

Wild Night 511

Chapter 511 Surprise Visits

Neither Lucy nor Sonia were ignorant of the stares they were receiving or the attention they had drawn from the moment they walked into the restaurant where Sonia was meant to meet with her Editor and the movie producer.

She had chosen to meet with them in a restaurant because she didn't want her contract with the producer to be signed in her editor's office. Not when she was cutting ties with him after the meeting.

Thankfully the movie producer and editor were already waiting by the time they arrived, and they rose to welcome the ladies.

"Miss Smith, it's a pleasure meeting you. I've heard so much about you," The producer, a man in his early forties, said before her editor could do any introduction.

"I hope you heard nice things?" Sonia asked as she extended a hand to shake him, feeling confident with Lucy by her side.

"Only nice things, I assure you," he said before turning to look at Lucy.

"Miss Perry, I had no idea I would have the pleasure of meeting you today," the producer said with a pleasant smile, and Lucy looked at him with a confused smile.

"Have we met before?" she asked, wondering why he sounded like he knew her.

"I don't believe we have. I recognize you from your interview," He explained, and Lucy flashed him an awkward smile. Upstodatee from n(0)/vø/lbIn/(co/m

"Ah! I see."

She had wishfully believed she had left all that behind her in Ludus, but it was obvious that a lot of people had seen the interview, and thanks to Anita, people she knew nothing about all knew her face and life story.

"I saw the scandal last night. Are you okay?" Sonia's editor asked with concern.

"Yes, I'm fine. Thanks. Let's get down to business," Sonia said curtly. It was too late for him to be acting like he cared about her.

"Is it true that you are breaking up with Bryan?" the producer asked curiously after they were all seated, and Lucy raised a brow.

"Will you call off the contract if the rumors are true and we are breaking up?" Sonia asked before Lucy could speak.

"Of course not. I was merely curious..."

"Then, if you don't mind, I would like us to stick to business instead of discussing about my private life," Sonia said with a polite smile, and the producer gave her a nod.

A waiter came to attend to them, and after that, they spent the next hour discussing the storyline and what adjustments were needed, as well as the perfect cast for the movie.

Lucy remained quiet most of the meeting as she merely listened and observed Sonia do her thing. She spoke only when spoken to.

Once they were done signing the contract, the movie producer turned to Lucy, "Is it true that I-Global will be signing Bryan Hank?"

"Where did you hear that?" Sonia asked at the same time as Lucy since it was not public knowledge yet that I-Global was starting an entertainment agency or signing Bryan.

"The CEO of Golden Star said it. He released a video a short while ago saying he kicked Bryan out of the agency. Didn't you see it? It's probably the most watched entertainment news on the internet today," the producer said, and immediately both Lucy and Sonia dug into their handbags for their phone.

"He didn't kick Bryan out. Bryan left on his own," Sonia hissed irritably as she unlocked her phone.

The first thing they both noticed was the missed calls from Tom. He tried to reach them both, but their phones had been on silent mode.

They both ignored the notifications as they tried to find the latest entertainment news online.

"I-Global just released a press statement about Bryan," Lucy said in surprise when she stumbled on an article about Bryan's interview while searching for Paul's video.

"They did?" Sonia asked, moving closer to Lucy to share her phone while the producer and Sonia's editor also took out their phones to see what was happening.

Neither of them on the table said a word as they read through the article, and Lucy played a short clip of Bryan talking about his love for Sonia.

"See? He is not breaking up. You will fix things," Lucy said with a happy smile as she turned to Sonia, whose eyes were teary already.

"I thought he beat up Derek because he was upset over our fight," Sonia said with a slight frown, feeling sorry for not listening to him as much as she should have.

"The good thing is that you both realize you screwed up. So you can fix things," Lucy said happily, and they both looked up when the producer cleared his throat, and they remembered they weren't alone.

"I'm glad to know you are not breaking up. I'm looking forward to the movie adaptation of the novel you are writing about your relationship," the producer said, and Sonia smiled.

"Thanks."

"Do you think Mr. Hank would be interested in investing in this movie if I give Bryan the lead role?" the producer asked Lucy hopefully.

Although he had been planning to shoot this movie for a while now, he didn't have enough sponsors that would enable him the kind of money he would need to pay A-list actors like Bryan Hank.

He had planned to make use of upcoming actors that wouldn't charge too much, but with a major sponsor like Thomas Hank, he would be able to afford Bryan Hank and perhaps one or two other exceptional actors. That would definitely bring his career to the limelight.

"Are you asking me as an employee of I-Global or as the CEO's girlfriend?" Lucy asked, and the producer smiled politely.

"You are both. Are you not?" the producer asked, undeterred by Lucy's coldness.

Lucy sighed, "Yes, I am. Maybe you should write a good proposal. I'm sure the businessman in him would be willing to invest in it if your proposal is good enough," Lucy suggested.

"Could you both put in a good word for me?" the producer asked hopefully.

"Is that why you want to adapt my story? Because you want to take advantage of my connection to the Hanks?" Sonia asked, and the producer looked at her with a frown, feeling insulted.

"I beg your pardon. I've been wanting to meet you long before your fake engagement with Bryan Hank. And as a matter of fact, I met with Mr. Conner here earlier that day to discuss the contract process," the producer reminded Sonia stiffly.

"Yeah. You're right. I'm sorry," Sonia said, recalling that she had been waiting for her editor to come to tell her about his meeting with the producer when Bryan showed up and proposed to her.

"Think about it. It will be a win for us all if this movie is as successful as I know it will be. Apart from the fact that Mr. Hank would make a lot of money from it, this will be your first adapted novel, and we can keep working together to move your stories from paper to screen. And my career. This would really help me a lot," the producer said, and Sonia exchanged a look with Lucy.

"I can't influence his decision, but if your proposal is good, I could encourage him to go for it if he seeks my opinion," Lucy said, and the producer gave her a nod.

"I will very much appreciate that. I should be on my way now," he said as he rose, taking with him a copy of their contract.

The editor rose too, but Sonia looked at him, "I would like to speak with you privately before you leave," Sonia said, and Lucy excused herself from the table just as the producer left.

Lucy dialed Tom's line as she headed for the restroom, and Tom, who was in the car with Bryan on their way to the airstrip, received the call almost immediately.

"Hey, Jewel! I'm sorry I missed your call earlier. I was busy..."

"Yeah. I noticed. I read the press release. My phone was in silent mode. Hence I missed your call," Lucy explained.

"Are you going somewhere?" she asked when she noticed that he sounded like he was inside a car.

"Yes. I'm on my way out," Tom said since he and Bryan had agreed to surprise Lucy and Sonia.

Neither of them was to let them know that they were coming over, and they had passed that message across to Harry, Jade, Mia, and Jeff too, not to let it slip.

"Out where?"

"Uhm, something urgent came up, so I'm flying out to take care of it," Tom said, wanting to go with a half-truth.

"Is everything alright? Where are you flying to?" Lucy asked with concern, and Tom realized that if he didn't change the subject, she was going to keep asking more questions until he was forced to tell her the truth.

"Everything is fine. I can't tell you the details right now. I will tell you about it later. How is Sonia doing?" Tom asked, and Bryan, who had been busy on his phone, turned to look at Tom this time.

"She is fine," Lucy said and then told him about the meeting with the producer.

"I don't mind investing in it if his proposal is good. But my financial advisors would have to take a look at his proposal to determine if it's worth my investment," Tom explained.

"Sure. Have you seen Aaron today? How is he doing?" Lucy asked curiously as she walked into the restroom and stood by the mirrors to check her appearance.

"Yes, I have. He has been discharged and is home now with Candace and Jamal," Tom said, and Lucy nodded.

"That's cool. My mom told me you helped get her out of the station. Thanks," Lucy said, and Tom nodded.

"You don't have to thank me for that. What's your plan for the rest of the day?" Tom asked, and Lucy told him of the plans they had made.

"Alright then. Keep me posted. I love you," Tom said before hanging up.

"They will most likely be at the cinema by the time we arrive," Tom informed Bryan as he glanced at his wristwatch.

After the phone call, Lucy used the restroom before returning to join Sonia. By the time she got to the table, the editor had left.

"You are done already?" Lucy asked, and Sonia sighed as she shook her head.

"I couldn't do it. I couldn't bring myself to fire him for that. Everyone makes mistakes, right? And it's the first time he has done something like that," Sonia said, and Lucy smiled.

"So, what's your plan? You're not going on with the app or website thing again?" Lucy asked curiously.

"I will. We talked about it, and he's going to look into it," Sonia said, and Lucy nodded.

"That's cool too."

"So, I was thinking. I think I should go to Ludus. I need to resolve things with Bryan," Sonia said thoughtfully.

"Sure. We are going back tomorrow..."

"No. I don't think I can wait until tomorrow."

"But we are supposed to go see your mom," Lucy reminded her.

"She has waited all these years. I'm sure she can wait some weeks more for me to visit her with Bryan. I want to book the next available flight. It should be a surprise."

Chapter 512 A Surprise

As Evelyn and the others highlighted from the car after the driver pulled to a stop in front of the airport, Evelyn paused to take out her phone from her handbag when it started ringing.

"It's Jade," she informed the others as she received the call while they walked into the airport.

"I wonder why Lucy is yet to give us a call," Janet complained to her husband.

"Maybe she is busy, or she probably hasn't seen your text," Andrew said as he rubbed a hand down her arm in a reassuring manner.

"Hey, mom! Are you guys still coming today?" Jade asked the moment Evelyn received the phone call.

"Yeah. We just got to the airport. How are things going over there?" Evelyn asked curiously, and Jade brought her up to speed with the interview they had done.

"Oh, that's great! I guess Bryan has his head in the right place now?" Evelyn asked hopefully.

"Yes, I think so. As a matter of fact, Bryan and Tom are flying down to Heden as we speak. Bryan wants to resolve things with Sonia, and Tom wants to go on a date with Lucy. It's a surprise, so you can't let them know."

"Sure. It's not like I'm going to pick up my phone to tell them anything or bump into them at the airport anyway," Evelyn said dryly.

"Do you need me to come to pick you up from the airport? I suppose you're stopping first at Tom's, right?" Jade asked curiously, wanting to know if she needed to go home to receive them since Tom wasn't around.

"You don't have to. I will have Adolf pick us up from the airport as usual. Is Candace and Jamal at Tom's? We picked up a couple of items for Jamal, and I can't wait to see him," Evelyn said, and Jade smiled.

While the men had busied themselves watching football and playing games, Evelyn and Janet had gone shopping for Jamal.

"No. They are over here at Harry's with Aaron but will be leaving for Tom's later in the evening. They are bonding," Jade said, and Evelyn smiled.

"That sounds lovely. We will stop over at Harry's to see them before heading home."

"Alright. We will be expecting you. Let me know when you get here. And give my love to dad," Jade said before hanging up.

"What did she say?" Desmond asked curiously, since he had been slowly walking beside her while Janet and Andrew were ahead of them.

Evelyn relayed everything to him as they hurried their steps to join Janet and Andrew, who were waiting in the queue to check-in.

As the elders got into the plane, a cab stopped in front of the airport, and Lucy and Sonia got out.

"I don't know why, but I still don't think this is a good idea," Lucy said as she took out her luggage bag, which she was yet to open since she arrived.

"Why? If this was you and Tom, wouldn't you be doing this?" Sonia asked as they kept walking in hurried steps.

Their flight was scheduled to leave in less than ten minutes, and they were in a hurry to get in on time.

"Of course I will. I mean, I'm not just very comfortable with the whole surprise thing. The plan was to leave in the Jet tomorrow...."

"Don't you miss Tom? I thought you'd be happy about going back to be with him instead of being stuck with me here," Sonia said, and Lucy rolled her eyes.

"That is not the point. Can I at least call Tom to let him know I'm coming back?"

"No. What part of the surprise do you not understand? If you tell Tom, then it's no longer going to be a surprise. I'm sure he will be pleasantly surprised to see you...."

"He isn't even in Ludus right now," Lucy explained with a sigh.

