all you need to know gradually. There is no need for us to rush into it," Candace assured him.

"You have to go back to school, don't you? And Jamal, too," Aaron reminded her.

"Yes, we do. When we left, I wasn't sure how long we would be hiding this time..." she let the rest of her words trail off as she winced.

"I told you about Jero, remember? Jamal's dad. We were hiding from him and his dangerous friends," she explained, and Aaron nodded.

He remembered her telling him Jamal's father died that morning and that she would have killed him herself if she could.

"You didn't tell me about the case," Aaron reminded her.

"Harry can tell you about it. He helped Jade," Candace said, drawing Harry into the conversation since he had been quiet for a while.

"Harry, you did?" Aaron asked, and Harry nodded.

"Yes. Jade's life was being threatened, so I had to go be with her for some time while she worked on the case," Harry explained.

"I see. It must have been pretty dangerous," Aaron said thoughtfully.

"Yes, it was," Harry agreed, and Aaron sighed as he looked at Candace.

"Well, you don't have to hide from them anymore, do you? Besides, you have us now. We will keep both of you safe," Aaron assured her, and Candace smiled.

"Isn't it amazing that you've been friends with your brother's girlfriend this whole time?" Aaron asked after some time, and Candace looked at Harry curiously.

"You are dating Jade? Since when?" Candace asked curiously, wondering if Jade had confessed her feelings to Harry the other night, especially since she had mentioned something about a kiss.

"We are not dating. At least not yet," Harry explained, and Candace looked at him in confusion.

"Didn't you invite that Aurora girl to be your date?" Candace asked, and Harry turned to spare her a glance.

"Jade told you about Aurora?" Harry asked with a slightly raised brow. It seemed like Jade had told everyone about them already.

"I was there when Aurora gave her your message and told her about the date," Candace said, and this time Harry grinned.

"Really? How did Jade react to it?" Harry asked, and Aaron smiled as he closed his eyes while he listened to them in amusement. They sounded just like siblings at that moment.

Candace pursed her lips as she wondered whose side to be on. Jade or Harry?

Although Harry was her twin brother, she had known Jade the longest, and Jade had been a good friend to her. Maybe it was best to be neutral.

"She didn't exactly look happy about it," Candace said, and Harry's grin widened.

"What did she say?" Harry asked curiously.

"Now, why would I tell you that?" Candace asked in amusement.

"Because you're my kid sister, remember?" Harry asked, and Candace giggled.

"If you are so curious, then ask Jade yourself. You seem to like her too, so why did you invite Aurora to be your date in the first place?" Candace asked, and Harry sighed.

"I wouldn't have done that if she didn't like playing games so much," Harry said, and Candace shook her head.

"So what are you going to do about Aurora? She promised to make Jade her maid of honor if things work out between you both," Candace said, and Harry turned to look at her in alarm, making Candace giggle.

"Maid of honor?" Harry asked, and Aaron laughed when he heard the horror in Harry's tone.

"That's what you get for pulling a stunt like that. If you are not interested in her, you should make it clear so that no one gets hurt," Aaron advised without opening his eyes, and Harry sighed.

"Yeah. I intend to."

"By the way, what about Matt? Have you made up with him yet?" Harry asked when he remembered that Matt was involved with her.

Aaron's eyes opened, "Who is Matt?" He asked, and Candace eyed Harry with displeasure for bringing Matt up.

"A friend," Candace said simply.

"You both fought?" He asked curiously.

"No, we didn't," Candace said and gave Harry a pointed look, not to say anything else.

Aaron could tell from her tone that there was more to it than she was willing to share, but he decided not to probe further. There was more than enough time to get to know her better and learn about everyone in her life.

Matt. He was certain Jamal would have something to tell him about this Matt person if he was important to Candace, Aaron thought with a chuckle.

"What's amusing you, dad?" Harry asked curiously as he looked at his father through the rearview mirror.

"I was just thinking of Jamal," Aaron said, making both Harry and Candace smile. They didn't need to know what he was thinking about the kid. The mere mention of his name was enough to make them smile.

Chapter 496 Political Aide

"I just can't believe she did this," Janet said in disbelief as she walked out of the police station with Andrew, Desmond, and Evelyn.

"Well, if you hadn't messed with her clothes, she wouldn't have done it," Andrew said, and Janet stopped in her tracks and turned to her husband.

"Are you defending her? If she didn't mess with my kids, I wouldn't have messed with her clothes! So, don't stand there and talk like you don't know why I did it!" She snapped at her husband, and Evelyn placed a hand on her shoulder before Andrew could respond.

"It's alright, Janet. There is no reason for you both to fight over this," Evelyn said calmly as she led Janet away from Andrew.

"Thanks for coming over and for talking to the chief of police. I didn't know you were acquainted with him," Janet said, and Evelyn smiled.

"He is an old friend. I knew him back in the days when I worked as a political aide to his political godfather," Evelyn explained when they stopped beside Andrew's car.

"I see. You must have maintained a good relationship with him, seeing how he handled everything," Janet said, and Evelyn laughed softly.

"Well, his political godfather was Desmond's father...."

"Desmond's father was a politician?" Janet asked as she stopped walking and turned to look at Desmond, who was talking with Andrew, as they slowly walked behind them.

"Yes. Lawrence Hank..."

