

Wild Night 521

Chapter 521 Don't Interfere

By the time they finished eating the snacks and conversing, the time was far spent, and Aaron's nurse, a young lady in her late twenties, had arrived.

As everyone got ready to leave, Harry was more than thankful that Jade and her crew had cleaned up the place.

"It was nice meeting you, Aaron. And you too, Harry," Janet said once Adolf called to let Evelyn know that he was outside the building waiting to drive them to Tom's house.

"Same here. I hope to see you all again before you leave," Aaron said with a smile as he looked at the group.

"We hope so too. Get well soon," Evelyn said as they rose to leave.

Aaron had enjoyed their company far more than he had expected he would. The jokes, the banters, the teases, and all of it. They were an exciting and amusing group.

"Are you coming with us?" Evelyn asked when Jade, who had gone to show the nurse to her bedroom a while ago, returned carrying her luggage.

"Yes, I am," Jade said as she eyed Harry, but he maintained a blank expression as he looked back at her. Only she could tell that he was amused despite his straight face.

"Oh! Okay," Evelyn said, deciding not to ask any further questions there since she was sure Jade had her reasons, and they could always talk about it later.

"That's great! We can have a sleepover in your bedroom! Just us girls," Sonia suggested happily.

"Who is in?" Sonia asked, looking from Jade to Lucy and Candace.

"I'm in," Jade said excitedly.

"I can join you only after Jamal goes to sleep," Candace said, and Sonia clapped her hands gleefully.

"So it's settled then," Sonia said, but Lucy shook her head.

"No, it's not. I didn't say I was going to join you. And I doubt you will have the time for that yourself if Tom and Bryan arrive soon," Lucy pointed out, and Sonia sighed.

"That's true," Sonia murmured. She would be too busy discussing with Bryan and making up with him to want to leave him for a girls' hang out.

"You got my hopes raised for nothing. I guess it's going to have to be just the both of us single ladies, then. You are my new BFF. We still have to choose a day to go clubbing. The last time I went clubbing, your brother cut short my fun," Jade told Candace as she placed her arm on Candace's shoulder while Harry's ears perked up at the mention of her going to a club.

There was no way he was letting her do that in his absence, not after he had seen firsthand what she did at the club when she was drunk and twerking on the stage. No way!

"You can decide on that on our way. Let's leave now so we can get there in time for Jamal to observe his bedtime," Janet suggested as Jamal went to hug Aaron and Harry good night.

"Since the car would not accommodate everyone, I will drop off the young ladies while the elders can go with Adolf," Harry suggested, but they all refused.

"We can get a Uber. There is no reason for you to drive all the way to Tom's and then come back on your own. You should stay back with your dad or get some rest," Jade said, setting aside her grudge temporarily as she took out her phone to quickly order an Uber ride.

"Jamal will come with us, and the rest of you can find your way," Evelyn said while Janet looked at Candace.

She hoped she would get a private moment to chat with Candace. She was going to find a way to do that once they got home. She was feeling very maternal towards Candace and Harry, who had never experienced the love of a mother.

"We will see you tomorrow. Have a good night's rest," Candace said as she embraced Aaron and kissed his cheek.

Once Candace, Lucy, and Jade had kissed Aaron goodbye, he looked at Sonia, "What about you? You shouldn't be left out," Aaron said with a grin as he patted his cheeks where the others had kissed him and Sonia, and the others laughed as she went to do the same.

"Dad, I will be back after seeing them off," Harry said to his father as he took Jade's luggage before escorting them out of the door.

Inside the elevator, the elders talked about how exhausted they were and how they needed to go to bed while the girls talked about the interview. Jade bragged about how she brought the idea to call Derek and Paul while Harry listened to them all without saying anything.

"I'm surprised you are leaving when such a hot chick just moved in. Why?" Candace asked Jade as they walked out of the elevator ahead of the others.

Sonia hurried to join them as she excused Harry and Lucy when they started their own conversation.

"If Harry were the type that would fall for just anyone, I wouldn't be trying so crazy about him, would I?" Jade asked, and Candace scoffed.

"You know that, yet you want to spy on him and Aurora?"

"That is different. I'm just uncomfortable about their date," Jade said defensively.

"I don't see how it is different. I'm still curious though, why are you leaving already? Earlier, you said you were going to be here for some time. What changed?" Candace asked while Sonia listened as she tried to figure out what they were discussing before contributing to the subject.

Jade shrugged, "He wants me to go home," she said casually, trying to sound like her pride wasn't hurt by that.

"Really? Why?"

"Did you do or say something to annoy him?" Candace and Sonia asked simultaneously.

"What do you mean? It's his house, and he is allowed to decide who stays and who leaves," Jade said defensively.

"What was his reason for asking you to leave?" Sonia pressed.

"We discussed it, okay? He just needs space until we are able to sort through our feelings. It's not a big deal," Jade lied, not wanting to say anything else since she knew the more questions she answered, the more questions they would ask. It was embarrassing enough for her that Harry had asked her to leave. She didn't want to add to it by listening to them tell her how flimsy his excuse was.

Behind them, Harry and Lucy were having another serious discussion, "I was speaking with Tom earlier and raised the issue of marriage..." Harry paused when Lucy stiffened.

Of course, if it were someone else, Harry would never have mentioned this, but with Lucy, he felt like they had a connection and could talk about anything, so he didn't hesitate to raise the subject. That would help him know if he should get involved or not.

"Don't worry; it's between us both. He told me you don't want to get married. I'm just curious to know why," Harry said, and Lucy looked at him.

"I've never given it a thought. I don't think it's a big deal," Lucy said, curious to know exactly what Harry and Tom had talked about and what Tom had said.

"Do you think it's something you can change your mind about? Maybe if you are persuaded otherwise?" Harry asked, and Lucy shook her head.

"Did Tom ask you to talk to me about it?"

"No, he didn't. I told you it came up in the middle of our conversation and I told him I was going to try to help. I wanted to hear from you first to know whether or not I should interfere," Harry explained.

"Don't interfere. I will rather not be persuaded on the subject. If I ever decide to do it eventually, I want it to be because it is something I want, not because anyone convinced me or persuaded me to change my mind. I want to be able to take responsibility for whatever decision I take," Lucy explained, and Harry gave her a nod.

"I understand," Harry said with a smile. From what she had said, he could tell that her decision was not a rigid one and could be subject to change but only on her own terms.

Once they all got to the front of the building, Adolf got out of the car and held open the car door for them.

Desmond turned to Harry, "Let's have a drink one of these days before I go back, okay?"

"Yes, sir!" Harry said with a polite bow, and Evelyn smiled as she touched his cheek fondly.

"Good night, Harry. Take care of yourself and your dad," she said, and Harry gave her a nod as he watched her get into the car with Jamal.

"It was nice to meet you, Harry," Janet said, and Harry smiled at her.

"Same here," he said with a polite bow and watched her and Andrew get into the car as well.

"Drive safely," Harry called to Adolf as he drove off with them.

The Uber ride pulled up almost immediately, and Lucy embraced Harry before getting into the car.

"I don't have to worry about Jamal saying anything to them, right?" Harry asked Candace once again, and she smiled.

"He won't. Don't worry about it," Candace assured him and embraced him before joining Lucy inside.

"Good night, Sonia," Harry called to Sonia, and she smiled.

"Good night," she said with a wave as she got into the car.

Once Sonia got into the passenger seat with the others, and Jade was left with Harry, a smile tugged on his lips when he noticed she was scowling at him again.

"Try not to miss me too much, esquire," Harry said as he stepped forward and kissed her forehead, making butterflies flutter in her belly.

"Who says I'm going to miss you?" She asked in a voice that came out differently than she had planned.