"I see. Is that why you are trying to dissuade me from going? Because your man won't be there?" Sonia asked, eyeing her suspiciously, and Lucy shook her head.

"Let's have it your way then," Lucy said as they stopped to check-in.

Once they were done and settled in the plane, Sonia turned to Lucy, "So how about you tell me everything now?" she asked with a pleasant smile as the plane took off.

While Lucy brought Sonia up to speed with the Jonas family story, in some seats ahead of them, Evelyn and Janet were engrossed in a story of their own as Evelyn told Janet how she had met Desmond.

"Sonia? Lucy?" Desmond called in surprise as he stopped by their seat on his way to use the restroom.

What were they doing on the plane when Tom and Bryan were headed to Heden for their sake?

"Desmond!" Sonia said as she exchanged a look with Lucy.

From the surprise on Lucy's face, Sonia could tell that, like her, Lucy had forgotten that the elders were also flying down to Ludus.

"Are my boys aware that you are coming?" Desmond asked curiously.

"No. We want to surprise them," Sonia said, flashing Desmond a smile, and he chuckled.

Wasn't this funny? He had heard from Evelyn that they were not to say anything to Lucy and Sonia about his boys' surprise visit, and even though he knew it was safe to tell the girls now since it was obvious the surprise was not going to work anymore, he was in a mischievous mood.

They were all in for a surprise themselves. He only wished he could see the look on the faces of his sons when they found out they had surprised themselves. The surprises were about to be surprised.

"A surprise. That is nice. A surprise is always good. I'm glad to see that Lucy worked her magic on you, and you're fine now," Desmond said, and Sonia smiled at him.

"Thank you," Sonia said, and he could tell she wasn't just thanking him for what he had said but also for taking her side and comforting her while she cried earlier

"It's good to see you again, Lucy. You look good," Desmond said, and she flashed him a smile.

"Same here. Are my parents on the plane?" Lucy asked as she looked ahead of them.

She was ashamed to admit that she had forgotten to return their calls. Although she would most likely have gotten around to calling them after she was settled in the evening, but at the moment, the thought had escaped her.

"Yes, they are. Your parents are over there," Desmond said as he showed them where his wife and the Perrys were seated.

"But I suggest you surprise them too. Don't let them know you're on the plane. I will keep your secret," Desmond said with a wink before excusing himself to use the restroom.

He couldn't wait to see all their shocked faces in a couple of hours; Desmond thought with a chuckle as he walked away.

Away from there in Harry's apartment, Jade raised a brow when she noticed how Harry kept staring at her as they both settled on the couch after arranging his kitchen and putting groceries in their place.

They had both decided to go grocery shopping on their way back from the company and had arrived home to see that Candace and Jamal were napping with Aaron in his bedroom.

"What?"

"I'm still waiting for you to tell me about this double date plan of yours. Who are you bringing with you?" Harry asked, and Jade giggled.

"Why are you so bothered about that? Don't tell me you are jealous," Jade teased, enjoying herself.

Of course, she had no one in mind for the double date she had suggested. It had been a spur-of-the-moment decision, and she needed some time to work out the details, but seeing Harry's worried reaction, she was beginning to enjoy herself. Now she wished she had someone she would take with her. If for nothing, to see how Harry would handle his jealousy.

"Is there another male in your life?" Harry asked, and although Jade wanted to taunt him, she decided not to when she saw the seriousness in his eyes.

"No. But I could come up with one just for the date," Jade suggested, and Harry shook his head.

"I don't think that is necessary. I plan to tell her how I feel about you during the date, so it's best you don't go through that stress. I will handle things with Aurora," Harry said, but Jade had other ideas.

"It's not that I don't trust you to handle it, but you were there when I told her about the double date, and she liked the idea. I would hate to go back on my words," Jade said with a shrug, and Harry sighed.

"I'm saying this because I do not want any sort of drama later on in our relationship like your brothers have in theirs. I don't see any reason to bring in any guy...."

"Alright. Fine. I see your point. But I don't have to bring anyone to show up on your date, right? My date could be held up at work by a slave driver boss, and the three of us can end up having lunch or dinner or whatever alone," Jade said, and Harry shook his head.

"Don't you think she would be upset?" Harry asked quietly.

Although he had no intention of going into a relationship with her, he liked Aurora, and he didn't want to offend her.

"Who? Aurora?"

"Yes. How do you think she would feel when she eventually gets to know we are in a relationship? She would feel like you were trying to make a fool of her by setting her up with me. Don't you think so?" Harry asked, and Jade pressed her lips together thoughtfully.

"I could explain to her. It wasn't intentional," Jade said with a wince.

"I think you should let me meet with her alone. It's best I make her believe I'm the one who is interested in you and trying to get you to date me. That way, she won't be mad at you. It would be too embarrassing for her when our relationship becomes official, and she remembers how you showed up on the date," Harry said reasonably.

"Or we could just say it's an arranged marriage, and my family is forcing me into getting involved with you," Jade said with a pout, and Harry chuckled.

"So you're saying I should let you meet with her alone?" Jade asked, and Harry nodded.

"That's the least price you can pay for putting me in such an awkward situation," Harry said, and Jade sighed.

"Alright. I will come up with an excuse not to join you," Jade said thoughtfully.

She could always find another reason to be at the venue that day without joining their table. She would be too restless to do anything else with her time when she knew her man would be on a date with another lady.

Perhaps she could convince Lucy and Candace to have a date with her on that day? It won't be bad to bond with Harry's twin sister and cousin while they all kept their eyes on her man, would it? Perfect!

"What are you planning this time?" Harry asked wearily when he noticed the mischievous smile on her face.

"It just occurred to me that I need to bond with Candace and Lucy since they're the important females in your life apart from me. Also, it occurred to me that they're both going to end up being my sisters-in-law. I have to hang out more often with them, what do you think?" Jade asked with a happy smile when Harry kept looking at her suspiciously.

"Do whatever makes you up," Harry said, and Jade nodded.

"I intend to. Thank you," she said as she leaned forward and kissed his cheek.

Chapter 513 Vacation Plans

Amy stood over the bed where Miley lay covered up with her duvet, "I've had enough of this, Miley! Get out of the bed," Amy hissed as she pulled off the duvet.

She was about to get dressed for them to leave for the interview she had scheduled with the men applying to be Miley's potential husband, yet Miley, who she was doing all of these for, was still on the bed.

"I don't want to," Miley said with a sniffle.

"That's fine. Since you want to keep sulking, I guess I should call them and cancel all the appointments. And then I will call your parents as well...."

"You can't do that!" Miley protested as she sat up to look at Amy with sad eyes.

"Yes, I can. And I will if you keep being a baby about this. You've been sulking for almost forty eight hours already. If you don't want to get out of bed or go on with the plans, you should as well stay in the hospital bed instead," Amy said with a frown.

Although she felt sorry for Miley, she was also mad. She was sorry that Miley had to hear Lucas who she liked compare her to someone like Rachel, and she was sorry that Miley's feelings was hurt, but she was angry at the way Miley was going about the whole thing feeling sorry for herself.

The man didn't want her, big deal! Why couldn't she just move on? The most annoying part of it was that Miley had blamed her for Lucas' reaction. Asking her why she told Lucas about it without her consent.

She had wanted to speak with Lucas alone so that Miley wouldn't have to deal with the rejection, but that had obviously not worked out for them all.

"What if we call your boss...."

"No! We are not calling Lucy!"

"But she agreed to meet with me the other day...."

"That was before her twin brother stormed out of this apartment angrily. Don't you think she would be upset if she finds out you're trying to get to him through her again after upsetting him...."

"All I want is to speak with him and apologize to him...."

"No, Miley! Leave him alone. He has made his stance clear, and I honestly can't fault him for it. He is dealing with personal stuff of his own right now, and even if he wasn't, it really is selfish of us to...."

"I'm not going to ask him to marry me or anything, I promise. I only want to hear from him and apologize to..."

"I don't care, Miley. Just let him be. Please. I'm the one who will have to face them after all this," Amy reminded her as she went to sit on the bed beside Miley.

"He doesn't want to have anything to do with us. We have to focus on you. You are not in any position to be worrying about someone else right now. Forget about Lucas and focus on yourself. I don't want you to spend what little time you have left looking so sad or miserable," Amy pleaded as she patted Miley's hair.

"Alright," Miley said with a resigned sigh.

"Good. Now quite a number of fine looking men responded to the anonymous ad I put out two nights ago. I spent some time texting with some of them and checking out their social media page, and I was able to choose some candidates. We are meeting with a couple of them today to interview them," Amy announced.

"Do you think maybe I'm making a mistake?" Miley asked, and Amy sighed.

"Now you think you're making a mistake because Lucas won't marry you? Was he the reason you made this decision?" Amy asked patiently and Miley shook her head.

"Not at all."

"Good. The only mistake I think you are making is not informing your parents about your health and about this decision. They would be very heart broken if they find out about this when it's too late," Amy said as Miley got off the bed.

"We've been through this already, Amy. You know how they are. I won't be able to go out anymore or enjoy what little time I have left. They're going to keep fussing and make sure I remain in the hospital receiving treatment that won't work. They will stop at nothing to find or develop new drugs. That's not how I want to spend the short time I have left," Miley said, and Amy shook her head.

"You know what? Let's not talk about this anymore. Let's get ready for the interview. The earlier we get this done, the better," Miley said before Amy could say anything, and headed for the bathroom to shower.

Although she wanted them to talk some more about this, Amy said nothing as she rose from the bed to go dress up.

"Amy?" Miley called before Amy could leave the room, and Amy turned to look at her.

"Promise me you won't tell them about it? I have to do it myself when I'm ready," Miley said, and Amy looked at her for some seconds without saying anything.

"When do you think you're going to be ready to tell them about it?"

"I don't know. I will have to figure out a way around it. But just don't say a word to them. Let me do it myself when I'm ready. Please," Miley added, and Amy sighed

"You realize that everyone is going to be mad at me when they find out I was aware, and said nothing, right?" Amy asked with a worried frown knowing how Miley's parents could be, and her mother too.

"They won't know if we don't tell. You can act as surprised as everyone else when I make the announcement," Miley suggested.

"And the pregnancy? How do I explain it if we go on with the surrogacy plan before you tell them?" Amy asked, and Miley let air out through her lips.

"That's true. Don't worry, I will explain everything to them after we have settled the marriage and surrogacy stuff," Miley promised, and although Amy was not comfortable with the whole idea, she decided not to worry about it and focus on being there for best friend.

"Fine. Let's just get ready. Hopefully by the end of the day, we will get you a husband," Amy said, and Miley smiled.

"That's why I love you. Thank you for doing this for me," Miley said as she went to embrace Amy before walking away from there to the bathroom to shower.

Although she was still sad about how things ended with Lucas, she agreed with Amy. She couldn't spend what little time she had left worrying and wishing for what could have been. She had to move on with her life and with her plans.

She made up her mind not to be too picky. She didn't want to waste too much time on this. All she needed was to find a good mannered fine looking young man with a solid family history.

By the time Miley got out of the bathroom, Amy was dressed already and had laid out clothes for her on the bed. She was now sitting on the bed, busy with her phone.

"Are you really sure you want to be my surrogate? I could find someone else to do it. You don't have to make such a major life decision for my sake," Miley said, and Amy smiled.

"I know I don't have to, but I want to. This is the least I can do for you," Amy said, waving off Miley's concern without looking at her.

"Are you sure you won't regret this?" Miley asked, and Amy dropped her phone and looked at her.

"It will make me feel better knowing I have a part of you with me. I can't regret it," Amy assured her.

"You know your hymen needs to be broken, right? I think you need to have sex first before we go on with it," Miley said with a thoughtful look in her eyes.

She had been hoping Lucas and Amy would hit it off during their dinner date and Amy would lose her virginity to Lucas, but things had not gone as planned unfortunately.

Amy sighed, "Let me worry about that myself. Get dressed up let's leave already."