"President Lawrence Hank?" Janet gasped in surprise, and Evelyn laughed softly.

"Why do you look so surprised? I thought you were aware of it," Evelyn said, feeling slightly embarrassed by the way Janet was gawking at her.

"Well, I always thought the whole fuss about your family name was largely because of Tom," Janet said, and Evelyn nodded.

"Well, that's true in a way because Tom is the reason most people now know who Desmond's father was. You've seen Desmond. He doesn't like unnecessary attention. He hardly even honours invitations to political gatherings," Evelyn explained, and Janet nodded in understanding.

"So you used to work for Desmond's father? Was that before or after you met Desmond?" Janet asked curiously, and Evelyn smiled.

"I met Desmond while working for his father," Evelyn said, and Janet forgot all about her earlier annoyance as she looked at Evelyn with interest.

"And he didn't object to your relationship?"

"Why don't I tell you all about it some other time? Perhaps during the flight," Evelyn offered with a small laugh.

"I'm sorry you got dragged into this," Janet said apologetically, and Evelyn grinned.

"You wouldn't be here if I didn't give you the suggestion," Evelyn said, and Janet giggled.

"Well, I still don't regret doing it," Janet said with a sigh as she glanced at her wristwatch.

"I guess we've missed our flight," Janet said with a sigh.

"The next flight for Ludus leaves by 2 PM. Desmond was able to get the manager to help us change our flight time," Evelyn suggested as their husbands joined them.

"That means we might be able to see Lucy before leaving. By the way, what's wrong with Sonia?" Janet asked when she remembered, and Evelyn sighed.

"She had a fight with Bryan. They're both taking a break, and she is pretty upset about it. Bryan has left for Ludus," Evelyn explained, and Janet frowned.

"Oh, dear! They are not going to break up, are they?" she asked with concern.

"I hope not," Evelyn said as she looked at the men.

"Since we are not leaving until the afternoon, how about we find some fun things to do until then?"

"You both can find something fun to do. We are going home to watch football," Desmond said, and Evelyn shook her head.

"You can find your way to wherever you are going to watch the football. We are taking the car with us," Janet said as she extended a hand to her husband for the car key.

"Why? Are we not all going together?" Andrew asked as he handed her the key.

"No. I'm not going anywhere with you," Janet said grudgingly.

"Alright. Try not to get into any more trouble," Andrew advised, and Janet hissed while Desmond and Evelyn laughed.

"See you later," Desmond told Evelyn as he kissed her cheeks, while Janet moved away when Andrew moved close to do the same.

"Fine. I'm sorry. I was only stating a fact. I didn't mean to upset you," Andrew apologised.

"A fact?" Janet asked testily, and Andrew raised both hands.

"I'm sorry."

"Did you pack our bags in the car?" Janet asked as she peered into the car.

"No, there was no time to do so. Those are their bags," Andrew explained.

Since Desmond and Evelyn had taken a cab from the airport down to the police station, they had left their bags in Andrew's car before meeting with the chief of police.

"I have an idea. Why don't we all go back to your house and get your bags, then we can all go to our house. You can leave your car at our house. Our driver can drop us off at the airport when it's time to leave," Evelyn suggested, and Janet returned the car key to Andrew as they all got into the car.

"Have you heard from them today?" Janet asked Evelyn curiously as they both got into the back passenger seat while Andrew took the driver's seat and Desmond took the front passenger seat.

Janet realised that she had not been able to ask Lucy about Harry and Candace during their short phone conversation.

"No. However, I spoke with Tom earlier. I should give Jade a call. She's with Harry," Evelyn said as she took out her phone from her handbag and dialled Jade's line.

Jade, who had just stepped out of the shower in Harry's bedroom after spending the last couple of hours preparing the house to receive Aaron, Harry, Candace, and Jamal, rushed to the dressing table to pick up her phone.

"Hello, mom!" She greeted cheerfully as she placed the phone on speaker and dropped it on the table.

"You seem like you're in a good mood. I guess everything is going smoothly over there," Evelyn observed.

"Yeah. Are you still coming over, or you've arrived already?" She asked curiously as she towelled her body dry.

"Our flight was delayed a bit. Lucas' ex-fiance got Janet arrested," Evelyn said, and Janet winced in embarrassment.

"Arrested? Why? Is Tom aware? Has she been released?" Jade asked with a worried frown.

"Yes, she's out now," Evelyn said and explained the situation to Jade.

Jade scoffed, "She has got some nerves doing something like that when all the wealth she and her father own belongs to Candace," Jade said, and Evelyn raised a brow.

"Candace? What has she got to do with Rachel?" Evelyn asked curiously and placed the phone on speaker so that Janet and the men could hear Jade.

Both Evelyn and Janet stared at each other with wide eyes as Jade told them the connection between Rachel's father and Candace's adoptive father.

"You can't be serious," Evelyn said in disbelief while Janet and Andrew exchanged a look through the rearview mirror.

"I'm sure Tom and Harry won't let this slide," Jade said confidently.

"I wouldn't either. Not after this stunt she pulled. Where are you right now? Is Harry or Candace there with you?" Evelyn asked.

"No. I'm at Harry's apartment. I came to freshen up and also prepare his dad's room. He is coming home today," Jade explained.

"Is he feeling well now?" Evelyn asked with concern while Janet looked at her curiously.

"He is feeling better. He wants to recover at home," Jade explained.