"You said so. Call or text me if you are bored or lonely," Harry said and jerked his head towards the car.

"Get in," he ordered softly.

Although Jade wanted to argue, she scowled, "Whatever," she muttered as she turned to get into the car, but Harry was quick enough to open the front passenger door and hold it out for her to get in.

"Put on your seatbelt. I'll see you tomorrow," Harry said as he shut the door after she got in.

"Why didn't you request an older nurse? Or someone unattractive?" she asked before Harry could step away from the door, and he leaned forward so he could look into the car through her window.

"Because I didn't factor your self-esteem in while requesting for the most suitable nurse to take care of my dad. I had no idea you had so little confidence in yourself or my feelings for you. Goodnight, esquire," Harry said dryly before looking at the driver.

"Take them home. Drive carefully," Harry told the driver before stepping away from the car.

As the driver drove off, Jade turned in her seat to frown at Harry, and Sonia turned in her seat too, but unlike Jade, she had a broad smile on her face.

"Wow!" Lucy breathed, breaking the silence in the car.

"What was that? I can't decide if he just scolded you or if that was a reassurance or a weird declaration of love," Candace said, and Sonia and Lucy laughed softly.

"That's what I have to face with Harry," Jade said with a sigh.

"I like him," Sonia declared.

Harry was definitely not what she had expected. She had expected someone very calm, gentle, sweet, romantic, and doting.

And although she was sure he was all that, she could tell there was more to him. He was more exciting than he appeared. She was so going to enjoy befriending him and getting him to permit her to write about him.

Chapter 522 Welcome Home

"Where are you coming from?" Adam asked when Bernice walked into the house late that night.

Bernice looked at her husband, taken aback by his question, "Me?" she asked as she looked behind her wondering who he was talking to.

"Do you see anyone else behind you?" Adam asked in annoyance.

"Well, you can't blame me for being surprised by your question since you mostly ignore me and act like I don't exist," Bernice said, but Adam's gaze remained cold.

"That doesn't answer my question. Where are you coming from by this time of the night when you left the house all morning?"

Bernice glanced at her wristwatch. It was just five minutes past eight, "It's not that late. Besides, I didn't realize I'm a prisoner in my house...."

"Make no mistake, Bernice. This is not your house. It is mine. Now you're either going to tell me where you're coming from by this time of the night, or you're going to return there to pass the night."

"Adam, it's bad enough that you don't treat me like your wife. I'm gradually coming to terms with it, and that's fine by me. I won't check your phone or pry into your business anymore. But I will appreciate it if you let me be! I don't question you when you go out and return late or not even come back home some times. So why do you have a problem with my movement? It's not like you love or care about me!"

"Are you having an affair?" Adam asked suspiciously.

"An affair? You must think everyone is irresponsible like you are!"

Adam balled his hands into a fist, and Bernice's gaze followed the movement, "What? Do you want to hit me again?" she asked with a shake of her head.

"I'm going to ask you one last time. Where are you coming from?"

"Well, if you must know, I spent the day with my mother and sisters...."

"The entire day?" Adam asked, since he had been with Rebekah some hours ago.

"Yes. I told you my mother wanted us to have breakfast with her, and we spent the rest of the day shopping," Bernice said as she raised the shopping bags she was carrying for him to see.

"Do you want to also see what we bought?" she asked sarcastically.

"And you mean to tell me you just left your mother and sisters now?" Adam asked calmly as he watched her.

Bernice opened her mouth to say yes, but paused when it occurred to her that if her mother and Adam truly had something going between them, then it was possible that Adam would have spoken with her mother and he would know her mother had left on time.

"Not exactly. Mother left first to take care of something, and then I had to leave Tiffany and Anita later to meet with a friend..."

"I never knew you had friends," Adam cut in.

"There is a lot you obviously don't know. Well, I invited my family over for lunch tomorrow. I hope you will make yourself available," Bernice said, changing the subject since she didn't want him to ask her any more questions about who her 'friend' was.

Adam tried to act like he had not heard of the lunch from Rebekah already, "Don't you think you should have informed me first before inviting them over?"

Bernice sighed, "You are right. I should have. It's just that I missed them so much and wanted to spend some time with them. And the boys have missed them too so I invited them over without thinking. I'm sorry," Bernice said, and Adam looked at her for a moment wondering what she was up to.

"You must not stay out this long anymore. We both can't be absent from the kids," Adam said before turning around and walking away.

Once he left, Bernice heaved a deep sigh of relief. She had not planned on staying out this late. After leaving her sisters she had first left to purchase spy cameras for the house since she would need evidence if she was going to divorce her husband for cheating with her mother.

After doing that she had gone out to meet with a caterer that would take care of their lunch the next day and from there she met up with Jackson as planned to let him know she didn't want to continue with their affair anymore, but she had somehow ended up in bed with him again. She had no idea how she had let him seduce her into sleeping with him once again.

Seeing that Adam had disappeared into his bedroom, Bernice quickly looked around the living room for spots where she could hide cameras unnoticed and planted them there before going to the kitchen and then the guestroom to do the same.

She settled on these spots because they were the only places she expected her mother to go into. She knew her mother could go into the guest room to use the restroom or touch up her makeup as she liked to do.

Cameras picked up subtle gestures that the people failed to notice unless they had a second look, so she needed to see if she would detect any sort of weird behavior between her husband and mother.

She had made up her mind that the moment she confirmed her suspicion, she was going to file for a divorce and she was going to take as much as she could get from him. She was done with this sham of a marriage.

Once she was done she packed the rest of her stuff to her bedroom and prepared to retire for the night.

By the time Adolf drove Tom and Bryan into Tom's compound, it was past 11 pm and almost everyone had settled in their bedrooms, apart from Jade, Sonia, and Candace who were in Jade's bedroom chatting.

Sonia being her restless self had been unable stay still long enough to wait for Bryan in his bedroom, especially not when she wanted to hear all about the progress between Harry and Jade. So she had decided to stay with Jade until Bryan's return.

Lucy on the other hand had opted out of the girls hang-out. She had spent little time talking with her parents before leaving them to return to Tom's bedroom to wait for him until he got back since she had promised to give him the whole of her evening and the next day.

While waiting, she had joined Samantha in the kitchen so they could prepare something for her and Tom to eat when he gets back. They made sure to package the food in a way that it would still be hot by whatever time he got back that night.

Once she was done with that and had it set up on the table in his bedroom, she let a bottle of white wine chill in a bucket of ice on the table at the balcony where two glasses were seated.

After she got those out of the way, she shaved, washed her hair, soaked herself in a warm and scented bath to relax her mind and body.

Settling for something sexy to wear had been a challenge at first, but after trying for some time, she decided to settle for her birthday suit.

What could be more sexy than lying on the bed naked with her hair down? Tom was going to love her and want her regardless of what she was wearing so there was no need to make so much fuss.

Having made up her mind she lit some scented candles in the bedroom and turned off the light bulbs before pouring some wine for herself since she needed to loosen up a bit from the tension of the week and the day.

As the alcohol relaxed her body, she dropped the glass on the table and lay on the bed face up with her legs spread out and her hair sprawled over the pillow.

That was exactly the sight that greeted Tom when he walked into his bedroom, and once Lucy heard the door open she sat up.

"How is a man supposed to stay mad when he is greeted by such a sight?" Tom asked in a husky voice as he shut the door behind him while Lucy rose from the bed.

"Not staying mad is the point," Lucy said with a lazy smile as she approached him slowly.

"Welcome home, Ace," she said as she looked at him, while his eyes moved over her body.

He looked up at her when she stopped in front of him, "Did I keep you waiting for long?" he asked as she embraced him.