"By the way, I'm not sure I mentioned this, but I asked the candidates to come with a copy of their medical reports for the interview. That was why I scheduled the interview for evening so they could get it from their doctors. Whoever we decide on will still undergo some medical tests for us to be sure he is healthy," Amy said, and Miley gave her a nod of approval. Upstodatee from n(0)/ve/lbIn/. (co/m

"That's a good idea," Miley said as she dried her body, and then stopped when something occurred to her and she turned to Amy.

"You realize we can't take him to my family doctor, and we can't hold the wedding here either, right? I think it's best we fly out of the country. We could go on our usual vacation together and I could get married to him over there. We will make it look like I met him while vacationing and I was swept off my feet so we decided to get married. We could also get started with the surrogacy stuff over there. A week after we get back to the country I will open up to my parents about my health like I just found out about it," Miley suggested.

"Whatever you decide is fine by me," Amy assured her, feeling sad that this would be their last vacation together.

Chapter 514 Cinema

As the plane landed on the airport and everyone else was making moves to get out, Desmond tried to distract his wife and the Perrys while giving Lucy and Sonia time to get out.

Once he was certain they had left, he let his gang leave too, and as they all trooped out of the airport together after taking their luggage, Desmond remembered a little detail he had left out in his conversation with the girls.

Desmond stopped walking abruptly and touched his abdomen, "I need to use the restroom quickly before getting into the car."

"What's wrong? Are you okay?" Evelyn asked looking at him with concern as they all stopped.

"Yeah. I feel sort of bloated. Why don't you find Adolf and wait in the car? I will be quick," Desmond promised.

"I will come with you," Andrew offered eyeing Desmond suspiciously.

"Yes, please do," Evelyn said before Desmond could say no, and seeing the suspicious look in Andrew's eyes, Desmond agreed.

"I will be fast. Don't worry about me," Desmond assured Evelyn, urging her to leave.

"Alright let's go," Desmond said as he started walking after they watched the ladies walk away.

"Do you really want to use the restroom or do you have something else in mind? I noticed how you kept looking at the exit door of the plane while trying to stall us. Is there someone you saw that you want to meet privately?" Andrew asked looking around them as he followed Desmond.

Desmond stopped, "What..."

"Keep walking," Andrew urged him, and Desmond moved slowly.

"No. I'm not meeting anyone," Desmond said as he took out his phone from his pocket, but Andrew continued to look at him doubtfully.

"If you thought I was going to meet someone privately why did you follow me?" Desmond asked, trying to hide his amusement.

"To stop you. If you do something wrong and Evelyn finds out, you'll be in trouble, and then my wife will find a way to link me to it, and I don't want any trouble," Andrew said with a straight face that made Desmond laugh.

"You think I want to meet with another lady?" He asked incredulously.

"Why else will you be hiding? You don't look like you want to use the restroom. You definitely don't sound that way," Andrew said, and Desmond laughed.

"I need to make a quick phone call," Desmond said as he dialed Sonia's line while Andrew continued to watch him.

"Hey, Sony! Where are you girls right now?" Desmond asked immediately after Sonia received the call and Andrew raised a brow.

"We just got into a cab now. We are on our way to Tom's house. Evelyn and Janet didn't see us, did they?" Sonia asked, wondering why Desmond was calling and if he was alone. *Check out latest novels on [novel/bin\(.\).com](http://novel/bin(.).com)*

"No, they didn't. You don't have to go over to the house. We are all headed to Harry's apartment. I think it will be best you meet us there," Desmond suggested, and Andrew raised a brow.

"Will Bryan be there?" Sonia asked, since she didn't want to waste any time in the company of the others until she was able to apologize to Bryan and then talk things through with him.

Yes, he had offended her. She wasn't disputing the fact that he had gone about everything the wrong way, but so had she too. And right now she wanted them to sit down together and figure out the way forward for their relationship. She wanted what she had with Bryan to work. And she did not want her pride or habits to get in the way of what they shared.

"Everyone will be there. So come over. You don't have to be in a hurry to get there. I will send you a text after I confirm they are not leaving there soon," Desmond said, and after Sonia thanked him, he hung up.

"Was that my Sonia on the phone? Is she in Ludus? I thought she was in Heden with Lucy?" Andrew asked in confusion.

"They were on the plane with us," Desmond said with a chuckle.

"I suppose they're the ones you kept staring at on the plane. Why didn't they say hello to us? And why didn't you just make the phone call in front of everyone instead of acting so suspicious?" Andrew asked as Desmond nodded as he pocketed his phone.

"They want to surprise my boys. I suggested they surprise everyone as well, unfortunately you know about it now. We should join them ladies," Desmond suggested as turned and they both headed in the direction of the exit door.

"Surprise? That's nice. I guess Sonia is ready to resolve things with Bryan. And I get to see my girl today," Andrew said with a pleased smile.

"Yes. Very nice," Desmond chuckled again since he knew that Andrew wasn't aware that his sons were on their way to Heden.

"Don't let Evelyn or your wife know about this. You know how women are. They are good at ruining surprises," Desmond said, and Andrew smiled.

"Sure. I'm relieved that this is what you were up to, and not meeting with any one," Andrew said, and Desmond chuckled again.

"Why do you keep laughing?" Andrew asked when he noticed the grin on Desmond's face and Desmond shook his head.

"You'll find out for yourself when we get to Harry's house," Desmond assured him as they joined the others at the car.

"How are you feeling now?" Evelyn asked, and Desmond flashed her a smile.

"Much better. We can leave now," he said as he got into the car.

He couldn't wait to see the surprise on all their faces. What a beautiful day to be alive.

Tom and Bryan had arrived in Heden now, and were on their way to the mall where Lucy had told him earlier they would be going to see a movie and play games.

"So? What do you plan to do when you see Sonia?" Tom asked as he watched Bryan who was lost in thoughts as he looked out of the window of the car.

"Apologize to her and try to make things right," Bryan said with a shrug.

"Are you willing to do what she wants? By that I mean, not move in together yet?" Tom asked, and Bryan sighed.

"I don't think staying apart from each other is a good idea. It's not going to help bring us closer in any way. I know myself and I know my career. If we stay in different places, we have limited time to spend together, but staying together let's us see each other more often. I mean, moving in together will help us know each other better. We can go out on dates as often as she wants and even sleep in separate rooms if she wants us to, but I'd rather we live under the same roof," Bryan said, and Tom nodded thoughtfully.

"What if she insists on staying apart? Are you going to break up with her?"

"No. Breaking up with her is out of it. I'm going to have to keep trying to make her see reasons why it is not a good idea," Bryan said with a frown, hoping that Sonia would be willing to hear him out despite how he had ignored her earlier.

"If you know break up is not an option, then you must treat your relationship as such. You shouldn't act in the manner you did towards her next time. Since you always like to make the distinction, I'm speaking to you right now as your elder brother and not as the CEO of I-Global. If you have a problem talk it out, and try not to go about it in a way that everyone else has an opinion about your relationship. Real men don't leave their women behind no matter how pissed they are, unless it's the end of the relationship for them," Tom said, and Bryan sighed.

"I know I screwed up..."

"You both screwed up. You think we don't know she was wrong too? We do. But two wrongs don't make a right. Your screw up is what everyone has seen, and now no one cares about what she may have done behind closed doors, do you understand me?" Tom asked, and Bryan nodded.

"I do."

"Now, concerning your annoyance at Lucy...."

"I'm not annoyed with Lucy. I'm sorry I said all of that. I didn't mean it," Bryan quickly cut in before Tom could speak.

"I'm not sure I entirely believe you. You spoke out of the abundance of your heart. I think it's silly of you to want to compete with Lucy over her spot in Sonia's life. Imagine me doing that. Does it make any sense to you?" Tom asked, and Bryan sighed.

"I'm not competing with her or anything. We all have our places, I know that. How do you think you will feel if Lucy broke up with you just to go be with Sonia?"

"She wouldn't have to do that because I would let her go naturally if it will make her happy...."

"Do you think I wouldn't have let Sonia go naturally too if I knew about the issue with Lucy at that time? She broke up with me without even giving me a chance to...."

"That sounds like a Sonia issue not a Lucy issue," Tom cut in before Bryan could finish.

"Yeah. I know. I'm not mad at Lucy. Maybe I'm a bit envious of their relationship, but I'm not mad at Lucy. I wasn't thinking straight," Bryan said, and Tom nodded.

"Good. Now don't go around saying shit about my girl. The next time you do that I'm going to break your nose. I only let you off because it's the first time," Tom warned and Bryan rolled his eyes.

"Maybe you should give Lucy a call and find out where they are right now. Maybe they changed their plans and didn't go to the mall as planned," Bryan suggested.

"Good idea," Tom said as he took out his phone from his pocket and dialed Lucy's line.

Away from there, Lucy turned to Sonia, "Tom is calling. What now? Can I tell him we are in Ludus now?" Lucy asked as she stared at her phone which was vibrating.

"Hell, no! Why tell him that when he would find out soon enough?" Sonia asked incredulously.

"So what should I tell him if he wants to know where we are?" Lucy asked dryly and Sonia glanced at her wristwatch.

"We were supposed to be seeing a movie right now at the cinema, right? The car is quiet enough. I will play a movie on my phone and you can just tell him we are seeing a movie. Make sure you whisper to make it realistic," Sonia added as she quickly logged on her Netflix account and found a movie.

"I don't like lying to him," Lucy complained, and Sonia rolled her eyes.

"Don't go all good girl on me right now, please. It's not like you are doing anything wrong. It's a surprise! And when surprising people we tell little barely noticeable white lies like these. Everyone knows this. Right?" Sonia asked the cab driver and he chuckled.

Lucy sighed as she received the call, "Hey, Ace! Have you gotten to your destination now?" Lucy asked, and Sonia glared at her as she played the movie.

"Whisper!" Sonia mouthed to her.

"Can you speak quietly, Miss? Some of us are trying to enjoy the movie!" The cab driver said, and Sonia gave him a thumbs up while Lucy shook her head.

"You're at the cinema already? What movie are you seeing?" Tom asked curiously.

"Uhm, hold on so I can ask Sonia," Lucy said with an awkward giggle as she turned to Sonia.

"What's the name of the movie we are seeing?" She whispered.

"Coming 2 America," Sonia whispered back, since she knew the movie was airing in the cinema.

"Coming 2 America," Lucy said, and Tom smiled.

"Alright. I will leave you to enjoy your movie. Let's talk when you're done. I love you," Tom said before hanging up.

"They're currently in the cinema seeing Coming 2 America," Tom informed Bryan.

"Let's meet them there then. I will book the tickets and then we can surprise them after the movie," Bryan said, and Tom nodded in approval.

"That's good. I suggest you get a bouquet of flower of Sonia. Your fans would most likely spot you," Tom said, and Bryan nodded in agreement.

He would book that as well and have them deliver it to him in front of the mall before he goes in.

Both brothers smiled pleasantly at the thought of how surprised their ladies would be when they see them.

Chapter 515 Slow Down

As Harry and Jade settled down on the couch in the living room, ready to see a movie, Jade rose from her seat and went to the sofa where Harry was lying, ready to cuddle with him.

"We are not alone," Harry reminded her as he sat up and moved away from her so she wouldn't rest on his body.

"I don't see anyone else around here," Jade said with a grin as she sat close to him.

Harry moved away again, "Jamal or anyone could walk in here at any time...."

"Relax, Harry. Neither of us is naked. We are just seeing a movie, not having sex," Jade said patiently as she moved closer to him.

"Do you want us to go to your bedroom instead for privacy?" Jade suggested, batting her lashes at him, and Harry sighed.

The truth was, Harry had no problem with doing any of that with her when they were alone. But he didn't want to be seen that way with her until they were official. Maybe he was weird, but that was just the way he wanted things. He wanted them to keep things between them until they were both sure they were down for it and ready to be official. Unfortunately for him, Jade was the exact opposite.

"Then everyone would assume we had sex. Which is worse?"

"It does not matter what they assume...."

"Says the same person who hid under her duvet because her undie was found in my bedroom," Harry said dryly.

"I only felt embarrassed because you saw it, not because...." Jade let the rest of her words trail off when Harry raised a brow.

"I can't help wanting to be close to you when we are in the same space," Jade confessed with a pout, and Harry shook his head.