"What about Candace and Jamal?" Evelyn asked curiously.

"They're fine. They should be coming over too. How is Sonia? I was trying to reach her earlier, but her line was not connecting," Jade said, and Evelyn sighed.

"I don't know how she's feeling. Hopefully, Lucy will be here soon to cheer her up. You should stop by Tom's house and speak to Bryan," Evelyn suggested, and before Jade could respond, she heard the sound of the doorbell.

"I will do that later in the day. I have to go now, mom. I think they are here," Jade said, and without waiting for her mom to respond, she hung up the call.

Quickly she looked around Harry's bedroom as she picked up her stuff and ran for the guest room.

Knowing Harry, he had rung the doorbell to let her know they were coming in and not necessarily because they needed her to get the door.

Even though she had wanted to shower in his bathroom and wanted him to know she had showered there, she didn't want the others to know it.

Once she ran into the guest room and started hurrying to dress up, she let out a deep groan when she realised that she had dropped her panties.

She bit her lower lip as she looked at the door. The plan was to mess with his head as he had done to her last night by letting him know she had been naked in his bedroom and had showered in his bathroom, not leave her thong in his bedroom! What was he going to think of her when he saw her panties in his bedroom?

Chapter 497 Virgin Harry

Once Harry opened the door, he made a dash for his bedroom with Jamal who had said he wanted to use the restroom, while Tom, Candace, and Aaron followed from behind.

In his hurry to get Jamal into the bathroom, Harry missed the thong that was lying on the foot of his bed, and once he opened the bathroom door, he raised a brow when a familiar fragrance hit him.

Why did his bathroom smell like Jade? He mused as his eyes moved around, taking note of the moistness in the atmosphere and the wet floor.

Did Jade shower in his bathroom?

"Can I sit?" Jamal asked impatiently when it seemed like Harry was too distracted to pay him any mind.

Harry shifted his gaze to Jamal, "Yes. Do you need help?" Harry asked wanting to help Jamal unfasten the button of his shorts.

"No, thanks. You can wait outside," Jamal said, and Harry looked at the kid in amusement who was waiting for him to leave before taking off his shorts.

Harry stepped out of the bathroom and looked around his bedroom. He could see a few signs that someone had been in his bedroom.

A crease on his bed, a not-so-visible trail of water on the floor, a bit of wetness on his dressing table, the room still smelt a bit of her shower gel, or was it her shampoo?

From the look of things it seemed like she had only left there a short while ago before they got into the house.

Did the shower in her bathroom stop working? Or was this one of her little games? Or perhaps it was some sort of message? Just what had Jade Hank been up to in his bedroom? Harry mused with a sigh.

As much as he tried to understand what was going on in her head, most times it was hard to figure it out.

The same way he couldn't understand how he had let himself be talked into cuddling her.

Jade had insisted he cuddle her until she fall asleep if he wanted her to spend the night in the car as he asked her to.

That had to have been the most awkward thing he had done in his life. Although he couldn't deny that it had felt nice to have her in his arms that way, but it had also been very tempting and frustrating at the same time.

Trying to act like he was not affected by their proximity, whereas with every breath he took in, his desire for her grew to the point that even she noticed.

Harry lowered himself to the edge of the bed as he recalled all that had happened in the car between them.

By the time they got to Aaron's room from the rooftop, the light in Aaron's room had been switched off, and a nurse was seated beside his bed watching him.

Although Harry had not sent for a nurse as his father had asked him to, it seemed like Aaron had gone ahead to request on for himself so that Harry would have no choice than to spend the night in the car with Jade.

"What do we do?" Jade had asked as they both stood outside the door looking into the room through the glass window on the door. They could make out the nurse's form because of her phone's screen light. She seemed to be busy with her phone.

"You can go to the car..."

"I already told you I'm not sleeping in the car alone," Jade cut in stubbornly.

"There is no space for you to sleep in the room. You barely got off the plane a couple of hours ago, you need to rest. You look exhausted," Harry said, trying to reason with her.

"What makes you think I'm going to be able to get a good rest in the parking lot?" Jade asked with a scoff.

"Then you should have left with Tom. Should I drive you over to Tom's? I'm sure you'd sleep better there. You're stressing me out right now, Jade," Harry complained as he massaged his temple which was beginning to throb.

"Are you okay? Are you having a headache?" She asked in concern touching his arm and Harry sighed.

"If you're so concerned about me then please let's not argue about this. I will feel better if you sleep in the car," Harry said, and Jade's brows pulled together.

"But it's not safe," Jade murmured.

"There nothing to be scared of. The parking lot is secured and I will have one of the security guards keep a close watch on the car while you sleep," Harry suggested.

"My father is going to feel very worried if he sees you sleeping on that tiny couch. Please," Harry added and Jade sighed.

"Will you at least stay with me in the car until I sleep off?" Jade asked, and Harry gave her a nod.

"Sure. I can do that. Let's go," he said as he led her to the parking lot where the car was.

Once he unlocked the door, Jade opened the back passenger door and made herself comfortable on the back seat, and Harry shot her a questioning gaze, "Isn't the front seat more comfortable? You could flatten the seat," Harry suggested, wondering why she chose to sit at the back instead of the front.

"What are you doing?" Jade asked, ignoring his question as she watched him get into the driver's seat.