"I'm alright. You must be exhausted," she said as she pulled away and reached for his tie, but before she could remove it, Tom grabbed her waist and pulled her to himself as he kissed her.

"Thanks for waiting up. I'm no longer mad at you," Tom said as he pulled away from her and Lucy smiled.

"I know I owe you an explanation. I will do so after you shower and have dinner...."

"Or maybe I could have you first, and then we can shower together, and then you can tell me all about your day while we have dinner, and then we can continue," Tom said as he ran his fingers down her body, and Lucy giggled as her body tingled in the places he touched.

"I don't know," she said in a cracked voice and cleared her throat, "Aren't you too tired for that?" she asked with a coy smile as she played with his tie.

"You thought I would be too tired yet you set these up and dressed this way?" he asked as he brushed his thumb over her nipple and immediately her sensitive nipples hardened.

"Even these beautiful buds don't agree with you," Tom said with a grin.

"It's the cold they're responding to," Lucy said and Tom raised a brow.

"Oh, is it?" Tom asked as he tweaked her nipples and a soft moan escaped her lips.

"That's what I thought too. Let's get you hot," Tom said as he pulled her back to himself and this time there was nothing soft about the kiss.

Chapter 523 No More Conflict

While Lucy and Tom were busy in his bedroom eating and being eaten, Sonia made her way to Bryan's bedroom after he called her to let her know he was back.

Once she opened the bedroom door and walked into the bedroom, Bryan who was taking off his trousers, turned to look at her, and they both remained where they stood staring at each other.

"I saw your live video," Bryan said, breaking the silence that hung in the air between them.

That was the first message he had seen when he got off the jet. Mia had screen-recorded it and sent it to him.

"I read about your interview and your appearance at the cinema," Sonia said, and Bryan sighed.

"I wanted to surprise you," they both said at the same time and broke out in laughter.

"I'm sorry," they both said simultaneously once they stopped laughing, and then paused as they smiled at each other.

"Come here," Bryan said, and Sonia went to him.

Bryan embraced her and held her in his arms as she also hugged him back fiercely. They remained in each other's arms that way for some time without saying anything until Sonia pulled away.

"Give me a minute, I need to catch my breath," she said as she took a deep breath because she was feeling suffocated with her face pressed against his chest.

Bryan watched her for some seconds with a blank expression, and then he sat on the bed, and patted the space beside him for her to sit.

"You must be exhausted. Let's talk in the morning," Sonia suggested, but Bryan shook his head.

"I don't think I will be able to have a good night rest if I don't get this off my chest," Bryan said, and Sonia sat beside him.

They both remained silent for some seconds as Sonia gave Bryan the time he needed to gather his thoughts, and after some time Bryan took her hands, "I love you, Sonia. I really do and I'm glad we both came back to our senses," Bryan started, while Sonia simply stared at him.

"I'm deeply sorry about my reaction. Regardless of whatever you did, I overreacted and I take responsibility for all of it. I'm immature as you said...."

"No. No. I didn't really mean that," Sonia quickly cut in.

"Yes, you did. And even if you didn't, I think I acted very immaturity. Seeing Tom handle his misunderstanding with Lucy made me realize how badly I handled ours," Bryan said with a sigh even though it bruised his ego to admit that.

"Well, you can't be so sure that he wouldn't have handled things like you did had he been in your shoes. Their misunderstanding wasn't as serious as ours," Sonia said, trying to defend Bryan since she could understand how hard it must be for him to admit this out loud.

"Not Tom. He is my elder brother and I know that much about him. He would have handled things way better. Sure, he would have beat Derek up, but he would never have done it so carelessly or publicly for it to get in the news, and he definitely would not have left Lucy alone at the station the way I left you," Bryan explained, and Sonia smiled.

"You packed a pretty good punch though. I never thought you had it in you," Sonia teased, and Bryan chuckled.

"I love you, Bryan. So much more than you think. And I'm sorry. I know I hold part of the blame. I'm sorry for being so distracted when you were trying to talk to me, and I'm sorry for not listening to you at the station. I wanted to help," Sonia said, and Bryan nodded.

"I know that. But I expected you to trust me. I was going to handle it. Even if you hadn't done anything, I would never have spent the night at the station. From the moment the officers realized who I was they were willing to let me go in the car but I didn't want them to do that. Besides, I asked them to let things play out because I also wanted to see how far Derek was willing to go," Bryan explained, and Sonia frowned.

"Why were they willing to let you go? Because you are an actor?"

"No. Because they could lose their job if my grandfather hears of it," Bryan said, and Sonia's brows pulled together.

"Your grandfather?"

"Yes. Lawrence Hank," Bryan said, and Sonia gasped.

"The one time president?" she asked, and Bryan gave her a nod.

"So I really did not want you to get involved. I could have had him locked up at the end of everything..."

"But the situation didn't look that way when I got there," Sonia said with a frown, when she recalled that both his hands had been cuffed.

"The cop told me you were refusing to settle or give your statement and you were cuffed too," she pointed out.

"I was cuffed so I wouldn't attack Derek. When he was giving his statement he made some remarks and I was forced to hit him. It was either they cuffed me or locked me up temporarily," Bryan explained, and Sonia nodded.

"I see," Sonia said, still surprised about the identity of his grandfather.

Although, the man was old now and never made public appearances, he had been one of the best presidents the country had ever had.

"How come I never knew he is your grandfather? It's not on your bio, is it?" she asked, and Bryan shook his head.

"You know how easy it is for people to tie your success to your family background. I didn't want anyone to assume I got to this level because of family connections. I worked hard for it. Besides, our father never allowed us to brag about it or introduce ourselves as the former president's grandchildren. He didn't do that himself either. Tom is the only one who used our grandfather's influence to get the caliber of investors he needed for his company. And as you can see, he pretty much hid his identity even after doing that," Bryan explained, and Sonia nodded thoughtfully.

"Why? I mean your dad. Why didn't he want you to introduce yourself that way? Is he not on good terms with his father?"

"He was a good president and he tried to be a good father but he wasn't a present father. He was almost always absent, and because of him my dad was kidnapped. So it's more like he likes his father, but doesn't like the title attached," Bryan explained and then remembered that they were not done clearing up their misunderstanding.

"Back to what I was saying. I want you to know that I don't have a problem with your writing about us. I'm sorry I let that text get to me the way I did. Also, you should know that I do not hold anything you did in the past against you. About your friendship with Lucy, I want you to understand that I'm not against Lucy. I love her both as your best friend and of course as my brother's partner...."

"I know that," Sonia cut in, "And I want you to know that you and Lucy have your special places in my heart. I wouldn't have hesitated to leave Lucy's side in the blink of an eye like I left you that day, if the situation was reversed and you needed me. She is my best friend, and you are my man. I understand there is a difference," Sonia assured him.

"It's not just about leaving me. It's the way you left. It's about coming up with decisions on your own. I don't like that. I will never make a decision that involves the both of us without discussing it with you first. We are a team. No one person should be calling all the shots," Bryan said, and Sonia sighed. Lucy had been right.

"It's not a deliberate act. I think I've been this way for a long time. Maybe it comes with being alone and making all decisions for myself for too long I don't know. Or maybe I'm just a control freak that wants to treat my life the way I do my stories. Lucy talked to me about it, and apparently it's not just you I do it to. She claims she has been tolerating me all these years. I will do my best to work on it.

The change might not come at once. But I will do my best to pay attention when you correct me," Sonia promised.

"Does that mean you are willing to review the subject of moving in together?" Bryan asked, and Sonia paused.

"I didn't ask for us to go on a break, Bryan. I only brought up that suggestion because I thought we might be going too fast when we barely know much about each other...."