Seeing that it did not work, she decided to change her tactic, "I can't believe that while both my brothers are out there having the time of their life with the women they love, I'm here begging the

man I'm interested in just to let me snuggle against him. Can life be any more unfair?" Jade wailed, and Harry sighed.

"Quit being a drama queen. Sit down and shut up-- no caressing or stealing kisses. Let's focus on the movie," Harry said as he picked up the remote and resumed the movie, and Jade smiled happily as she leaned against him, and they both redirected their attention to the television. Or so Harry thought until Jade spoke again.

"Harry?" Jade called after some time.

"What is it this time?" Harry asked wearily with his eyes fixed on the television.

Jade cleared her throat, "I need to be sure about something," Jade said, and Harry raised a brow.

"What is that?"

Jade cleared her throat again, "Don't take this the wrong way...."

"Now I'm worried," Harry muttered under his breath as he looked down at Jade, who looked up at him with a scowl.

Harry kissed her forehead to straighten her creased brows, and she smiled involuntarily.

"Go on. I'm listening."

"Let's say we start dating officially now. You're not going to want to wait, right? I mean, like, wait until after marriage before we... you know... do it," Jade finished with a shrug, and to Harry's credit, his face remained carefully blank.

"Before we... I know... do what?" He asked innocently, and Jade narrowed her eyes as she looked at him, trying to figure out if he was being deliberately dense or was just not getting her.

"I mean, sex. You know. Seeing how you've never done it...." Jade glared at Harry when he suddenly chuckled and tugged on her right ear.

"Is that all you think of? You must be in a hurry to take me to bed," Harry said with a teasing grin, and Jade's face flamed red in embarrassment.

"No. That's not it," Jade denied immediately.

"It's not? So does that mean you don't mind waiting for some years...

"YEARS?" Jade asked in alarm, and Harry roared with laughter.

"I'm not joking! This is important!" Jade snapped at Harry in annoyance, and he chuckled.

"What do you want?" Harry asked, looking at her thoughtfully.

"Well, I just want to be sure you won't want to wait until we are married," Jade said, and Harry looked at her for a moment.

"Why not?"

"Because I don't think I can," Jade said honestly.

"So you won't be with me if I decide I want to wait until after marriage?" Harry asked, and Jade sighed.

"Well, if that's what you want, we might have to skip dating altogether and just get married. Or I might just seduce you," Jade said with a shrug, and Harry nodded.

"Good luck with that."

"Good luck with what?" Jade asked with a frown.

"With your seduction plan," Harry said, and Jade frowned.

"Does that mean you expect me to wait until after marriage? You know I'm not like you, right? I've been celibate for years only because I'm not in a relationship, and I don't think I can be celibate when I have a partner...."

"Slow down, esquire. Don't you think you're running ahead of yourself? I'm yet to officially ask you to be my girlfriend, yet you're talking about marriage already. Why not take things one step at a time?" Harry asked, and Jade frowned.

"I'm asking for the future, not now. I like to make plans ahead of time," Jade explained.

"I've heard you."

"But you didn't answer my question," Jade pointed out, and Harry sighed.

"Do you remember what I told you at the restaurant that night?" Harry asked, and Jade's brows pulled together as she tried to remember.

"You said a lot of things. Which?" She asked thoughtfully.

"I told you I can't share my body with just anyone. It has to be with someone special. It's not just about marriage. It's about having a connection," Harry explained patiently.

"Oh! That's true," Jade said with a happy smile as she relaxed again and focused on the tv screen, and Harry sighed inwardly.

It was just his luck that of all the sane and normal women in the universe, he had fallen for a Hank. She was obviously going to be a handful like her brothers. He hoped he would have the patience and wisdom to deal with her.

After they spent some time watching the movie, Harry remembered something, and he rose from his seat, "Give me a moment," Harry said when Jade gave him a questioning look.

"Should I pause the movie?" Jade asked as he walked away from there, but Harry asked her to keep watching the movie as he walked over to the kitchen.

He returned a moment later carrying a mug of chocolate, "Here," Harry said, handing the mug to her, and Jade took it from him distractedly but paused the movie to look at what it was when she noticed the mug was warm.

She smiled when she saw that it was chocolate. It brought back the memory of their first meeting.

"Thanks," She said as she raised her mug to her lips and took a sniff before tasting it.

A smile lit her eyes as she looked at Harry, who was watching her, "You added whiskey. You remembered my recipe," she said, and Harry shrugged.

"I told you I was cursed with a very good memory," Harry said, and Jade smiled dreamily as she looked at him.

"Can I fall any deeper?" She asked, and Harry chuckled as he jerked his head to the television.

"You can. But first, you should return your attention to the movie," Harry said as he picked up the remote and resumed the movie.

Jade grinned as she drank from the mug before snuggling closer to him. Harry had a satisfied smile on his face as he focused on the television.

After some minutes, Harry turned to Jade abruptly, "You have some chocolate stains around your lips," Harry said, and Jade turned to him as she dropped her mug on the table.

"I do?" She asked as she stuck out her tongue to lick the areas around her lips.

"Let me help you," Harry said in a husky voice as he used his thumb to wipe the areas around her lips.

Jade sucked in a breath when his thumb brushed her lips. The stroke of his thumb on her skin, and the look in his eyes, made her heart suddenly begin to race, and she swallowed as she met his gaze.

"Does this remind you of anything?" He asked as he looked into her confused blue eyes.

"The first time you visited our home?"

"Not that. Doesn't this remind you of anything else?" Harry asked as he raised his thumb to his lips, but before he could lick it off, Jade caught his hand, and he smirked.

"The chocolate is mine," she said breathlessly, her heart beating fast as she brought his thumb to her lips and sucked on it while maintaining eye contact with him.

Harry's heart skipped a beat, and he groaned involuntarily. He couldn't describe the sort of feeling that single action evoked inside him, but he knew the briefs he was wearing suddenly felt too small for him.

Why did he never learn? Why did he always do things like these when he knew he would end up falling into his own trap? He wasn't sure how much longer he was going to be able to keep himself from doing all he wanted to do to her and with her. [DiiScôver new stories on no/v/e\(\)/lbin\(.\)com](#)

Harry tried to withdraw his hand, but Jade held on to it and continued to suck on it slowly.

"Jade...." He called huskily, and she smiled when what he had done clicked in her head.

She pulled away as she looked into his eyes, "The dream I told you aboutIs that what you were asking?" She asked, and Harry nodded.

"Harry, I'm about to kiss you," Jade informed him, and before Harry could react, she leaned forward and kissed him long and hard.

Her heart was beating really fast as she pulled away, and she looked at him with her gleaming blue eyes, "If you keep tempting me this way, it's going to be increasingly difficult for me to keep my distance from you," Jade said weakly.

"How about you don't resume work at the company immediately? We can delay your resumption date, and then we can go on that vacation together," Harry suggested.

"Really? We can do that?" She asked excitedly, and Harry nodded.

"Sure. And just maybe I might leave virgin Harry behind, and we can both...."

Harry stopped when the doorbell rang, and Jade shook her head, "Go on. We can both what?" She asked eagerly.

"I think your parents are here. You should get the door. I will check on my dad and see if Candace and Jamal are up now," Harry said as he rose and walked away, and Jade scowled.

"Why did they have to show up right now?" She asked irritably as she went to get the door.

Chapter 516 SURPRISE!

Aaron was the first to wake up from the nap, and he smiled when the first thing he saw as he opened his eyes was Candace and Jamal sleeping on the bed beside him.

As hard as he had tried to stay awake while chatting with Candace, he had dozed off at some point in the middle of their conversation, and he was pleasantly surprised to see that Candace and Jamal had also slept off on his bed.

Jamal, who was sleeping between him and Candace, was snuggled closely against his mother, but even in his sleep, he was holding on to Aaron's hand. Aaron smiled as he looked down at his hand. Jamal was holding onto his thumb.

His heart ached, and tears gathered in his eyes when his gaze shifted to Candace's beautiful sleeping face. She looked tired and pale. She was not well rested yet, Aaron observed.

"My poor baby," he murmured softly. It would take her a long time to recover from all the hardships she had endured.

Despite how hard she had tried to convince him that her life had not been very hard, he knew better than to take her word for it, especially seeing how she couldn't really come up with any exciting stories of her life.

She had made the most she could out of life, but from all the stories she had shared, the only thing he had picked out was that she had been struggling through life and the only bright spots in her life were Jamal and Andy.

What could be harder than being raised in an orphanage home when your parents were still alive, getting involved with a drug dealer who was obsessed with you, being on the run from criminals, and stripping to make ends meet for your son?

As far as he was concerned, she had lived a hard life, and he mostly blamed himself for it. He wished there was something he could do to make up for it, but he didn't know what to do.

Perhaps it was time for him to resign as president of HAJ studios. He could resign now and live the rest of his life as a doting father and grandfather. It was not too late to fulfill all his fatherly responsibilities to her.

Maybe he could transfer all he had, including HAJ studios, to Candace. Harry was doing pretty well for himself, and knowing Harry, he was sure Harry wouldn't mind.

Although, from the little he had come to know about Candace, she wouldn't be comfortable if he handed it all to her, even if they all knew she needed it.

He smiled as his gaze moved to Jamal, who suddenly laughed in his sleep as though he could hear what his grandfather was thinking.

Aaron sighed softly as he reached out and touched Jamal's hair as if to assure himself that Jamal was real and he wasn't dreaming. A part of him still couldn't believe he had such a beautiful daughter and a precious grandson.

Or maybe he could pass HAJ studios to Jamal since he wasn't sure Candace would be interested in it or know how to run it. Candace would need a lot of training to be able to run HAJ studios, and she didn't exactly have the time to do that now. Not when she needed to focus fully on law school now.

There was no way he could resign and hand over the studios without a good plan. He still had to answer to the shareholders. He would just keep working and also work on training Jamal. Jamal had a sharp mind, and he had no doubt that he would learn very fast. He only hoped that Jamal would be interested in the company and would love the place as much as he did. Maybe Jamal would be the best person to hand over to as it would help Jamal, who had taken a keen interest in Tom and had decided that he wanted to own his own company with multiple subsidiaries like Tom.

He paused in his musings when he heard the sound of the doorbell, and his gaze shifted back to Candace, who stirred in her sleep.

"It's probably the nurse. You don't have to wake up yet," he murmured as he patted her arm so she would go back to sleep.

She smiled at him sleepily, and just as her eyes drifted shut, the door opened, and Harry poked his head in, "You're awake...."

"Sshh!" Aaron hushed, raising his forefinger to his lips.

"Dont disturb their sleep," he whispered, and Harry rolled his eyes as he walked into the bedroom.

"Why? They are going to have to wake up either way. Tom's parents are here with Lucy's parents. They will want to see Jamal," Harry explained, and Aaron sighed.

"They're here?" Candace asked as she opened her eyes and sat up.

"Yes. You might want to freshen up before coming out. You can use the room down the hallway," Harry suggested, and Candace nodded as she yawned.

"Did you sleep well?" Aaron asked, looking at her with loving eyes, and she smiled as she gave him a nod.

"Yes, thanks. How do you feel now? Should I fix your lunch?" Candace asked, but Aaron shook his head.

"Don't worry about that," Aaron said as he turned to Harry, "What about the nurse? Is she not here yet?"

Check out *latest novels* on [novel/bin\(.\)com](http://novel/bin(.)com)

"She will be here soon," Harry said as his gaze shifted to Jamal.

"Just to be clear, I don't have to worry about Jamal telling them about the incident earlier, right?" Harry asked, and both Candace and Aaron chuckled.

"Don't worry, he won't," Candace said as she softly tapped Jamal to wake him up.

"Jam?" Candace called softly as she tapped him until Jamal opened his eyes.

"Wake up. Grandma Janet and Evelyn are here," Candace said, and almost immediately, Jamal sat bolt upright.

"They're here?" He asked, glancing at the door while Harry and Aaron watched in amusement.

"Yes. They're in the living room," Harry was still speaking when Jamal rolled off the bed and started heading for the door excitedly.