"Getting into the car. You asked me to keep you company, didn't you?" Harry asked matter of factly as he got

Jade shook her head, "I did, but this is not what I meant. Am I supposed to be talking to your back until I fall asleep? I want you to get into the backseat with me. By stay with me I meant I wanted you to cuddle me until I sleep off," Jade suggested as she patted the space beside her.

"Cuddle?" Harry asked, looking at her incredulously and Jade almost laughed.

"All I want is a cuddle, Harry. I'm not asking you to make love to me. Not that I would mind that though," Jade teased, and Harry raised a brow.

"Jade..."

"C'mon Harry."

"I don't think it's a good idea."

"I will sleep faster and better if you cuddled me. I usually cuddle my teddy bear or my pillow. That's how I'm able to fall asleep comfortably. There is nothing to hold here," Jade said with a sad pout.

"I still don't think it's a good idea. I'm a man. You are a lady," Harry insisted.

"We are not just any random man and lady, Harry. Need I remind you that we kissed earlier? You kissed me. Cuddling shouldn't be a big deal," Jade said patiently.

"Jade..."

"Maybe we should just return to Aaron's room. I can keep watch with you," Jade said as she started to get out of the car.

"You look exhausted," Harry pointed out looking at her tired face. Although she looked better compared to the way he had met her a week ago.

"Yeah. I do feel exhausted, but I guess the situation can't be helped," Jade admitted and Harry sighed as he got out of the driver's seat and went around the car to join her in the back seat.

"By cuddle you are just going to rest your head on my shoulder, right?" Harry asked reluctantly, and Jade bit back a smile.

"Your chest," Jade said, and Harry adjusted to give her room to rest her body against his, and Jade moved closer to him.

Harry cleared his throat as he placed his left arm around her slender body while her head rested on his chest.

They were positioned in such a way that Jade was hugging him since her head was resting on his chest while her right arm was behind him, and her right hand lay on his chest.

Harry swallowed hard as he tried to ignore the feel of her breasts that were pressed against his body.

"Harry?" Jade called softly.

Harry cleared his throat, "Yeah?"

"Why do you seem so different now than you were in your apartment earlier?" Jade asked, and Harry looked down at her.

"How different?" Harry asked, and Jade laughed softly.

"You are back to acting like virgin Harry," Jade pointed out.

"Maybe you ought to be more scared of the virgin Harry," Harry suggested quietly.

Harry's attention returned to the present and his gaze moved to the bathroom door when Jamal called out to him from behind the door.

"So this is where you live?" Jamal asked curiously as he looked around the fancy bathroom.

"Yes. Why?" Harry asked curiously.

"Are you as rich as Tom?" Jamal asked as he flushed the toilet and washed his hands at the sink.

Harry smiled to himself, "Why? Are you going to choose him over me if he is richer?"

"Is that a yes or a no?" Jamal asked as he walked out of the bathroom and Harry chuckled.

"Well, I'm not as rich as he is, but I'm not doing so badly," Harry said, and Jamal nodded thoughtfully.

"I figured. His house is much bigger than yours," Jamal said as he looked around the bedroom, and Harry got off the bed when Candace knocked on the door.

"Harry? Is Jamal not done yet?" Candace asked.

"He is done. We are coming out now," Harry said as he headed for the door, but at the same time Jamal's gaze fell on the white colored piece of cloth at the foot of the bed.

"I think your hankie fell," Jamal announced as he picked it up at the same time that Harry opened the door.

Chapter 498 Gay Best Friend

The sight that greeted Candace once Harry opened the door was Jamal holding up a white lace thong. Seeing the shock on her face, Harry, who had been about to say something to her, turned to see the 'hankie' that Jamal had picked up and was displaying, and his eyes widened in surprise.

He didn't need anyone to tell him who owned that and had left it in his bedroom--Damn Jade for doing something like this.

"Oh-oh! It's not a hankie," Jamal announced as he now held it with the tip of his fingers.

"Drop that," Harry ordered Jamal who was looking at the thong with interest.

Jade, who had just opened the guest room door and had been about to step out and join the others, paused when she saw Candace standing by Harry's open bedroom door.

"Leave it on the bed for your uncle and come with me to wash your hands," Candace ordered, wondering if the thong was clean or not.

Leave it on the bed? Leave what on the bed? Was Jamal in Harry's room? He couldn't possibly have seen it, could he? Candace couldn't have possibly seen it, too, right? Jade mused as her heart raced and she quickly pulled the door close to hide herself as she spied on them.

"He needs to wash his hands. I'm going in to use your bathroom if you don't mind," Candace said in an amused tone as she looked at Harry, who still stood in the same spot with his face flushed red, staring at the thong as though he had never seen one before. Well, he had never seen Jade's underwear apart from that one time she forgot to zip up her trousers and that didn't count.

Harry cleared his throat as he stepped aside to let Candace into his bedroom without meeting her gaze. How could he meet her gaze when she had seen something like that? They would all assume he had been making out with Jade at home while he left his father at the hospital, wouldn't they?

Damn Jade!

"Mom, it looks like one of yours," Jamal said as Candace led him to the door, which she assumed to be the bathroom, to wash his hands.

"It does look like mine, but it's not mine, and you shouldn't touch other people's undies," Candace said as she washed his hands.

"I picked it up because I thought it was uncle Harry's hankie," Jamal said defensively.