"And how do you know we don't know much about each other?" Bryan asked, and Sonia shrugged.

"Hasn't this whole episode proved it? We both don't trust or understand each other enough yet," Sonia said patiently.

"Has it occurred to you that this could have also happened to people who have been in a relationship for years or are married? Besides, don't you think it is easier to understand and learn more about a person who lives under the same roof with you than a person who lives far away from you? You don't have to travel with me to movie sites if you don't want to, but I need you to be with me under the same roof when I'm not working," Bryan pleaded and Sonia looked at him contemplatively for a moment.

"Do you believe I love you?" she asked, and Bryan gave her a nod.

"I do."

"Then you just don't think I love you enough?" she asked, and Bryan sighed.

"Not exactly. Or maybe I thought so before now. You gave me the feeling that you were fine on your own and even if I decided to walk away you wouldn't be very much affected," Bryan answered honestly.

"Do you still think so now?"

"No. I think you love me, but not the way I want to be loved. You don't get my love language. And maybe it's the same for you. Maybe I'm not loving you as you want to be loved too," Bryan said, and Sonia nodded thoughtfully.

"We could talk about that tomorrow. You need to have dinner and relax," Sonia suggested.

"We are not done yet. We haven't concluded on whether we are moving in together as we planned or not," Bryan said, and Sonia nodded.

"Fine. Let's go ahead with it. If it does not work out then we will have to live apart," Sonia said, and Bryan smiled.

"Agreed. Although I'm not asking for any more conflicts, but I think we need to discuss more suitable ways of resolving conflicts in the future without having the world in our business. I learned that from Tom," Bryan said and Sonia nodded in agreement.

"I'm in. It's a good suggestion."

"So, you don't need any more conflicts for our story, right?" Bryan asked, and Sonia giggled.

"Do you even need to ask? Please, no more conflict," she said, and Bryan smiled as he pulled her close to himself and kissed her.

"I need to freshen up," Bryan said after he broke the kiss.

"You do that. I will go down to the kitchen to see if I can find something for you to eat while you shower," Sonia suggested as she rose but Bryan caught her wrist before she could leave.

"I'd rather redeem what you were offering in the shower yesterday. We can go down stairs together to find dinner after we are done," Bryan suggested with a naughty smile.

"You turned me down yesterday. That offer is no longer on the table," Sonia said with a sultry smile.

"Then how about make-up sex in the shower?" Bryan suggested, and Sonia sighed lustily.

"Too bad I can't resist you. Let's go," Sonia said as began to undress.

Chapter 524 Midnight Conversation

Inside Tom's dark bedroom, he and Lucy lay naked on the bed after another round of intense lovemaking, both feeling exhausted and lazy but unable to go to sleep.

Tom listened as Lucy explained the conflict between Sonia and Bryan, and told him about Sonia's annoying reception and her conversation with Sonia.

"You handled things very well," Tom said with approval and then listened as she continued to tell him how they had left for the meeting with the producer and Sonia's editor, and how their plans had changed after his first phone call to her informing her he was traveling to take care of something.

"You mean, my dad told you that you would find Bryan at Harry's apartment?" Tom asked with an amused chuckle as Lucy told him about her day and all that had happened.

"Yeah. He laughed so hard when we showed up there, wanting to surprise Bryan and ended up being surprised. He even yelled, 'Surprise' can you believe that?" Lucy asked, feeling more amused now than she had felt at the time, while Tom laughed really hard.

"Well, he never fails to amuse us. I can't say I'm surprised. He has always been more mischievous than even us, his kids," Tom said with a sigh as he rubbed his Hand down Lucy's naked back.

"Your mom didn't take it so lightly. And I wasn't amused by it either. If he had told us the truth, I wouldn't have lied to you about being at the cinema," Lucy said as she adjusted her head on his chest and circled her forefinger around his nipple.

"So how did the meeting at Harry's apartment go?" Tom asked, and Lucy told him all that had happened, including the girls discussion in the kitchen and how Jade was planning to spy on Harry and Aurora.

"She never listens," Tom said with a shake of his head.

"Maybe you should talk to her. I think Harry might be pissed if she does that," Lucy suggested.

"I'd rather not get involved in their business. They will sort it out on their own," Tom said as he played with Lucy's hair.

"Tell me about your day," Lucy suggested, and unlike Lucy's long narration, Tom summarized his without much details.

"After dropping you off at the airport, I came back home and took Candace and Jamal to Harry's. Although that was after getting into a brief argument with Bryan. And then Harry, Jade, and I went

to the company for the interview after we saw a video Bryan's former company released. After that Bryan decided to travel down to Heden to see Sonia, and I decided to go with him to see you. And now I'm here," Tom said, and Lucy wrinkled her nose with disapproval.

"What happened to the details?"

"I didn't want to bore you with them," Tom said, and Lucy scowled.

"Does that mean I bored you with mine?"

"I could listen to you all day and never get bored, Jewel. Talking about my day in details will make us go to sleep faster," Tom said, and Lucy giggled.

"Alright."

"Jewel?" Tom called after sometime.

"Hm?" Lucy asked with a contented sigh.

"I'm sorry I didn't give you a chance to explain yourself earlier," Tom said, and Lucy raised her head which was resting under his chin, to look at him.

"Thanks. At least you called back. That made me very happy," Lucy said as she kissed the spot under his chin, and he chuckled.

"God! I love you too much, Lucy," Tom said as he kissed her forehead, and Lucy smiled as she let her head rest on his chest once again.

"I know. And I love you too much too," Lucy assured him.

They both fell silent for a while, Tom thinking about how he would love to have her this way with him forever and Lucy thinking about her conversation with Harry while wondering whether or not to raise the subject.

"Are you sleeping?" Tom asked when she had been quiet for some time.

"No."

"I just realised I never asked you this question. Why did you decide to take such a risk on your birthday? I mean, your checklist?" Tom asked, and Lucy giggled at the memory of Tom catching a glimpse of the checklist.

"I always played safe after that incident. For a change, I wanted to mark my birthday by doing something shocking and wild. It was a dare to myself to lose my virginity on my birthday if I got the promotion...."

"Maybe I'm wrong, but that doesn't sound like something a practical person like you would do. It was dangerous. This whole time I was thinking maybe Sonia dared you into doing it. I can't imagine you deciding to lose your virginity to a stranger on your birthday," Tom said, and Lucy sighed.

"Sonia had nothing to do with it. As a matter of fact, my intention was to shock her. But you are right about it not being something a person like me would do. The funny thing is I dared myself I would do that IF I got a promotion before my birthday. I didn't think I was going to be promoted

before. Maybe after, but not before. And then you can't imagine my shock when the promotion came two days before my birthday," Lucy said, and Tom chuckled.

"I think I would have gone home without approaching anyone if you had not offered yourself," Lucy said with a grin.

"I guess the universe was trying to hook us up hence the promotion came when it did," Tom said, and Lucy giggled.

"Even if I hadn't gone there that day, we would definitely have met at the company," Lucy said reasonably.

"I highly doubt that," Tom said, and Lucy sat up to look at him with a slight frown.

"Why not?"

"Because I would not have paid any attention to you...."

"What makes you think so?" Lucy asked, feeling slightly miffed at that.

"Because I do not mix business with pleasure. I don't get involved with my employees...."

"Yet here you are lying naked with one," Lucy said dryly, and Tom chuckled.

"The most beautiful and sexy one at that. I'm such a lucky bastard," Tom said, amused by her annoyance.

"We both know that's not true," Lucy said with a scowl even if she was pleased by the compliment.

"What's not true? You don't think I am a lucky bastard?" Tom asked with a grin, deliberately misunderstanding her.