"Jam?" Candace stopped him.

"Remember what I told you earlier about finding Aunt Jade's undies in Uncle Harry's bedroom?" Candace asked, and Jamal gave her a nod.

"You said I must not talk about it again or tell anyone because it's an embracing subject...."

"Embarrassing," Candace and Aaron corrected at the same time, and Jamal nodded.

"Good. So be a good boy and do not mention it when you speak with them. Else Uncle Harry and Aunt Jade will be mad at you. And I won't be pleased either," Candace said, and for extra effect, Aaron added.

"Lucy won't like that either. And I'm sure you won't want to lose points," Aaron said, and Jamal bobbed his head.

"I won't talk about it," Jamal promised Harry, and he gave him a thumbs up.

"Good. You can leave now," Candace said, and Jamal zipped past Harry and ran out of the bedroom.

Candace rose from the bed, "I will join you after I wash my face," Candace said as she excused herself, leaving Harry and Aaron.

Once she shut the door behind her, father and son looked at each other, "How did your bonding go?" Harry asked, and Aaron sighed.

"Life hasn't been easy on her," Aaron said, and Harry nodded.

"Yeah. And none of that is your fault. We will do all we can to make sure she is fine. Just don't go blaming yourself silently for it. It's time for you to also leave the past behind," Harry said as he rolled the wheelchair closer to the bed.

"You should say hello to our guests," Harry said as he helped his dad get into the wheelchair.

"Did you say Lucy's mom is here too?" Aaron asked, and Harry nodded.

"Seeing how Jamal loves them, she must be nothing like her sister," Aaron said, and Harry nodded.

"She is a victim too," Harry reminded his father.

"Yeah. You're right. Let's not keep them waiting," Aaron said, and Harry maneuvered the wheelchair out of the room.

As they approached the living room, they could hear Jamal narrating how Harry had rushed out of the office carrying Aaron and how he had followed them to the hospital and held Aaron's hand until he felt all better.

"Harry darling!" Evelyn called as she stood, and her husband and the Perrys did the same when they saw Harry approaching with his father.

"Mrs. Hank...."

"Don't be silly, Harry. We are way past the formalities. How have you been, darling?" She asked as she went to embrace him, and she kissed his cheeks.

"It's been too long since I last saw you," she said with a fond smile as she stepped back and patted his cheek fondly while Harry smiled at her politely.

"It's good to see you again. How was your flight?" Harry asked as he looked from her to Desmond and the Perrys. He met Janet's gaze and noticed the way she was observing him.

"The flight was fun. Hello, Aaron!" Evelyn greeted, moving away from Harry to greet his father.

Seeing that Harry was already acquainted with Tom's family, Jamal, who was still holding onto Janet's hand, decided to do the honors for Lucy's family.

"Uncle Harry, this is grandmum Janet, Lucy's mom. And this is Andrew, Lucy's dad...."

"She gets to be grandmum Janet, and I get to be just Andrew? Really, lad?" Andrew asked, tugging on Jamal's ear, and he chuckled.

"I will ask grandpa Aaron if it's okay to call you grandad," Jamal said, and Andrew chuckled.

"Who did you ask before calling my wife grandmum Janet?" Andrew inquired.

"Shouldn't you be nicer to him since you want Lucy to be your girlfriend, and he is Lucy's dad?" Harry asked, surprising Desmond, Evelyn, and the Perrys, who burst into laughter when Jamal nodded.

"I will call you granddad Andrew for now," Jamal said, ignoring their laughter.

"Jamal has a crush on Lucy?" Evelyn asked in amusement.

"For now?" Andrew asked, and Jamal gave him a nod.

"With your blessing, I'm going to marry Lucy when I grow up. I won't call you granddad Andrew then," Jamal said, looking at Andrew with such a serious expression that Andrew resisted the urge to laugh.

Andrew cleared his throat, "Of course, if she would have you, and your mother permits it...."

"That's not going to happen. Don't give him such false hope," Janet chided as she lifted Jamal and balanced him on her waist.

Evelyn nodded in agreement, "Lucy is taken, and you, my sweet boy, have your life ahead of you. Don't waste it dreaming on meaningless...."

"Women! They won't let the young man enjoy his harmless fantasy in peace," Aaron muttered, and the men laughed in agreement.

"Took the words right out from my mouth," Desmond and Andrew chorused.

"Yet neither of you said a thing," Jade, who had been silently watching the exchange, pointed out.

"Because they obviously don't want to get into trouble. But Aaron has no problem saying what he thinks," Candace said as she joined them, and the man chuckled.

"Oh, Candace!" Evelyn cooed as she went to embrace her.

"Hello!" Candace greeted with a pleasant smile as she embraced Evelyn.

"Hello, Harry!" Janet greeted with an awkward smile as she looked at Harry while Jade rose from where she sat and took Jamal from Janet so there wouldn't be any distractions.

"It's nice to meet you," Harry said with a pleasant smile. He could understand that she was probably feeling sort of uncomfortable about meeting her sister's ex-husband and son, just as they were about meeting Sara's twin sister, there was no reason to make it any more awkward than it already was for everyone.

"And you too, Mr. Perry," Harry said as he extended his hand to Andrew for a handshake.

"Please call me Andrew. I must say I'm surprised that someone as despicable as Sara is capable of birthing such a fine young man...."

"Andrew!" Janet called in a warning tone, but Andrew ignored her.

"I'm positive you turned out this fine because of your dad. You are probably the only ones that must hate her almost as much as Janet does. Or maybe not. There could be even more people out there she must have stolen from. What is that saying? The enemy of my enemy is my friend, right? Let's all stick closely together," Andrew proposed as he shook Harry's hand.

"Please don't mind him...."

"Why not?" Aaron asked, and Janet shrugged as she glanced at him.

"I'm just not sure you'd want us to talk about her...."

"Don't worry. I'm fine. You're all welcome. Please sit down," Aaron said, and just as they all settled on the couch, he looked around the apartment.

"Why don't I see Tom around?" He asked Harry curiously.

"Oh! I forgot to mention it. He flew down to Heden with Bryan. He to surprise Lucy and go on a date with her," Harry said, and Aaron grinned while Andrew shot Desmond a look, but Desmond pretended not to notice as he stifled his chuckle.

"That's nice. Those two can't seem to stay away from each other. I'm waiting for the time when I will see you make such romantic gestures," Aaron said, and Harry glared at his father.

"Very soon, Aaron. And trust me, Harry is very romantic," Jade said with a grin, and Aaron chuckled while the others looked at them with interest.

"What is romantic?" Jamal asked, looking at Jade, who was still holding him closely.

"Uhm... I think your mom should answer that," Jade said, looking at Candace with an awkward smile.

"Romantic means those adult stuff that people in relationship do to make their partners love them more," Evelyn explained, and Jamal nodded thoughtfully.

"Like traveling like Tom to see Lucy?" Jamal asked.

"Exactly!" Evelyn said, and Candace smiled.

"That was easy," Candace observed.

"I raised three kids. You have no idea the sort of questions I had to answer. Bryan once asked me why his penis stands erect every morning," Evelyn said, and they all burst into laughter.

"How did you answer that?" Candace asked curiously.

"Sent him straight to his father. I told him his father would have the perfect answer since he had a penis too," Evelyn said, and they all laughed.

"Please, no one should ask me what I told him," Desmond said when all eyes turned to him, and thankfully the doorbell rang before anyone could ask him any question.

"It's probably the nurse. I will get the door," Harry said as he walked over to get the door, and Jamal followed, while Desmond and Andrew exchanged a look.

"Lucy!" Jamal screeched happily.

"Lucy? What are you doing here?" Harry asked in surprise when he saw Lucy and Sonia standing at the door.

"Lucy?" Jade asked as she rose and both Evelyn and Janet did the same but the men remained seated, and from the look on their faces Aaron could tell them were not surprised.

"Why do you all look so surprised?" Sonia asked in amusement when she noticed how they were all staring at them.

"I need to see Bryan. Where is he?" Sonia asked as she walked past them into the apartment, and they all followed.

"You came here to find Bryan?" Evelyn asked, while Desmond fought the urge to stifle his laughter.

"Yes. Desmond said you would all be here. Did Bryan leave already?" Sonia asked when she noticed that Bryan wasn't in the apartment.

"Are you aware that Tom is not here?" Janet asked Lucy.

"Is Tom aware that you're in Ludus?"

"When last did you talk to Tom?" Harry and Jade asked simultaneously.

"No. We wanted to surprise them," Lucy explained with a sheepish smile, wondering what the whole questioning was about.

"Desmond told you Bryan would be here? When?" Evelyn asked, looking from Sonia to Desmond who was beginning to shake with laughter.

"Bryan is not here! Bryan and Tom flew to Heden to surprise you," Jade announced, and Lucy's mouth fell open in surprise.

"Tom flew to Heden?"

"Bryan flew to Heden?" Lucy and Sonia asked, their jaws dropped in disbelief, and immediately Desmond roared with laughter as he yelled.

"SURPRISE!" and both Andrew and Aaron joined in his laughter.

Chapter 517 Movie Hall Surprise

Instead of going quietly to the mall where the cinema was located, Tom and Bryan had decided to make a grande entrance since it wasn't all the time that both Hank brothers were spotted in the same place at the same time, especially now that Tom's identity had been revealed.

As a result of this, they pulled up in front of the mall in a gold Mansory Rolls-Royce Phantom limousine, drawing the attention of everyone.

They had decided to take the limo so there would be enough room for all four of them inside, and they had settled for such an expensive ride because Tom wanted to splurge and they both wanted to show off a bit.

"We are here," the Hank family driver who had received them from the airport announced, and Bryan opened the door.

Once they stepped out of the limo, people gathered around to watch them while capturing pictures with their phones and whispering amongst themselves as they made guesses on why the brothers had decided to make an appearance there.

Tom and Bryan stood beside the car as Bryan scanned the area in search of the delivery man with the bouquet.

He spotted the delivery man heading towards them with the bouquet and he received it from him and generously tipped him, they both walked inside the mall with a multitude of people following them.

Most of the people around them wanted to ask Bryan for his autograph and take photos with the brothers, but the brothers were too preoccupied with their mission to pay them any attention so no one could approach them.

They had barely taken a few steps inside when the manager of the mall ran out to welcome them, "Hello, Mr. Hank! It's a pleasure having you in our mall. Please what can we do for you?" he greeted with a deep bow as he stopped in front of them, blocking their path, and both brothers looked at each other in amusement, wondering which of them he was referring to since they were both Mr. Hank.

Realizing his error he cleared his throat, "You are both welcome. It's not every day we have such dignitaries at our mall," He said, and Tom nodded as he shook hands with the man.

"Thanks for the warm welcome. Now, if you don't mind, we would love to be excused. The movie isn't exactly waiting for us," Tom said as he glanced at his wristwatch.

The movie would be ending in less than twenty minutes, and they needed to get in there in time to surprise the girls.

"Alright. Let me know if you need anything," the manager said as he stepped out of their way, and they walked away.

Bryan stopped in his track when something occurred to him and he returned to meet the manager who was still standing where he was looking down at his hand.

Tom stood and watched Bryan as he went to speak to the man, and when Bryan returned he raised a brow, "What did you say to him?" He asked, and Bryan smiled.

"I'm putting up a little show for Sonia," Bryan said with a proud smile as they got on the escalator and headed for the part of the mall where the cinema was located.

Once they got into the mall, they tried to look around to see if they could spot them, but it was too dark so they sat on the available seats at the back of the hall and joined in watching the movie.

Once the movie ended and people started to rise from their seat, instead of the usual cast display at the end of the movie, "I LOVE YOU, SONIA SMITH. I'M SORRY" was displayed on the screen just as the lights came on, and sounds of "aww" rent the hall.

Bryan and Tom rose from their seats to find the love of their lives, and while some of the ladies in the hall were taking pictures of the screen to post on social media, others were gushing over the handsome brothers.

"I can't see Lucy. Can you see Sonia?" Tom asked with a frown when he scanned the hall and didn't see Lucy.