"Then you should have dropped it the moment you realized it wasn't a hankie," Candace said as she led him out of the bathroom after drying his hands with the tissue and flushing it.

Although Jade couldn't hear what was being said in the bathroom, she remained behind her door since there was no way she could sneak past Harry's bedroom to the living room without being caught, seeing as his door was still standing open.

"Does uncle Harry wear the same undies as you because you are twins?" Jamal asked, and Candace looked at Harry. She almost laughed when she saw how red his face was.

Great! Just great! Thanks to Jade he was going to be the weird gay uncle.

"I'm not sure. Would you like to answer that question, big brother?" Candace asked with a straight face, but Harry could see the mirth in her eyes.

Harry cleared his throat, "It's not min...." Harry let the rest of his words trail off when Candace raised a brow and shook her head.

"Why don't you go to the living room and keep grandpa Aaron and Tom company while I have a word with Uncle Harry?" Candace suggested.

"Okay, mom," Jamal said as he ran past Harry out of the room.

Of course, since the door was open, Jade heard Jamal's question. She quickly shut the door when Jamal looked in her direction as he tried to figure out if the living room was on the left or right end of the hall.

Jade sighed as she went to sit on the edge of the bed, and she closed her eyes in embarrassment. She couldn't tell if she was feeling more embarrassed for herself or for Harry.

She wasn't going to step out of the room. No, she wasn't. There was no way she could face Harry after embarrassing herself and him in that manner. All she wanted to do was hide here until Harry left the house, and then she would sneak out and run away. She would just avoid him for the rest of her life if it were possible.

Alone with Candace now, Harry sighed, "I could have told him it isn't mine," Harry said stiffly without meeting her gaze as he looked at the material on the bed.

"And then you would have to tell him who owns it and what it was doing in your bedroom. Are you sure you're up for such questions?" Candace asked, and Harry frowned.

"I guess you don't have much experience with kids. With kids, especially Jamal, you have to learn how to evade questions. Especially the embarrassing type, else you might find yourself stuttering," Candace said, and Harry sighed.

"You don't have to look so embarrassed. You are an adult, after all," Candace said with a teasing grin, and Harry didn't know whether to glare at her or just shove her out of his room and shut the door in her face so he wouldn't see the laughter on her face.

"So?" Candace asked, looking at him like she was waiting for him to say something, and Harry looked at her in confusion.

"So what?" He asked, wondering why she wasn't leaving already.

"We both know you don't wear thongs, or do you?" Candace asked, lowering her gaze to look at his pelvis, and Harry let out an awkward laugh as he took a step away from her, feeling very uncomfortable by her perusal.

"I should know if my big brother is into kinky stuff...."

"Get out of my room," Harry hissed, jerking his head towards the door, and Candace howled with laughter.

"C'mon, big brother," Candace drawled, enjoying the mix of emotions on Harry's face as he glared at her while also looking embarrassed at the same time.

He made quite a picture. This time yesterday, she would never have imagined herself being in Ludus talk more of being in a stranger's house and calling him big brother while teasing and taunting him this way, yet here she was. Enjoying herself at her newfound twin brother's expense. Could life be more unpredictable? Candace mused.

"You sound like a very annoying kid sister," Harry said as he held the door open for Candace to leave.

"You sound like a very embarrassed big brother. I hope you can come up with a good story. Trust Jamal. Everyone is going to know you wear female undies. For your sake, I hope it belongs to Jade," Candace said with a wink as she left the room.

Once she left the room, Harry groaned as she shut the door behind her. He gazed at the white material on his bed as he slowly approached it.

Just what could have possessed Jade to pull a stunt like this when she knew he wasn't coming home alone? And where was she right now after creating this mess? Harry mused as he picked up the thong and hid it under his pillow before heading for the door.

Just as he opened the door, he saw Tom walking down the hallway with a grin plastered on his face, and he knew the kid had spilled the news to everyone.

"Shut up," Harry warned before Tom could say a word, but that only amused Tom even more.

"How did I never figure it out that it was me you wanted this whole time and not my sister?" Tom asked, batting his eyelids at Harry as he brushed the side of his hair like he was tucking a stray strand away.

"You are a fool," Harry cursed, even though he was amused.

"It must have been so hard for you to hide your true feelings this whole time, my dearest gay best friend," Tom said as he took a step closer to Harry to touch him.

"If you touch me I'm going to break your fingers," Harry threatened.

"Gay lives matter too, you know?" Tom said and chuckled when Harry glared at him.

"Please, shut up," Harry said through gritted teeth.

"Well, now that the truth is out you don't have to pretend anymore," Tom taunted, and Harry shook his head.

"You did say you were going to surprise me. I'm surprised. Although you start slow, but you do work fast...."

"Nothing happened with Jade. This is all a misunderstanding," Harry said defensively.

"By that, am I to assume it's Jade's undies? Maybe it was a good thing she decided to stop by your place yesterday...."

"Can you just shut up and mind your damned business?" Harry hissed at Tom irritably, and Tom chuckled as he raised his hands in surrender.

"Alright. Fine. No need to get antsy even if Jade is our sister and her undies are in your room. I will get out of your hair after I check on her. She is still here, as you said, right?" Tom said, and Harry glanced in the direction of Jade's room with narrowed eyes.