"I'm not the most beautiful or sexy staff at I-Global," Lucy said, and Tom raised a brow.

"I don't know what you're talking about. But it's true for me. You're so beautiful that I find everything you do sexy. You could even fart right now, and I'll get a hard-on," Tom said with a grin, and Lucy burst into a peal of laughter.

"That's so disgusting, and it's not even true," Lucy said amidst her laughter while Tom smiled as he watched her.

"I guess you're no longer feeling offended?" he asked, and Lucy tried to maintain a straight face.

"I wasn't mad."

"You were not pleased either. I didn't fall for you as my employee, Jewel. I don't even remember that you work for me most of the time. I liked you before realising who you were. So with you, I'm always simply Tom..."

"So it's 'like' now? No longer love?" Lucy asked, and Tom chuckled as he pulled her back to lie on him.

"I think you should go to bed now," Tom suggested as he kissed her forehead.

"You haven't told me how you handled Rachel," Lucy reminded him.

"I gave her dad a call using her phone," Tom said, and Lucy raised a brow.

"Why her phone?"

"Why would I want someone like him to have my personal line?" he asked, and Lucy smiled.

"So what if you didn't have Rachel's phone?"

"Then I would probably have used Adolf's or Samantha's phone," Tom said, and Lucy laughed softly.

Lucy sighed after Tom told her about his threat to Rachel's dad, "Do you also think he killed his brother?"

"It's not impossible. But I don't think I care about that. I don't want to know about it. We already have enough trouble on our plate, and I don't want to add that to it...."

"You shouldn't say that. If he killed his brother, then it's our duty to expose him and make sure he is punished for it. Evil prevails when the good do nothing," Lucy said, and Tom sighed.

"Jewel, we have no business with Rachel's dad...."

"You mean apart from the fact that he raised such a silly daughter and also stole Candace's money and dumped her in an orphanage home?"

Tom sighed, "What do you want us to do?"

"I don't think you need to do much. I thought about it earlier. I think we could send an anonymous message to his opponents informing them of Candace's existence and telling them of the possibility that he killed his brother. I'm sure with such information, his opponents would be more than eager to dig into his past and expose him. He would not only lose the elections but also face justice," Lucy said reasonably.

"That is assuming his opponents don't have their own secrets," Tom pointed out.

"That's the reason I said opponents, not an opponent. They all can't be corrupt. There must be someone among them who will be willing to expose him, and when that happens, if Candace wants she can take him to court to fight for all that is rightfully hers," Lucy said, and Tom nodded.

"Alright. We will discuss it with the others later. But you realise that doing that might also mean that Harry and Candace have to explain their relationship and expose Sara, right? I don't know if they will be willing to do all of that."

"We will definitely discuss it with them," Lucy said with a sigh.

"What about Rachel? Do you have anything in mind for her?" Tom asked, and Lucy fell silent for some seconds.

"I think dealing with her father should be enough punishment for their family. At first, I wanted to punish her and expose the role she played in my abduction, but then I had to think of Lucas. He loved her for years. He was this close to making her his wife. For his sake, I'm willing to let it go. But I will have to hit her. Just once, at least," Lucy said, and Tom nodded.

"I will make it happen," He assured her.

"I know you will. What's the plan for tomorrow?" Lucy asked curiously.

"Today, you mean? It's past midnight already. We could spend all day right here in bed and then go out for dinner. What do you think?" Tom asked, and Lucy opened her mouth, wanting to ask about everyone else and if they didn't need to spend time with them, but with one look into Tom's eyes, she changed her mind. They could all wait.

"Sounds like a plan. Apart from the fact that I don't think there's any way we can achieve that with so many people in the house with us. They're going to interfere," Lucy pointed out as she snuggled closer to him.

"I guess we will have to go out earlier then. Let's go to bed," Tom said as he kissed her forehead before patting her back and hair to put her to sleep.

"Sweet dreams, Jewel," Tom whispered.

Just as Lucy was at the edge of drifting off to sleep, she remembered something and opened her eyes, "How come Director Anderson did not recognise you? She is a director, right? So by now, she must have seen your face. Am I wrong?" Lucy asked, and Tom, who had been trying to go to sleep himself, opened his eyes, wondering why she was suddenly asking him that.

"She has seen me only once since her appointment as director some months ago. I'm sure she would never have imagined I was the one. Not with the hairstyle, piercings, or contact," Tom said, and Lucy nodded.

"I guess so. Even I would never have imagined it," Lucy said with a yawn.

"Why did you ask?"

"I was curious about it before now during the last meeting and only just remembered to ask now. I thought she must have been pretending not to recognise you and was making passes at you," Lucy said, and Tom chuckled.

"I see. You don't have to worry about Cora or anyone else...."

"Don't mention her name. You're never to call her that," Lucy said, pressing his lips together, and Tom chuckled.

"What am I to call her then?"

"Director Anderson. That's masculine enough," Lucy said, and Tom chuckled again.

"Yes, my queen," Tom said, and Lucy sighed in contentment as she snuggled closer.

"I want to get inside your body," she said sleepily, making Tom laugh.

"You're so adorable," Tom said as he kissed the tip of her nose.

"Sweet dreams, Ace. I love you," Lucy said with another yawn before giving in to her tired body.

"I love you too."

Chapter 525 Damn Harry

The following day they gathered at the dining table for breakfast as usual, and this time Candace was forced to join them.

"Did you sleep well?" Janet asked with a warm smile, and Candace gave her a nod.

Candace wasn't sure how to relate with the woman who was the twin sister of the woman who had given birth to her and given her away. It wasn't like she had anything against Janet. No, she didn't.

Her only problem was that she really didn't know what she was meant to say or do. Or what was expected. The whole thing was awkward. It was easier for her to relate with Harry and Aaron because they had left her no choice in the way they opened their arms to her. And it was easy to connect with Lucy too because she and Lucy were almost age mates and had interacted closely before now. But with Janet, it was different.

She knew that Janet wasn't pretending to be nice to her. Janet had always been a pleasant person, and although she hadn't really interacted with her before now, she had known that much from Jamal, who always spoke fondly of Janet.

What Candace did not know was that Janet felt the same way. She didn't know how to approach Candace or what to say either. It wasn't every day that a person found out her evil estranged twin sister had started a family and abandoned them.

"I learned you are acquainted with our Matt?" Evelyn asked conversationally, and Candace paused, wondering what it was with everyone and her personal business and why they kept talking to her about Matt.

"Yes. He helped me a great deal by helping me reconnect with Jade," Candace said with a forced smile.

"Grandma Evelyn, do you know Matt too?" Jamal asked curiously, and Evelyn turned to him.

"Yes, pumpkin. He is Bryan's best friend," Evelyn said, and Jamal smiled.

"He is my friend too. He promised to play games with me and to be my tour guide in his jet," Jamal said, and Evelyn smiled.

"That sounds like something our Matt would say. He is a really good guy, and I hope he finds love soon," Evelyn said, looking at Candace.

Bryan had said Candace rejected Matt, and Matt had said he used to be friends with her. That had to mean she was the one turning him down.

Thankfully, Candace didn't have to respond to that as all attention turned to Sonia and Bryan as they joined them at the table. Sonia was wearing one of Bryan's sweatshirts with a short, while Bryan was wearing sweatpants with a tank top.

"Mr Lover boy, when did you boys get back from your surprise visit trip?" Desmond asked when Bryan and Sonia joined the table, and everyone laughed in amusement.

"Before midnight. Good morning everyone," Bryan greeted as he pulled out a seat for Sonia beside Jade, and they both sat down.

"Good morning, everyone," Sonia greeted cheerfully.