"No. She is not here either," Bryan said with a slight frown, both brothers ignoring some of the ladies that were now trying to flirt with them.

"Maybe they left to use the restroom?" Bryan suggested.

"Let's get out of here," Tom said, hating the attention they were receiving.

As they walked out of the hall, Tom dialed Lucy's line to find out if they were still in the mall or had left.

Bryan followed, still holding the bouquet of flower in hand. By now the news about their visit to the mall was all over the internet and thanks to those who were in the movie hall and had captured the display on the screen, people had figured out that the brothers were there to see Sonia.

The manager who had been standing just outside the movie hall, ran up to them them, "Mr. Hank...."

Tom turned to the manager when Lucy didn't take his call, "Could you help me make an announcement. My girlfriend is not receiving my call, and I will love to know if she is still somewhere around the mall...."

Just as the manager gave them a nod and was about to scurry away, eager to please them, Bryan stopped him.

"Maybe I should give Sonia a call first. What if they've left the mall?" Bryan asked, and Tom nodded.

Away from there; Lucy and Sonia looked stunned as they tried to process what they had just been told, while Evelyn, and Janet were busy glaring at Desmond and Andrew who were still laughing uncontrollably.

While Lucy was cringing as she remembered how she had just lied to Tom a while ago that they were seeing a movie in the cinema, Sonia was thinking about the fact that Bryan had traveled back to see her.

That had to mean he was really ready for them to work things out now and was not taking a break anymore, right? She knew she still owed him an apology for misunderstanding him and all, but she was happy that he was as willing as she was to work things out.

"What if Tom called me because they wanted to meet us?" Lucy asked Sonia with a slight frown, feeling guilty for deceiving Tom.

"You think they went to the cinema? We should call them," Sonia said, while Jade looked at them curiously.

"What Cinema?" Jade asked, and Sonia explained how they had told Tom they were seeing a movie.

"This is why people should not tell lies," Harry muttered under his breath, feeling sorry for Tom who was now on a wild goose chase.

"Cut it out. She's feeling bad enough already," Aaron scolded as he looked at Lucy.

"Don't beat yourself over it, dear," Aaron told Lucy who looked very upset.

"Tom won't get mad. I will ask him not to be mad," Jamal said as he tugged on Lucy's hand, and she gave him a small smile of gratitude.

"When did you meet Desmond and what did he tell you?" Evelyn asked, and Sonia scowled at Desmond as she told Evelyn and the others how they had met him in the plane and all he said. She didn't leave out how he had called her after they left the plane to ask them to come to Harry's apartment.

all new stories at [nOve/lbi/n\(.\)com](http://nOve/lbi/n(.)com)

Aaron, Harry, Jade, and Candace listened to her story with amusement as they tried not to laugh, seeing how pissed the ladies looked.

"How can you play such a prank on them? Don't you know how important this is to them? I can't even believe you find this funny," Evelyn snapped at Desmond.

"If you give it some thought, it's funny. The surprisers ended up becoming the surprisees, if that English is correct," Andrew said with a roaring laugh that stopped abruptly when his wife threw her handbag at him.

"And you too? You plotted this with him...."

"No, I didn't plot anything. It's all Desmond," Andrew said defensively, and Desmond turned to him with a slightly raised brow.

"What are you looking at me that way for? Did you tell me that Tom and Bryan traveled to surprise them?" Andrew asked Desmond before turning to his wife and Lucy.

"I swear to you, I'm only just finding out about it all now. I'm only laughing because it's funny, not because I was in on this plan," Andrew said, not wanting to be on the bad side of the women.

"You have no honor," Desmond said with a shake of his head, his tone dripping with disapproval.

"And you have no shame! For Christ sake!, Desmond! How can you play such a prank on the kids?" Andrew asked with a straight face as he moved away from Desmond, joining the women and looked down on Desmond, and this time Aaron chuckled.

"Grown men behaving like boys," Evelyn shook her head with disapproval as she looked from Andrew to Desmond.

"Well, let's look at the bright side. At least this shows they're both willing to work on their relationship. I mean just take a look, Bryan traveled all that way, and Sonia came this way...."

"Desmond! That is not the point!" Evelyn hissed at him.

"But what could I have done? I met them in the plane on their way here. Nothing would have changed, would it? Tom and Bryan were already on their way over there. What would have changed if I told them the truth? Besides, didn't you say it was meant to be a secret and neither of us could tell them about it? Well, I took that seriously and I kept the truth...."

"DESMOND!" Evelyn yelled, startling Jamal who was watching the adults and wondering why they were all making so much fuss over nothing.

"I will stop arguing and apologize now if I were you," Andrew advised Desmond, and Aaron chuckled when Desmond glared at Andrew.

"Alright! Fine. I'm sorry but...." Desmond suddenly burst into a peal of laughter again.

"I wish I could see the look on the boys' faces right now," Desmond said amidst his laughter, and this time even Harry, Jade, and Candace joined the men in the laughter.

The only people that were not finding the situation funny were Evelyn, Janet, and of course Lucy, and Sonia.

"Tom is calling," Lucy announced when her phone started vibrating, and immediately Sonia looked at her.

"Receive the call," Sonia suggested, and Lucy frowned.

"I lied to him," she said with a sigh not knowing how to face Tom.

It was beginning to look like she always ended up in awkward situations whenever she took Sonia's advise.

"He lied to you too, didn't he?" Sonia reminded her and Lucy paused.

That was true. Tom lied... no. He didn't exactly lie. He left out the detail. He told her he was traveling out of Ludus to take care of something urgent and would give her the details later. She on the other hand had lied.

"He didn't," Lucy said with a sigh.

"Still, you should receive his call," Evelyn urged her.

By the time she wanted to receive the call, it had disconnected already.

"Bryan is calling," Sonia announced, her heart beating very fast as she received the call.

Chapter 518 Very Impressive

Everyone was silent as Sonia received the call, and Lucy couldn't tell if it was because they wanted to know what Tom and Bryan were up to or if it was because they were curious to hear the exchange between Bryan and Sonia since this seemed to be their first interaction since their misunderstanding.

"Place the call on speaker," Jade suggested, but while she was still speaking, Sonia walked away from their midst and headed for the door.

"Why don't you return Tom's call?" Evelyn suggested at the same time as Jade, but even as she was speaking, Lucy was already following Sonia out of the house.

"Hello! Can you hear me? Babe?" Bryan asked when Sonia didn't say a word.

Once Sonia stepped out of the door, and Lucy shut the door behind her, she raised the phone to her ear, "Babe?"

"Where are you?" Bryan asked the moment he heard her voice.

"I'm sorry," Sonia spoke at the same time, and they both paused as they waited for the other to go on.

"What did she say? Where are they? And why isn't Lucy receiving her call?" Tom asked Bryan, trying not to sound as impatient as he felt now, standing outside the movie hall with a crowd of people he did not know staring at him and taking pictures.

"I'm very sorry for misunderstanding you and for the things I said. I didn't mean to hurt you. I don't want to take a break...."

"I'm sorry for leaving the way I did. Let's talk some more when we see. Where are you right now? And where is Lucy? She is there with you, right?" Bryan asked since he could tell that Tom was beginning to get upset from the way he was scowling at him.

Sonia looked at Lucy, who was standing next to her, "She is here with me, and we are together in Ludus," Sonia said, not bothering to let Bryan know that she knew where he was.

Lucy, on the other hand, cringed as she imagined how the brothers would react to the information Sonia had just given.

"Ludus? You are in Ludus right now? Why?" Bryan asked in shock, and even Tom looked taken aback by the news.

"Ludus?" Tom asked as he snatched the phone from Bryan.

"Hello, Sonia! This is Tom. Where are you right now? And where is Lucy?" Tom demanded briskly, and hearing his voice, Sonia quickly passed the phone to Lucy.

Although she was usually the courageous one, she wasn't really sure she could face Tom right now. It was best to leave that up to Lucy. It was Lucy he had a soft spot for, not her. So Lucy should do the explanation.

"What?" Lucy asked with a slight frown.

"Tom wants to speak with you," Sonia explained, and Lucy's heart raced as she raised the phone to her ear.

"Ace...."

"Where are you right now?" Tom cut in calmly.

"We are at Harry's apartment...."

"Harry's apartment? Does Harry have an apartment in Heden?" Tom asked with practiced patience as he tried not to ground his teeth.

"His apartment in Ludus. Sonia wanted to surprise Bryan, so we came back together to...."

"You made me believe that you were in the cinema," Tom reminded her, his blood beginning to boil at the level of their deception as he remembered how she had claimed she was inside the cinema seeing a movie.

"I'm sorry. We were going to go there to see the movie, but Sonia changed her mind, and she didn't want me to...."

"Since you are at Harry's apartment right now, that means you must be aware that I'm in Heden, am I right?" Tom cut in.

"Yes. We just...."

"I'm right here making a fool of myself at the mall where you said you would be, and you are over there...." Tom paused, took a deep breath, and without saying another word to her, Tom returned the phone to Bryan and walked away.

He couldn't believe that she had found out about the mix-up and had not only failed to call him but had also ignored his phone call.

She had gone to Harry's place to see Aaron yet had failed to call him when she found out he had traveled that distance to see her.

He was mad at her and angry at everything else. Here he was, trying his best to do all he could to be with her and spend time with her, yet she didn't care about him.

"I'm sorry...."

Not knowing what to say to her, Bryan sighed, "He is no longer with the phone. I need to go...."

"Alright," Lucy said in a quiet voice as she returned the phone to Sonia.

"Babe...." Sonia called, but Bryan had hung up the call already.

"Is everything okay?" Sonia asked with a concerned frown when she saw the distress on Lucy's face.

"Yeah," Lucy murmured as she looked at her own phone, contemplating whether or not she should call him or give him time to cool off.

This whole surprise thing was a bad idea, and she had known it from the moment Sonia suggested it. She should have told Tom about it. Knowing him, he would have kept the truth from Bryan and possibly helped Sonia plan a better way to surprise him. Now he was mad at her.

He had been upset when she merely left the office on an official assignment without informing him first, talk more of traveling from one city to another without his knowledge.

"What did he say? Did they go to the mall?" Sonia asked, and Lucy nodded, tears gathering in her eyes.

As minor or funny as it might seem to anyone else, Lucy knew Tom wouldn't take it so lightly. She couldn't take the fact that she had done something like that so lightly either. Despite how stressed he was, he had made that trip to see her.

He had believed her so quickly because he trusted her, but she lied to him and made him go all that way for nothing.

"I will explain to him and let him know it's all my fault," Sonia offered, guessing from the look on Lucy's face that Tom was upset with her.

Lucy shook her head, "There won't be any need for that," Lucy said as she decided to settle for a text message instead.

"You can go in. I will join you inside," Lucy said as she started composing a text on her phone.

Away from there, Bryan hurried after Tom as he left the mall and caught up with him at the foot of the escalator.

"Tom...."

"Unless there is something else you want to do in Heden, let's return to Ludus," Tom said without letting him finish.

"We can leave," Bryan said as he handed the bouquet of flowers to the nearest lady, and they left.

As they got into the car, Tom's phone beeped with a text notification, and he took it out. He wanted to ignore the text at first when he saw that it was from Lucy, but on second thoughts, he clicked on it.

[I was wrong to lie to you regardless of my reason. I'm sorry. Please forgive me. It's past five minutes already. Call me. I love you.]

Past five minutes? Tom mused with a slight frown as he tried to figure out what she meant. It didn't take long before he figured it out, and he sighed.

They had both promised to try not to stay mad at each other for longer than five minutes

Back in Harry's apartment, the others gathered around Jade's phone as they all read the details on a gossip blog talking about the Hank brothers who showed up at a mall to surprise Sonia Smith, who stood them up.

"It seems like you Hanks can never stay off the news. You lot always attract trouble," Harry muttered to Jade, forgetting that Evelyn and Desmond were there, and three pairs of eyes turned to glare at him. He quickly flashed Evelyn and Andrew a smile.

"I was only pulling your legs," Harry assured them, and the others in the room laughed.