So she was not out yet? Why was she hiding in her room after causing such trouble for him? Harry mused in disbelief.

"I need to have a word with her. We will join you in the living room," Harry said, and Tom grinned.

"Just a word, huh?"

"Fuck off," Harry said, and Tom chuckled as he walked away.

Chapter 499 Finders Keepers

Harry wasn't sure how he was going to face his father or even face all three of them together at the same time. Candace and Tom were annoying enough. His dad would be worse.

He could tell they were probably laughing at his expense right now. And the person responsible for it all was hiding here, leaving him to face all the embarrassment alone?

No, way! There was no way he would let her hide. He would be damned if he faced that alone.

Harry headed for Jade's door and knocked on it, making Jade's heart skip as her gaze shot to the door.

Who was there? Jade mused as she dove under the duvet and covered herself. She couldn't face anyone yet. Opening the door meant the possibility of facing Harry. She couldn't. Not yet. She needed time to work up her courage and assure herself that it wasn't a big deal. She wondered if this was how Adam and Eve felt while hiding in the garden after sinning against God.

Harry knocked again when he heard the movement on the bed but got no response.

"I know you are in there. If you don't say a word, I'm going to assume you want me to come inside, and I will," Harry said, and when Jade said nothing, he turned the knob and opened the door.

Seeing the way she had covered herself up on the bed, Harry didn't know whether to feel amused her to be mad at her.

"I take it you are hiding because you know what you've done," Harry said as he shut the door behind him and rested his back against it.

Jade said nothing as she held on tightly to the edge of the duvet and pressed her lips together to keep herself from saying anything despite how hot she was beginning to feel.

"It was one thing to shower in my bathroom. I got the message. But what were you thinking leaving your...." Harry paused and closed his eyes, unable to bring himself to say the words.

"Why did you leave that in there when you knew I wouldn't be coming back alone?" Harry asked with a frown.

"It wasn't intentional," Jade said in a small voice.

"Did you say something?" Harry asked patiently.

Jade closed her eyes, "I said it wasn't intentional," Jade repeated.

"I can't hear you. Do you plan on having this conversation while hiding under that duvet like a kid? Are you going to stay there all day?" Harry asked as he moved closer to the bed and tugged on the duvet, but Jade held on to it firmly.

"Don't! I can't look at you right now," she murmured.

"You've got to be kidding me," Harry said with a scoff as he got on the bed and pulled on the duvet while she kept trying to hold on to it.

"This is so childish for a smart lady like you," Harry said with a shake of his head, and Jade pouted as she let go of the duvet and sat up, and Harry pulled it away from her body and threw it aside.

"I'm sorry. I didn't mean to leave it in your room. It fell in my hurry to leave your room when I heard the doorbell," Jade rushed to explain without meeting his gaze, and Harry sighed as he looked at her face, which was glistening with sweat.

So it wasn't intentional. Well, that meant she must be feeling more embarrassed than he was. It served her right. He could as well return a dose of all the taunts he had received so far.

"Jamal and Candace saw it. Tom already heard about it too, and I'm sure my dad is aware of it too," Harry said, and Jade bit her lower lip.

"You told them?"

"I didn't have to. Jamal obviously hasn't been taught to keep people's private business to himself. If Candace weren't my sister, I would think he was a Hank," Harry said, and Jade glared at him.

"What do you mean by that?"

"Do you think you are in any position to be mad at me right now? Jamal thinks it's mine. He thinks I wear the same undies as his mother. Can you believe that?" Harry asked incredulously, and Jade tittered before she could stop herself.

"You think this is funny?" Harry asked, and she giggled as she bobbed her head.

"If you think about it, it's funny. Or maybe not," she added when Harry glared at her.

"Your stupid brother was even making gay jokes," Harry said, but there was no annoyance or irritation in his voice this time.

"We both know Tom was joking. I'm sorry. I didn't mean to put you in an awkward position," Jade said without meeting his gaze.

"You are almost always putting me in awkward positions, esquire. And I can't say I like it," Harry said, and Jade raised a brow.

"When did I ever put you in an awkward position before now?"

"The whole stuff with Aurora. Didn't you set me up on a date with her after I asked you not to?" Harry said, and Jade rolled her eyes.

"That's just twice. And you could have ended things after that night...." Jade let the rest of her words trail off when Harry shook his head and started to rise from the bed.

"Fine, I was wrong. I'm sorry. I will explain the situation to them if you want me to," Jade offered as she moved closer to him. Although she hoped he wouldn't let her go through with it. That would be too embarrassing for her.

Harry sighed as he moved away from her, "I don't think that would be necessary. They will believe what they want to regardless. And I don't owe them any explanation anyway. I thought you deliberately left it there, but since you didn't, let's forget about it. I left it under my pillow. You can pick it up later...."

"Or maybe not," Harry said as he rose from the bed and headed for the door while Jade remained where she sat as she watched him leave while wondering what he meant by or maybe not.

Unable to resist the urge to tease her, Harry turned to her when he got to the door, "You came with more than one pair of that, right?" Harry asked with a naughty grin at the thought that she might not be wearing undies beneath the shorts she was wearing.

His lips twitched when she blushed as she asked, "Why?"

"I'm just wondering if you are wearing anything under your shorts," Harry said, and Jade's jaw dropped.

"Harry? Are you talking naughty..."