"It's good to see that you have both resolved things," Evelyn said with a pleased smile.

"Yeah, they certainly have," Andrew said with a grin when he took note of the hickey on Bryan's neck, who was sitting beside him.

"It's good to see you again, Andrew," Bryan said, and Andrew grinned.

"Did you miss me much?"

"I wish I could say I did. How is your shoulder now? Have you had someone take a look at it yet?" Bryan asked with concern remembering the swimming pool incident.

Andrew rolled his shoulder, "Yeah. Janet made sure Lucas took a look at it. Thanks for asking," Andrew said, and Bryan nodded as he glanced at Janet.

"I think you look lovelier than the last time I saw you," Bryan said, and Janet giggled.

"That is such a sweet thing to say," Janet said as she looked around the table.

"Why are Lucy and Tom not down yet?" Janet asked Samantha and the two maids who were attending to them.

"They won't be coming down. Tom asked that their breakfast be served in the bedroom and requested that they not be bothered," Samantha explained, and Evelyn raised a brow.

"So he is not going to come down to say hello to his parents who are visiting him?" Evelyn asked with disapproval.

"He didn't exactly invite you to his house. You invited yourselves. And he is not the reason you're here either, so if you are looking for someone to say hello to you, you should go to Harry's house," Jade said grumpily, and all eyes turned to her.

She had been unusually quiet and moody since she joined them at the table, so her annoying statement wasn't exactly surprising.

"Is everything alright, Princess?" Desmond asked as he watched her with interest.

"I'm fine," Jade said with a scowl as she picked a slice of toast and shoved it into her mouth while glaring at her phone.

She couldn't believe that Harry had not called her all night to find out if she had arrived home or to wish her goodnight. And he was not making any move to call her this morning either. The cold-hearted bastard!

After breakfast, Sonia followed Jade, leaving Bryan behind, who was conversing with his parents and the Perrys after Candace and Jamal excused themselves to get ready so they could leave for Harry's to spend the day with Aaron.

"Are you alright?" Sonia asked with concern as they approached Jade's bedroom.

"Harry hasn't called nor texted. He didn't call last night, and he hasn't called nor texted today either," Jade said as she walked into her bedroom, and Sonia went in with her.

"Did you try calling him?" Sonia asked, and Jade looked at her incredulously.

"No."

"Why not?" Sonia asked, wondering if there was any rule that stated that the guy had to be the one to call.

"Because I want him to miss me. He said he wasn't going to miss me. It's going to hurt my pride if I call him first," Jade said matter of factly as she lay on her bed, and Sonia shook her head as she joined her.

"So you'd rather be moody all day than pick up your phone and call him?" Sonia asked as she propped herself on one elbow and looked at Jade.

"Yes. I'd rather be moody than let him know I miss him," Jade said with a scowl, and Sonia giggled.

"Good luck with that then," Sonia said, and Jade glared at her.

"Is that all you're going to say? What do you think I can do to get him to call?" Jade asked, and Sonia shook her head.

"No offence, Jade. But right now, you sound like a lovesick high school teenager, not a mature, confident lawyer," Sonia said, and Jade sighed.

"Really?"

"Yes. Pick up your damned phone and give him a call. There is no point playing hard to get if you're going to spend the whole day scowling and snapping at everyone," Sonia advised.

"Whatever. I'm not calling him first," Jade said as she rose from the bed and went to drop her phone on top of the dresser so she would not be tempted to dial Harry's line as she had been struggling not to do all morning.

"So you resolved things with Bryan, huh? Are you going to move in with him?" Jade asked as she returned to the bed, and Sonia bobbed her head.

"Yeah. We reached a compromise. If it doesn't work out, then I can move out," Sonia said, and Jade nodded.

"That's nice. Fighting doesn't suit you two," Jade said with a distracted smile.

"I know, right? I'm so glad we were able to resolve things. Jade, keeping the phone far away from you, yet keeping your gaze on it this way isn't going to make Harry call you first," Sonia said when she noticed how Jade's gaze remained fixed on the phone.

"Fine! I will give him a call, but I'm not going to visit him!" Jade said as she rose from the bed and went to pick it up, and Sonia stifled the urge to giggle.

"That's your call," Sonia said as she lay back on the bed with elbows spread out on the pillow and both palms under her head as she looked up at the ceiling.

Once Jade picked up her phone, she dialled Harry's line, and after several rings, Harry picked up her call, "Good morning, esquire," Harry greeted pleasantly, and she resisted the urge to glare at her phone.

"Good morning, Mr Jonas," Jade greeted sweetly, and Harry grinned while Sonia giggled.

"Did you wake up on the wrong side of the bed, esquire?" Harry asked although he knew exactly what the problem was. Of course, it was Jade, so he knew what the problem was. He had been anticipating it, knowing how stubborn and proud she was.

"My sleep was perfectly fine, and my morning is going beautifully. Thanks for your concern. I hope you had a good night's rest too?" She asked curtly, and Harry stifled the urge to chuckle.

"Sure, I did. I haven't slept this well in a long time," Harry said, and Jade glared at her reflection in the mirror, imagining it to be Harry.

"Good for you. I'm calling to find out how your dad is doing. I hope he is feeling better today?" Jade asked, and Sonia giggled, enjoying Jade's childish display. Why did people do such ridiculous things when they were in love?

"Yes, he is perfect. The attractive young nurse is so good with him...."

"That's good, then. Give my love to him. Have a nice day, Mr Jonas," Jade cut in and hung up before Harry could say anything else, making him chuckle.

What was he going to do with this Hank Princess? Her stubbornness, pride, and impatience were second to none he had ever seen; he mused in amusement.

Of course, he had wanted to call last night but had decided to wait and see if she would call as he asked her to, and by the time he realised she wasn't going to call, it was late already, and he didn't want to disturb her sleep. And a while before her call came in, he had been trying to come up with the best way to say good morning to her, but she had called sooner than he expected to express her displeasure so formally.

Well, it was all good. She was going to call back soon anyway, that he was sure of.

Back in Jade's bedroom, Sonia was rolling on the bed with laughter as Jade fumed over Harry's description of the nurse.

A knock sounded on her door, and both ladies turned to it, "Come in," Jade called in annoyance, and a maid walked in with a basket containing flowers and chocolates.

"This came for you," the maid informed her, and Jade frowned.

"Me?" She asked, thinking the maid was talking to Sonia.

"Yes," the maid said, raising the card that bore her name, and Sonia looked with interest as Jade took the basket and card from the maid and set the basket on the dressing table before opening the card.

[Good morning to the most beautiful lady in the world. I hope you have a day as bright, colourful, and beautiful as you. Love, H.J]

Jade's lips fell open, and her cheeks coloured rosily as she looked from the card to the flowers and then back again, and seeing her reaction, Sonia got off the bed.

"Who sent it?" She asked curiously.

"Harry," Jade whispered, feeling both elated and embarrassed at the same time.

"I love me an old-fashioned gentleman," Sonia cooed when she plucked the card from Jade and read the short note.

As the maid walked out of the bedroom. Evelyn and Janet walked inside, and Evelyn took the card from Sonia while Jade remained where she stood, looking at the basket in stunned silence.

"I told you it's from Harry," Evelyn showed Janet with a proud smile.

"Harry is so sweet," Janet said, and Jade couldn't agree more.

As annoying and cold-hearted as he could be, he was definitely sweet, and now she didn't know how she was supposed to call him back after that formal phone call she had just made. Damn Harry!

Chapter 526 I Know You

After everyone had left her bedroom, Jade fell on her bed face down and beat the pillow with both hands in embarrassment as she yelled into her pillow.",

"Screw you, Harry!" she cried and then sat up to cast a glance at the basket of flowers once again.