Their laughter ceased, and all eyes turned to the door as Lucy and Sonia, who had insisted on going in with her, walked in, "What did Tom say?" Jade asked curiously as she dropped her phone, and everyone returned to their seats.

Lucy looked at her, wondering why Jade was asking what Tom said when it was Sonia who had left to answer Bryan's call. What made them think she had spoken to Tom? She mused as she stared at Jade.

"Did Tom not speak to her through your phone?" Jade asked Sonia since, from the expressions on both their faces when they walked in, Lucy seemed more distressed than Sonia.

"Nothing," Lucy said simply, but they all knew she was not telling the truth.

"I'm leaving now. I will see you later," Lucy said to Aaron before turning to her parents, "I guess we will meet at Tom's house," Lucy told them in a tired voice.

"Oh, dear! Tom must be mad. I'm sorry, Lucy," Desmond said, looking remorseful now as he rose, but Lucy shook her head. Find the newest **novels** on [n/o/velbin\(.\)com](http://n/o/velbin(.)com)

"No. It's not your fault. You did nothing wrong," Lucy said with a sigh.

She wished she could blame this on either Desmond or Sonia, but she couldn't. It was not their fault. It was hers.

Tom was her man, and she knew him well enough to know that this was going to piss him off. Especially when his surprise visit to her had been ruined and who knew what else. Tom hated having his plans messed up, and that seemed to be happening a lot lately. She only hoped her text would work.

"Tom won't be mad. I told him not to be mad, right mom?" Jamal asked from where he sat beside Janet.

"Yes, you did, pumpkin," Candace responded.

"Don't worry too much, Lulu. Once he stops getting mad about his thwarted plans, he will understand. Tom is not unreasonable," Harry assured her.

"We will talk to him not to be mad," Evelyn assured her.

"Harry give him a call right now and let me talk to him," Aaron suggested, and Lucy smiled.

"Thanks...", the rest of her words trailed off when her phone started ringing, and she saw it was Tom.

"It's Tom, right?" Jade asked, and Lucy gave her a nod as she received the call.

"I'm not calling because I'm no longer mad at you. I'm still very disappointed and mad. However, I'm calling because I love you. My anger will eventually pass, but my love for you won't pass...."

Lucy's heart swelled with love for him, and tears gathered in her eyes. Her lips wobbled as she smiled, "I love you too. I'm sorry," she cried, and although the other ladies in the room couldn't hear what Tom was saying, their eyes were teary as they watched Lucy.

"We are on our way back, so don't you dare think of getting on any plane and coming back here," Tom warned, and Lucy sniffled as she giggled while Bryan looked at Tom with newfound admiration.

"What can I do to make it up to you?" Lucy asked as she turned away from the others.

"You could give me the whole of tonight and tomorrow. I want you all to myself. No divided attention."

"I'm all yours," Lucy promised.

"Cool. I will see you later then. Take care of yourself. I love you."

"I love you more," Lucy said, meaning that for the first time.

"No. I love you more," Tom said before hanging up.

"Wow!" Bryan exclaimed as he looked at Tom.

"What?" Tom asked with an arched brow.

"You're impressive. Very impressive," Bryan said, giving him a thumbs up, and Tom smiled.

He had really been upset as at the time he dialed Lucy's line, and although he wasn't completely past the annoyance of everything, he felt better after speaking with her.

Chapter 519 Live Video

Harry looked around his apartment and he couldn't believe how rowdy it was. This was the first time he was having such a large gathering in his house and there wasn't even enough room for everyone.

He was having a headache. Everyone was talking at the same time, some seated, some standing, and people were just at every corner he looked in his living room.

Now that she had resolved her misunderstanding with Tom, there was no reason for her to leave the gathering since he wouldn't be in ludus at least until a couple of hours so she was busy talking with her parents about her mother's arrest, while Sonia was talking with Desmond and Evelyn.

"I'm hungry," Sonia complained, and Evelyn turned to her.

"Of course, you'd be. I doubt you've had anything to eat since you left the house, or have you?" Evelyn asked, and Sonia shook her head.

"Why don't we go to the kitchen and fix dinner for everyone," Jade suggested to Candace, and both Lucy, and Sonia joined them.

Harry silently hoped that they would clean the place before leaving. He didn't want to have to call in the cleaner on a weekend, and he definitely didn't want to have to do the cleaning himself either.

Inside the kitchen, Jade looked at Sonia and Lucy, "Now that you both seem okay, I think you need to know that your men are trending on social media because of you," Jade said, and Candace giggled while Sonia and Lucy looked at her with questioning eyes.
Rread latest chapters at
[n/ov\(e\)lbin\(.\)co/m](http://n/ov(e)lbin(.)co/m)

"Trending why?" Lucy asked, while Sonia wasted no time in taking out her phone to see what was happening on social media.

"You should see for yourself," Jade said before turning to Candace. "What do you suggest we fix for everyone?"

"Let's see what we can make out of what we can find," Candace suggested while Sonia and Lucy pored over the articles on social media.

"I can't believe he bought me flowers. It's the first time anyone is buying me flowers," Sonia said with a wide smile.

"I can count a number of guys that bought you flowers," Lucy said dryly.

"They don't count," Sonia said waving her hands dismissively.

"And he apologized publicly in a cinema. Isn't that so romantic?" Sonia asked with a girlish giggle and Lucy rolled her eyes.

"Yes, it is. You can include all of that in your novel," Lucy suggested.

"Everyone still thinks you stood him up," Jade pointed out as she and Candace rummaged through the refrigerator in search of food items that would be enough to prepare a meal for everyone.

"Well, that can be corrected easily," Sonia said as she went on her instagram page and started a live video, startling Lucy who quickly moved away from her.

"What are you doing?" Lucy asked with a frown.

"Going live to let everyone know Bryan wasn't stood up," Sonia said even as people started to join her live video.

"Your face don't look so good," Jade said, turning to look at Sonia.

"I'm live already," Sonia pointed out, and Jade quickly went around to join Sonia while Lucy stood beside Candace.

"Hello, everyone! As you already know, I'm Sonia Smith. Bryan's girlfriend...."

"And I'm Jade Hank. The most beautiful Hank sister," Jade said with a bright smile and they both giggled as they read some of the comments.

"No, I'm not gay. I assure you," Jade said when one person commented on how pretty she was saying she looked like a lesbian, while another person asked if the reason Sonia left Bryan was for Bryan's pretty sister.

"First of all, I want to publicly apologize to Bryan for misunderstanding him. Baby, I'm sorry, and I love you."

"Aww," Jade cooed, placing a hand on her chest.

"Secondly, I'm going to ignore all the hate comments I read last night from Bryan's fans. I'm ignoring it all because I want to believe you said all you did out of love for him and concern for his career. Now to the reason I'm making this video. I just saw the news online about Bryan being stood up by me. That's not true. I traveled all the way down to Ludus to surprise Bryan and make up with him only to find out he also traveled down to Heden to see me. I'm over here with his family waiting for him to return. So it's all love down here. I hope the gossip blogs would stop spreading

unverified stories. Thanks for your time. I love you all. Goodbye for now," Sonia said, and ended the video.

"How was that?" Sonia asked with a satisfied smile as she looked at Lucy and Candace.

Lucy shrugged, "I guess it's okay."

"Good. Now that we have gotten that out of the way, let's talk about how the both of you are cousins," Sonia said pointing at Lucy and Candace.

"And how you are interested in her twin brother," Sonia said pointing at Jade and Candace.

"And how you are dating her brother," Sonia said pointing at Lucy and Jade.

"And how you are my best friend, and how we are dating her both brothers... don't you think we should just bring out knives right now and take a blood oath swearing allegiance to each other seeing how we are all connected?" Sonia asked, making them laugh.

"Oh! I left out how you are involved with her brother's best friend," Sonia said, referring to Candace and Jade once again.

"I'm not involved with her brother's best friend. Nothing is going on between Matt and I," Candace informed her stiffly.

"Nothing? But Matt is in love with you," Sonia said with a slight frown.

"You think so too, right?" Jade asked, while Lucy listened to them without commenting since she was the only one who didn't really know Matt personally and knew next to nothing about Candace's relationship with him.

"Not anymore. That's all water under the bridge now," Candace said dismissively wondering why everyone was talking about Matt today. She hoped they would drop the subject and let sleeping dogs lie.

"Love doesn't fade so easily.... Talk about the devil," Sonia said with a grin when her phone started ringing and she saw that it was Matt.

"That's Matt?" Jade asked, and Sonia nodded as she received the call while Candace pretended to be busy so she wouldn't focus on Sonia to hear what she was discussing with Matt.

"Hey, gumdrop!" Matt greeted cheerfully making Sonia smile.

"Sup, sunshine!" Sonia greeted back and Matt chuckled.

"Do you sound this way because you are fine or are you trying to sound cheerful to make me believe you're good?" Matt asked making Sonia's brows pull together in confusion.

"Is there a reason I shouldn't be fine?"

"I heard about your fallout with Bryan. Are you okay? Do you need a shoulder to cry on?" Matt asked with such a concerned tone that made Sonia smile.

"Aww! I'm so touched right now," Sonia said, genuinely feeling touched by his question.

"Don't feel so touched. I plan to snatch you from him. That bastard doesn't deserve a gem like you. Please, if you both ever make up don't tell him I said this," Matt pleaded and Sonia giggled making

the others wonder what they were talking about as they went about fixing snacks for everyone to eat.

"Are you still at the Hank home? I could drop by with a box of ice cream and chocolate for you," Matt offered.

"That's so sweet of you. Do you have a social media account, Matt? Instagram? Twitter? Facebook?" Sonia asked in amusement.

"Sure, I do. Why?" Matt asked.

"When last did you go online?" Sonia asked curiously.

"Some time this morning I think. I'm not really a fan of social media. I prefer to spend my time doing other things instead of trying to see what other people are doing with their time. Besides, it's a known fact that most stuff posted online are lies. Why waste my time?" Matt asked, and Sonia laughed softly.

"You're so weird for a celebrity. Anyway, if you had gone online you'd have been updated on the current state of our relationship. Bryan and I are cool, or better put, we are on our way to being cool, so I'm fine. Thanks for asking," Sonia said, and Matt sighed in relief.

"I'm relieved you're both not breaking up," Matt confessed honestly.

"You are such a darling," Sonia said, and Matt smiled.

"Anyway, I told Bryan I was gonna stop by to check on you I still have to do that. So where are you?" Matt asked as he glanced at the wristwatch.

"Well, unless you are in Ludus or plan to fly down to Ludus, I'm afraid you can't do that. I'm in Ludus. Got here about an hour ago," Sonia explained and Matt raised a brow.

"Huh? Does that mean you are with Bryan right now?"

"No. He's in Heden. We both traveled to see the other," Sonia said, explaining the mixup and Matt burst into a peal of laughter.

"Serve y'all right. Alright then. Since you're good, I don't have to worry. Got to go now," Matt said wanting to hang up, but Sonia quickly stopped him.

"I'm at Harry's apartment right now. Jade is here. And Candace too. You want to say hello?" Sonia asked, and Candace stiffened at the mention of her name, while Jade walked over to where Sonia was and took the phone from her.

"Give my regards to them. I have to go now...."

"Too bad I'm with the phone already. How are you?" Jade asked, and Matt sighed.

"I'm fine. Seeing how you're both there I guess things turned out well and Jero is dead," Matt said, resisting the urge to ask Jade about what Bryan had told him concerning Candace being Harry's twin sister.

"Yeah. Want to say hello to her?" Jade suggested, and Candace paused what she was doing to look at Jade with disapproval even though a part of her wanted to speak with him.

"Can't. I'm busy right now. On my way out on a date and I...."

"You're going out on a date?" Jade asked with a frown, and Candace also looked slightly surprised.

"Yes. Got to go now. Give my regards to Candace," Matt said, and without letting her say another word he hung up the call.

All eyes turned to Candace, and seeing the concern on their faces she flashed them an awkward smile, "See? I told you. There's nothing between us," she said before turning her back to them and started whisking the eggs.

Seeing how awkward the atmosphere was now, Sonia decided to change the subject, "How are things going with Harry?" She asked Jade curiously and Jade grinned.