"Why do you seem so surprised? You talked naughty to me first over the phone, remember?"

"But that was different...."

"It's okay when you do it, not when I do it?" Harry asked, and before Jade could respond, he asked again, "By the way, I can see you are not wearing a bra. You should wear one when we have people around unless you don't mind me staring at your boobs in the presence of others," Harry said, cutting off whatever she wanted to say as he observed the way her boobs were outlined in the tank top she was wearing.

"So, are you wearing panties?" Harry asked, and Jade cleared her throat as she folded both hands in front of her.

"Yes," Jade said, ignoring the embarrassment she was feeling.

"Good then. I don't have to give it back," Harry said, and Jade raised a brow.

"Was that why you said maybe not? Do you plan to keep it?" Jade asked curiously since that didn't sound like something Harry would do.

"Yes. Finders keepers," Harry drawled, and Jade couldn't tell why; as surprising as Harry's words were, the thought of Harry keeping her underwear made butterflies flutter in her belly.

"Jamal found it, not you..."

"He found it in MY bedroom. It's mine. I think you should wear it on our first night...."

"Our first night?" Jade asked when Harry paused.

"On second thoughts. It doesn't have to be at night. Our first time together. I would love to see it on you," Harry said, and Jade felt her mouth go dry.

"Will you give me a heads up to wear it when the time comes?"

"I might be the one to put it on you and take it off you since I'm keeping it," Harry said with a wink and chuckled when Jade opened her mouth and shut it speechlessly.

"WOW! Do you have multiple personalities?" Jade asked, not understanding how he could make such a personality switch so quickly. There was no way this person was the same Harry that had stayed so still last night as he cuddled her to sleep.

"If I did, which personality would you choose? Playboy Harry or Virgin Harry?" Harry asked with a slightly raised brow.

"I don't know...."

"I thought as much," Harry said with a smirk.

"Would you like me to tint my hair and get piercings like your brother too? Maybe get a tattoo of your name on my chest?" Harry asked, and when Jade kept looking at him in confusion as though she was trying to figure out what he was saying or what he was thinking.

"Weren't you the one who told Tom that good girls love bad boys? You are one of the reasons he did all that double personality shit to Lucy, aren't you?" He asked and chuckled when her mouth fell open in surprise.

"Don't look so surprised. Get your pretty bottom off the bed and come to the living room before you make them think I'm doing something in here with you," Harry said as he turned the knob and walked out of the room, leaving Jade staring at his back speechlessly.

Tom told Harry what she said about good girls liking bad guys? Was that the reason he had been acting that way? This couldn't be just an act. He was too good at making her uncomfortable for it to be all an act.

Was he really going to keep her thong? What would he do with it? She imagined him sniffing it and masturbating to it but quickly discarded the thought. Harry wasn't the sort of person to do that.

Or maybe he was? Was she ever going to be able to figure him out?

Chapter 500 No Relationship To Reconsider

As Harry walked into the living room, all eyes turned to him, and he could see the gleam in their eyes as though they all wanted to say something but couldn't because Jamal was present.

"I had no idea you had a similar taste in undies as Candace," Aaron, who was seated in a wheelchair, said with a grin, and Harry sighed.

"Dad..."

"Don't worry. I love you the way you are. I don't mind getting you some for Christmas...."

"Jamal, that isn't mine. It belongs to a friend," Harry cut in through gritted teeth, ignoring the chuckle of the others as he focused on the kid.

The last thing he wanted was for Jamal to tell Lucy and the others that he wore feminine undies. He needed to clear that up immediately.

"Tom?" Jamal asked, and Tom shook his head immediately.

"Nah. There is no way that is mine. I don't wear female undies like your uncle," Tom said, and Harry threw the empty plastic bottle of water on the table at Tom as Candace and Aaron laughed.

"Then who?" Jamal asked curiously.

"Not that it is your business, but it belongs to a female friend," Harry said, and Jamal nodded.

"Is it the lawyer lady? Does your female friend live in your bedroom? Why are her undies on the floor of your bedroom? Is she your girlfriend?" Jamal asked, and Harry turned to Candace for help.

Maybe he didn't really know much about kids, but he wasn't sure it was normal for a child of Jamal's age to be asking so many questions or such questions in the first place.

"Tell us, Harry," Aaron urged him in a taunting tone.

"It's mine. It fell off the laundry basket when I went to drop off Harry's clothes in his bedroom. Thanks for helping me find it," Jade said from the doorway, and all eyes turned to her.

"Laundry? They must have fixed the washing machine in my absence...."

"Dad, one more word, and I'm going to kick you out of my house. Maybe you will feel better living with Tom," Harry threatened, and Aaron chuckled.

"It's not a big deal, Jamal. We are used to things like this happening all the time. Jade is like a sister to Harry in almost the same way she is to me. Jade's undies fall off the laundry basket often and litter even my bedroom. My bedroom is crawling with them...."

"Tom!" Jade called in a warning hiss.

"Harry said you are like a sister"

"You bast..." Harry let the rest of the cuss trail off because of Jamal, who was watching, and he lunged at Tom, but Tom was quick to move away, and Jamal laughed as Harry tried to catch Tom and went to help his uncle.

"You don't have to feel too embarrassed. We all know nothing happened. We just wanted to ruffle his feathers and make him uncomfortable," Aaron winked at Jade, and she smiled.