She bit her lower lip as her gaze moved from the card to her phone, and then she picked up her phone.

As hard as it was going to be to swallow her pride and call him, she wasn't going to give Harry the satisfaction of knowing just how embarrassed she felt.

She shut her eyes as she dialed his line, and almost immediately, he received the call, "Hey, esquire! Calling to check on my dad or me this time?" Harry asked in an amused tone, and Jade pressed her lips together.

"I realized I didn't ask how you were doing the last time, so I wanted to see if you're fine," Jade said, and Harry grinned.

"Yep! I'm fine. I just had breakfast. The nurse isn't only pretty and young, she cooks fine too," Harry said, and Jade gritted her teeth.

"Then you should have just sent her the damn flowers!" Jade snapped at him, and Harry chuckled.

"Yeah, I should have. I'm sure she would be more pleasant and appreciative. Unfortunately, she doesn't make me laugh as you do, and she isn't as beautiful as you," Harry said, and Jade felt herself blush.

"Oh, Harry!" she exclaimed, and Harry smiled.

"Why are you so stubborn, esquire?" Harry asked, and Jade raised a brow.

"What do you mean stubborn?"

"You could have called last night when you got home. Why didn't you?" Harry asked, and Jade scowled.

"You called me insecure in the presence of everyone else," Jade pointed out.

"You know me, Jade. If you didn't want such a response, you shouldn't have asked me such a question in the presence of anyone. And I don't recall calling you insecure," Harry said, and Jade rolled her eyes.

"What's the difference between calling me insecure and saying I have low self-esteem?"

"I didn't say you have low self-esteem either. If you were not too proud, you would have realized that I was expressing my disapproval at you for asking me such a question. Your question indirectly hinted to anyone that heard you that you are insecure, you don't trust me, and that I might be irresponsible. Do you know that?" Harry said, and Jade pouted.

"That wasn't what I meant. Was that why you didn't call?" Jade asked,

"Was what why?" Harry asked, wanting to know what she meant.

"Did you fail to call because you were mad at me?" Jade asked grudgingly, and Harry resisted the urge to chuckle.

"I don't hear your apology, esquire," Harry said, knowing she was feeling remorseful now.

"What am I apologizing for?" Jade asked stubbornly.

"I can't answer any of your questions until you apologize to me," Harry insisted.

"Fine. Whatever! I'm sorry...."

"Who says whatever when apologizing?" Harry asked with a slightly raised brow, and Jade took a deep breath.

"I'm sorry."

"Good. You apologized for making me miss you all night because you stubbornly chose not to call me. And for making false assumptions. I wasn't mad at you. Although I didn't like your question, but I wasn't mad. I stayed up late awaiting your call, but you stubbornly chose not to...."

"I stayed up late awaiting your call too!" Jade snapped at him.

"Whose fault is that? Didn't I ask you to call when you were bored or lonely?" Harry asked, and Jade pressed her lips together.

"Who said I was bored or lonely?"

"If you weren't, why did you stay up late awaiting my call?" Harry asked, and this time she didn't have a response.

"I assume your silence answers the question. And I'm sure you must know already the reason I didn't call this morning," Harry explained.

"You could have called instead of waiting for my call," Jade muttered.

"No, esquire. I told you, I'm not tolerating any of that pride and stubbornness unless I decide to. You have to get off your high horse if we are doing this," Harry said, and Jade sighed.

"So I have to put up with your pride and stubbornness, and you...."

"I'm neither proud nor stubborn, esquire. I will, however, be both if that's what I have to do to put you in your place," Harry said, and Jade sighed.

"So I don't get an apology too?" She asked, and Harry shrugged even though she couldn't see him.

"If you can tell me something reasonable you want me to apologize for, I will," Harry offered, and Jade narrowed her eyes as she considered it.

He had answered her question in front of the others exactly the way he usually did. He was blunt and annoying, and she had always known that. And yes, she understood what he meant. His father had been in a dire situation, and he had chosen a suitable nurse, yet she had made light of it by asking him such a ridiculous question in the presence of everyone else.

And he had asked her to call, and she had decided not to because she wanted him to miss her. Well, it had worked. He admitted he missed her all night, Jade recalled with a broad smile now.

"You said you missed me all night, right?" she asked excitedly, and Harry chuckled.

"Is that what you want me to apologize for?"

"No! You said you weren't going to miss me yesterday, and just now, you said you missed me!" Jade said happily, and Harry shook his head.

"I guess you realized there was nothing for me to apologize over. Did you like the flowers?" Harry asked, and Jade smiled.

"Of course! All my favorite flowers and chocolates are in the basket. How did you know to pick them?" Jade asked with a curious smile.

"Why don't you guess?" Harry asked as he sat up on his bed and crossed both legs at his ankle while he adjusted his pillows behind him.

"You've been stalking me?" Jade asked in a teasing tone.

"You're smarter than that esquire. Give it another shot," Harry suggested, and Jade pursed her lips as she thought about it.

"Tom told you?"

"Close enough. I told you how I helped Tom send you gifts on your birthdays. I sent some of those flowers and chocolates at different times on your birthday over the years. Tom had a list of your favorite stuff," Harry explained, and Jade smiled.

"And you remembered each of them?" Jade asked, feeling touched.

"I made my own list. And sometimes I added some extra gifts from me to you without indicating it. I didn't know how you would feel about receiving a gift from me," Harry admitted, and Jade's eyes rounded in surprise.

"You did? Tell me what you got," Jade asked eagerly, and Harry chuckled.

"Maybe if you're a good girl, I will tell you," Harry promised.

"Did Tom know about it?"

"No. I never told him," Harry said, and Jade sighed.

"Harry? Where are you?"

"In my bedroom. Why?" Harry asked.

"I want to see your face," Jade said, and Harry raised a brow.

"Right now?"

"Yes," Jade said, and Harry got off his bed, wanting to go and freshen up so he could go and see her.

"Alright, give me twenty minutes..."

"What for? Are you naked? You don't have to show me your body unless you want to," Jade said in a teasing tone, and Harry paused when he realized she was requesting for a face time and not a physical meeting.

"Oh! Alright," Harry said as he returned to the bed and switched the call to video call.

Immediately Jade saw that Harry was requesting a video call, she ran to the dressing table to check her reflection, and she quickly glossed up her lips and ran her fingers through her hair.

She adjusted the spaghetti strap of her sleeping robe, which she had worn downstairs for breakfast, to make sure her cleavage was visible before pulling the basket he had sent close to her and receiving the call.

Harry smiled when he saw her smiling face beside the basket, "You are beautiful, and your cleavage is beautiful. I know you wanted me to see that," he said, and it was all Jade could do not to blush.

"Thanks," she said, and Harry chuckled as she set her phone to rest in front of the mirror and picked up one of the chocolates.

"So, what did you think when I called you earlier? You must have had a good laugh, huh?" Jade asked as she unwrapped the chocolate and ate, and Harry chuckled.

"I knew you were going to call, but you called earlier than I expected. I expected you to take some more time to debate and argue with yourself whether or not you should call me first," Harry said with a grin, and Jade raised a brow.

"Well, what if I didn't call until I received the basket?" Jade asked, and Harry grinned.

"You don't find it strange that you received the basket almost immediately after you called?" Harry asked, and Jade narrowed her eyes.

"What do you mean?" Jade asked, and Harry shrugged.

"Let's just say the basket was waiting for your call. I know you, Jade. I know how you reason and how you react to things. That's the advantage I have over you in this relationship. You are only getting to know me now, but I've known you for years. In the same way, I know you are not going to listen to me, and will try to show up during my date with Aurora. If I see any trace of you around there, we are done," Harry said, and Jade's lips fell open in disbelief.