"Better than I thought. I have so much to tell you. But first. Since you're all here, I need your help. Harry is going on a date and I need to spy on them," Jade said, and Lucy frowned.

"Why is Harry going on a date when you just said things are going well?" Lucy asked curiously as she sifted the flour.

"Well, it's Aurora. I matchmade them. Harry is being Chivalrous and doesn't want to go back on his words to her. But I'm not comfortable," Jade explained with a frown.

"So what's your plan?" Sonia asked with an excited smile.

"I told her it should be a double date but Harry doesn't want me to show up," Jade said, telling them all what Harry had said and what she planned to do.

"Harry has a valid point. I'd feel stupid if I were in her shoes and later found out you set me up with him yet ended up snatching him from me and not even telling me anything," Lucy said, and Candace nodded in agreement.

"Doesn't that sound like what happened between you and Anita? Trying to set her and Tom up and dating Tom afterward?" Sonia asked, and Lucy frowned.

"No, it doesn't. I was the one that was taken for a fool because Anita didn't tell me Tom was her ex or anything. I'm surprised you're even saying this," Lucy said annoyed.

"Sorry. I didn't mean to annoy you," Sonia said apologetically.

"So what do you suggest I do? Sit back and watch him go on a date with her? C'mon, Candace! You saw Aurora. You heard all her plans," Jade said, and Candace shrugged.

"But Harry said you should leave it to him. Trust him and do nothing," Candace suggested.

"I support that too," Lucy said, and Jade turned to Sonia.

"I understand it's not easy to stay still. But I see no reason why we can't have lunch together on that day at that venue." Sonia said, and Jade smiled.

"I always knew I could count on you."

Chapter 520 Going Home

"So, Sara is your twin sister?" Aaron asked Janet in the middle of the random conversations they were all having in the living room, and everyone suddenly went silent.

"Why don't we go and play some games in my bedroom?" Harry asked as he rose to leave the adults to that conversation, and Jamal followed him.

"Yes, she is. I'm sorry for all the pain and anguish she caused you," Janet said apologetically.

"I heard from Lucy that you received your fair share from her too," Aaron said, and Janet nodded.

"Everyone who is unfortunate to encounter her gets their share. I'm surprised she still hasn't changed," Janet said with a sigh.

"Lucy mentioned that she paid you a visit recently," Aaron said, and Janet gave him a nod.

"She did. I don't know what she hoped to accomplish by doing that, though. She showed up with a cheque wanting to pay back in multiple folds the money she stole from our father that cost him his life. The same money my mother and I worked our fingers to the bone to pay back until she died too. Can you believe that?" Janet asked, her voice rising as tears filled her eyes at the memory.

Aaron looked at her sadly, "I'm sorry...."

"I am too. What I am still trying to figure out is whether I'm more pissed at the fact that she still thinks money is everything even after all these years or the fact that she didn't have the decency to act remorseful...." Janet paused to take a deep breath when Andrew placed a hand on her shoulder to calm her.

"Remorse? I don't think she is capable of it. She didn't show any either when we met after twenty-eight years," Aaron said with a shake of his head.

Desmond and Evelyn listened without contributing to the conversation since they knew they would never understand the sort of pain Aaron and Janet experienced in Sara's hand. They were both victims of Sara.

"How did she ever get to be that way? So selfish, deceptive, and manipulative? Did something happen to her? Maybe a trauma?" Aaron asked, unable to understand how a person could just be that way.

"No. Nothing happened. She always was that sort of person. She didn't want to see anyone happy if she wasn't happy. She wanted everything to revolve around her. She knew too well how to play the victim card, and sometimes I think I contributed to that," Janet said sadly.

"Why would you think that?" Aaron asked with concern.

"I enabled her. I encouraged her actions. There were times when we were kids that she would do something wrong and convince me to take the blame for it. She would claim because I was our parent's favorite, they would let it slide if I took the blame but would punish her severely for it if they found out she did it. I let myself be a pushover for her. I made excuses for her, thinking she would eventually change, but she never did, and that cost my parents their joy and eventually their life. And it cost you so much too," Janet said as tears dropped from her eyes.

"You did nothing wrong, Jane. You only did what siblings do naturally. You can't blame yourself for that," Evelyn said softly.

"I can never understand why people love to take responsibility for the actions of others regardless of their relationship. As long as you're not directly involved, it's not on you. It's on her. You didn't ask

her to do any of those things she did," Desmond added, and both his wife, Andrew, and Aaron nodded.

"They are right. It's not your fault. Sara did all of that on her own, so you shouldn't feel responsible," Aaron assured her.

"I'm still surprised at the coincidence of it all. I mean, it's strange that the family she sold Candace to is related to the family of your son's ex-fiancée," Aaron said, and the others nodded in agreement.

"I'm just as surprised. I'm glad Candace is fine, and we can all be together like this," Janet said with a sigh, and they all looked up when Jade and the others walked into the living room with plates containing cookies and other snacks.

"The snacks are ready," Jade announced.

"Where is Harry?" She asked when she noticed he and Jamal were absent.

"In his bedroom with Jamal," Aaron said, and Jade excused herself to go get him.

Once she got to his bedroom, she knocked on the door once before opening it and poking her head through, "What are you doing?" She asked when she saw Harry and Jamal on the bed playing a game of chess.

"What does it look like? Frisbee?" Harry asked sarcastically as he corrected Jamal's wrong move, teaching him what to move and in what direction.

"Jamal, go to the living room. We made cookies," Jade suggested as she walked into the bedroom, and immediately Jamal got off the bed and shot out the door.

Seeing that they were alone in the room, Harry rose from the bed, "I suppose you came to get me. Let's go," he said as he dipped both hands in his pocket while Jade observed and admired him with a smile.

"Why are you smiling?" Harry asked, eyeing her with suspicious eyes.

"Can't I smile while admiring my man?" Jade asked, and Harry chuckled.

"Sure, you can do that when I become your man," Harry said as he headed for the door while Jade went to the bed and lifted the pillows.

"Didn't you say...."

"It's no longer there. You didn't expect me to leave it there with Jamal on my bed and visitors in the house, did you?" Harry asked with a slightly raised brow.

"I was just curious, that's all. Where did you keep it?"

"Somewhere safe. By the way, you are leaving with your parents, right? The nurse will be staying in the guest room," Harry said, and Jade smiled.

"But there is another guest room...."

"For as long as you occupy the other room, Candace would not want to move in with Jamal, and my dad wants them to. So you can't move in there. That room is solely for her now," Harry said, and Jade smiled.

"That's fine. I will move into your bedroo...."

"No! You can't do that!" Harry cut in before she could finish.

"Why not? There's enough room in here for both of us," Jade pointed out.

"There is enough room in here because this is how much space I need...."

"What do you mean by that? Are we going to have separate rooms when we get married?" Jade cut in with a frown, and Harry paused, not sure whether to be amused or not.

He would never have thought Jade would become this way. So possessive and expressive of her feelings. He guessed this was what they meant when they said the patient dogs eat the fattest bone. She was doing most of the chasing now.

"If we get married...."

"When not if. We are getting married," Jade corrected.

"Okay," Harry said patiently, and Jade raised a brow.

"Okay what?"

"I just okayed what you said. What did you say?" Harry asked, and Jade sighed.

"You were saying something, and I corrected you. You can't just say okay and not finish what you were saying," Jade said impatiently, and Harry chuckled.

He was in for the ride of his life with this one. "I can no longer remember what I was saying because you interrupted me," Harry said, and Jade narrowed her eyes.

"I remember. I can remind you of it since you can't remember. I said I'm moving into this bedroom with you. And then after our usual back and forth, you said okay, I could stay here since we would share this room after we get married."

"No, I didn't say that. When we get married, we are not going to live here," Harry said, and Jade grinned.

"See? You remembered what you were going to say. And it wasn't so hard using when instead of if, was it?" Jade asked with a triumphant smile.

"Since you've gotten that out of me, I hope you understand now and don't mind going to Tom's house where you have a room to yourself," Harry said, and Jade scowled.

"If I go over there, I will be lonely. Lucy will be with Tom, Sonia will be with Bryan, Candace will be with Jamal, and our parents have each other, but I will be all alone," Jade said with a pout.

"You've been alone for a long time. I'm sure you've mastered the art by now...."

"But I will miss you. Won't you miss me?" Jade asked, and Harry shook his head.

"No, I won't," Harry assured her, and Jade eyed him with disapproval.

"You don't mean that, do you? Why are you telling lies?" She asked, and Harry chuckled.

Wasn't he just used to this by now? He wondered if they were aware of their distinctive family behavior and how they all came to have this in common--always wanting to have their way and wanting everyone to do and say what they wanted. Was it their upbringing?

Unfortunately for Jade, he had no intention of being a pushover for her or letting her have her way. He knew just how easy it would be for him to give in to her, and as much as he loved having these exchanges with her, he needed to also draw the lines so she wouldn't overdo it.

"You must be so full of yourself to assume that saying I won't miss you is a lie. Tell me, esquire, why am I not surprised?" *all new stories at n0ve/lbi/n(.)com*

"How can you tell your girlfriend that you won't miss her?" Jade asked angrily, and Harry smiled.

"First, you're not my girlfriend yet. Secondly, you've bothered me so much in the short while since you arrived that I need time to recuperate. You said you came here to be with me and cheer me up, right? That means your being here is not about you. And it's not because you're lonely. Thanks for coming. I feel better now, so you can go be with your family," Harry said, and Jade frowned.

"Are you chasing me away?"

Harry took some steps towards her and pulled her to himself, "Not at all, sugar. Why would I do that?" he asked as he placed a finger under her chin and raised her head, so she was looking up at him into his eyes.

"I'm not chasing you away. I'm only putting you in your place. If and when we decide to be in a relationship together. I want you to know that you won't always have your way," Harry said as he lowered his head to hers and took her lips in a slow, teasing kiss.

Jade felt butterflies flutter in her belly, and she grabbed the front of his shirt when she swayed on her feet.

"So take your time to think whether or not you can stand not having your way all the time, alright? My girlfriend won't be the Hank Princess. If we are going to do this, you have to leave all that spoilt brat behavior behind. I won't condone it. Maybe I will sometimes, but not all the time. And just so we are clear you're going home with your parents, okay?" Harry asked as he nibbled on her lower lip, pulling away each time she tried to capture his lips.

"Okay," Jade whispered against his lips, and Harry deepened the kiss before pulling away, but his hand remained on her lower back.

"Okay what?" Harry asked, a knowing smile dancing on the corners of his lips.

Jade blinked in confusion, "Okay, to what you said."

"What did I say?" Harry asked, knowing that if she had heard him rightly, she would have been glaring at him for calling her a spoilt brat, and she wouldn't say okay to going home so easily.

Jade stepped away from his arms as she tried to think about what he had said, and Harry chuckled and made for the door when she suddenly let out a long string of curses as she picked up one of the pillows on the bed and threw it at him.

"Good. You heard me," Harry said, laughing loudly as he ducked when she threw another pillow, and he quickly left the room and shut the door behind him.

His laughter died on his lips when he came face to face with Desmond, and he cleared his throat, "Uhm, I was coming to..."

"I need to find the restroom," Desmond cut in, stopping him from explaining himself.

"The last door down the hallway," Harry said, feeling awkward at running into the father of the girl he had just kissed. How long has he been standing there? Did he hear anything? How much did he hear?

As Desmond turned to leave, the bedroom door opened, and his gaze moved to Jade when she stepped out of the room.

His eyes moved over her flushed face and her glistening lips, and she flashed him a smile, "What are you doing here, dad?" Jade asked, and Desmond scoffed.

"Your mother thought you lost your way or were kidnapped by aliens, so she wanted me to come to find you," Desmond said dryly and returned his gaze to Harry.

"There is no reason to look like a guilty thief in your own house. Maybe now you will keep her busy enough to stop disturbing her mother and me in the middle of the night. Man can't have fun with his wife in peace because they have kids that won't stop getting into trouble," Desmond muttered as he walked down the hallway in search of the restroom.