"Don't you think you went too far, especially with Jamal present?" Jade asked as she sat on the space beside Candace.

"He will be fine," Aaron said with a grin as he watched Harry throw things at Tom. He was relieved that they could all be laughing this way in such a short time.

Although Jade wanted to tell Candace to caution Jamal and teach him how not to pry into people's private business or share details of a person's life without their permission, she refrained from doing so.

She knew how touchy mothers could be when told they were not raising their kids properly.

Besides, she was in no position to point out such a flaw in anyone when she had been mad at Lucy for being tight-lipped and hoarding Harry's private information.

So instead, she said, "Can you ask Jamal not to tell everyone else about this? It's embarrassing enough as it is," Jade said, and Candace smiled.

"Don't worry, he won't," she assured her.

"By the way, why don't I see the nurse Harry mentioned would be coming with you?" Jade asked, looking around as she wondered why the nurse wasn't with them.

"She will come over later in the day," Aaron said, and Jade nodded.

"We haven't had enough time to talk alone. How are you?" Jade asked in a quiet voice as she focused on Candace.

"Not bad, I guess. Can you show me to the kitchen? I need to put the leftover breakfast away," Candace said, and they both rose as Jade led her to the kitchen.

Candace paused in the dining to pick up the food pack, "You told him how you feel already?" Candace asked immediately as they walked into the kitchen.

"Yeah. I sort of did so last night. Why?" Jade asked as she watched Candace store the food in the refrigerator.

"I told him about Aurora shopping for wedding dresses," Candace said, and Jade giggled.

"She never said she was shopping for wedding dresses," Jade said in Aurora's defence.

"Not from the way I heard it. She sounded like she would shop for wedding dresses if Harry so much as kissed her cheeks. I had to let him know," Candace said as she turned to look at Jade.

"Well, from our brief conversation, I found out that Harry likes you too. So you shouldn't hold back in going for him. Not that I think you're holding back anyway, seeing how you're already leaving your thong in his bedroom and showering in his bathroom," Candace said with a knowing grin.

"Did he tell you I showered in his bathroom?" Jade asked, wondering how she knew.

"He didn't have to unless you are telling me Harry uses body care products that smell like you," Candace said with a wink, and Jade giggled.

"Were you there when he saw it? What was his reaction?" Jade asked, and Candace giggled as she told her how Harry had looked very embarrassed and sent her out of his bedroom for teasing him.

"It wasn't intentional, though. It fell off while I was taking my stuff to the guest room," Jade explained with a grin.

"I thought so too seeing how shocked he was when Jamal found it, and how you hid inside. He seems like a very decent guy. You'd be good for each other," Candace said, and Jade flashed her a happy smile.

"I know, right? All I'm waiting for is for the anniversary to be over so he can ask me to be his girlfriend officially," Jade said dreamily, and Candace smiled.

"I could teach you a thing or two if you want to seduce him into asking you to be his girlfriend sooner," Candace offered, and Jade laughed softly.

"At this point, it's safe to say I'm the one being seduced. Harry can't be seduced into changing his mind," Jade said, and Candace laughed.

"That's good to know," Candace said with a sigh, and then she looked at Jade with serious eyes.

"Thank you, Jade," Candace said, and Jade raised a brow.

"What for?"

"For convincing me to come to Ludus to meet them. I know it's probably too soon to say this, but I'm glad I listened to you. They are wonderful and more receptive than I could have expected. I may not have known them for up to twenty-four hours but I feel so comfortable. They feel like home already. It's all so perfect that I still can't believe it," Candace said, and Jade smiled as she stepped closer and brushed away the tears that had dropped from Candace's eyes.

"You are welcome, twin sister-in-law," Jade whispered as she embraced her, and Candace giggled as she pulled away.

"So now that we've cleared that up. We still have some unfinished business," Jade said, and Candace looked at her with questioning eyes.

"The case?"

"No. First, we have to go clubbing, and now that things have turned out this way, you have to reconsider your relationship with Matt," Jade said, and Candace shook her head.

"There is no relationship to reconsider. He has moved on. He only came to the hospital to find closure," Candace said, and Jade raised a brow.

"Was that what he told you?"

"Yeah. So you see? There is nothing left to reconsider," Candace said with a shrug, and Jade sighed. She had thought there was more to their relationship than that. Could Matt really have moved on so quickly? She would have to ask Bryan about that.

"Fine. Who needs men anyway? Let's plan to go clubbing. You need some time off to celebrate," Jade said and then paused when something else occurred to her.

She cocked her head to the side as she looked at Candace, "By the way, what's your plan now? Do you want to move in with Harry or return to Varis?" Jade asked, and Candace sighed.

"I still need to give that some thought. Although I like that Jamal might have a lot of positive male influence being here, but I have to think about law school and Jamal's school," Candace explained, and Jade nodded.

"You could apply for a transfer if you want to. I'm sure Tom or Harry could help you get it done very quickly," Jade said, and Candace sighed.

"I will still need some time to think about it. In the meantime, we will remain at Tom's house if he doesn't mind having us there," Candace said, and Jade nodded.

"Tom won't mind. You can remain at my brother's house while I remain at your brother's house," Jade said with a wink as she linked their arms together, and Candace laughed as Jade pulled her out of the kitchen back to the living room where Harry and Tom were already seated playing