Chapter 527 Adopting A Kid? (Sexual Content!!!)

Tom stirred in his sleep when he felt a grip around his cock, and he was jolted awake when he felt a surge of pleasure through his body.

Nothing prepared him for the surprise of seeing Lucy kneeling by the foot of the bed with her long hair falling over and covering her face and her lips around his cock.

"Fuck!" Tom groaned when Lucy attempted to deepthroat him, and Lucy pulled away and brushed her hair away from her face as she raised her head to look at him.

"Sorry I woke you up. Good morning," she said with a bright smile, her eyes a bit watery and her lips gleaming with saliva, or was it precum? What a way to be roused from sleep.

Before Tom could gather his thoughts together and snap back to his senses, Lucy straddled him in a frog pose and sat on his cock, surprising him even more, and he let out a deep groan as he felt his cock slip inside her juicy slits.

"Do you like it?" she asked as she rocked on top of him slowly with her gaze fixed on his face as though she was watching for pleasure signs.

"Do you plan to stop if I say I do?" Tom asked in a husky voice as he reached for her boobs and squeezed one of them gently before pinching her nipples, and Lucy moaned softly.

Seeing how that excited her, he tried to sit up. His left hand went around her waist to cup her ass, and at the same time, he took her right nipple in his mouth while he used his other hand to play with the other nipple.

Lucy moaned loudly as she adjusted her position to a frog squat so her thighs wouldn't hurt, and she buried her fingers in Tom's hair as she continued to move on top of him.

It was beginning to seem like the more she made love with him, the more she wanted to make love with him. Her desire for him was increasing with each passing day.

Tom lay back on the bed, and with his hands on her waist, he began to move under her. Lucy gasped when she felt his thrust the first time, and her eyes closed of their own volition as she threw her head back and moaned with reckless abandon as he continued to thrust in and out of her.

"You are so beautiful," Tom said as he watched her, and Lucy opened her mist-colored eyes to look at him, and Tom watched in amusement as color flooded her cheeks at the realization that he was watching her in the throes of passion.

"Say it," Tom said when she ceased moving, and he saw something flicker in her eyes, and she looked at him like she was hesitating to say something.

Lucy licked her lower lip and then cleared her throat as she tried to gather her courage to say what she wanted to say, "I want you to fuck me," she said, and it took all of Tom's willpower not to let his shock show on his face.

Who was this wild person on top of him? Tom mused as he gazed back at her, wondering what had come over her.

"You want me to fuck you?" He asked, and when she bobbed her head, he pulled out and rolled off the bed.

"Come here," Tom said, and Lucy did as she was told.

Still standing, Tom made her fall forward on the bed so that she was lying on her stomach with her legs spread apart and her feet planted on the ground.

Tom thrust into her, and Lucy buried her face in the pillow to keep herself from screaming even though she really wanted to. She made a mental note to do this with him in the privacy of her apartment or anywhere else they could be alone where she wouldn't have to worry about being heard by anyone.

Tom fucked her hard until both her legs felt weak and she couldn't stand anymore, and then he fucked her in a spoon position until she orgasmed.

By the time he was done, they were both panting hard, and while he was trying to catch his breath, Lucy turned to him and covered his lips with hers in a passionate kiss.

"You will be the death of me," Tom said as he turned away from her to catch his breath.

Lucy giggled, "Let's freshen up. Breakfast has been served."

"Already?" Tom asked, glancing at the balcony.

"Yeah. I texted Samantha with your phone earlier," Lucy said as she got off the bed, and Tom did the same.

"We need to change the sheets. You ruined it," Lucy said, pointing to the stain on the bed.

"Whose fault is it?" Tom asked dryly as he tugged on the edge of the sheet pulling it off the bed while Lucy took out the duvet.

"I will call Samantha to have someone take care of it while we freshen up," Tom said as he picked up his phone while Lucy headed for the bathroom.

While everyone else was busy with one activity or the other around the house, Lucy and Tom sat on the balcony of his bedroom, having breakfast.

"You are so beautiful," Tom said as he observed Lucy, who seemed to be glowing in the morning sunlight wearing her hair loose around her shoulders, dressed in nothing but one of Tom's white long-sleeved button-down shirts, with the button undone and no underwear.

Tom, on the other hand, was covered in a cream-colored bathrobe, and like her, he wasn't wearing any undies under the robe.

"Am I?" Lucy asked with a small smile as she equally observed him over the rim of her mug of juice since Tom had insisted, as usual, that she didn't take coffee because of her peptic ulcer.

"Yes, you are," Tom said softly as he reached for her leg and raised it gently so that one of her legs was resting on his thigh, and he lowered his head to it and kissed her toe, making butterflies flutter in Lucy's stomach.

"What is in your head?" Lucy asked in a throaty voice and then cleared her throat when Tom returned his loving gaze to her.

He was still trying to wrap his head around how she had woken him up with his cock in her mouth and how she asked him to fuck her, "I'm thinking of you," Tom said, and she smiled.

"What about me?"

"How much you've changed. You don't seem so shy anymore too," Tom observed, and Lucy laughed into her mug.

"Shy about what?" she asked, and Tom shrugged.

"How do you expect me to remain shy when I'm almost always dressing and undressing in front of you?" she asked, and Tom grinned.

"I guess so. Besides, there's nothing to be shy about. I'm usually naked whenever you are," Tom said, and Lucy smiled.

"Yeah."

"Why did you do that this morning?" Tom asked, and Lucy didn't bother to pretend not to know what he was asking.

"You were asleep. It was poking me. At first, I was curious, and then I thought about practicing the hand and blow job with you asleep, and then I was aroused. I wanted you," Lucy admitted with a mild blush, and Tom found himself grinning.

"So it had nothing to do with satisfying me?" he asked, and she gave him a nod.

"Yes. It was purely selfish," she said, and Tom chuckled.

"Why am I pleased by the sound of that?" Tom asked with a pleased smile. It made him even happier to know that she had not initiated it to please him but to please herself. She desired him.

"You tell me," Lucy said with a grin.

"But I don't get why you asked me to fuck you," Tom said, and Lucy looked away in mild embarrassment.

"Why do you have to bring that up right now?" She asked, making Tom chuckle.

"Because I'm curious. And you better not go all shy on me right now," Tom said, and Lucy turned to him.

"Well, sex doesn't always have to be so..." she paused as she tried to find the right word, "So organized. I don't know if that's the right word to explain this. As much as I enjoy the foreplay and how we both try to pleasure each other, I think I would also love it to be spontaneous sometimes. I mean, like having quickies, just having sex for sex's sake, and not necessarily lovemaking. I don't know if you get what I mean," Lucy said while Tom watched her in amusement.

Sometimes he couldn't believe she was the same person he had met just weeks ago. He was in awe of her, and his heart was full of love for her. It wasn't just about the sex. It was mostly about the changes he could see in her. In such a short time, she had changed so much and had become more loving, more giving, and far more expressive than he could have dared to hope for.

"If that's what you want. You know I try to be careful when it involves you," Tom said, and Lucy smiled.

"That reminds me, something occurred to me during my conversation with Sonia yesterday," Lucy said, and Tom angled his head.

"Want to tell me about it?" he asked, and Lucy gave him a nod.

"Yeah. You know, I think it's very easy most times for us to become selfish in the course of our relationship with others. By selfish, I mean being self-centered. Wanting things always to go the way we want," Lucy said, and Tom watched her with interest wondering where she was driving at.

While trying to talk sense into Sonia, she had realized midway that, in some areas, she was also like Sonia. While it was good to have personal principles or values and beliefs and hold on to them, in a relationship, there was always room for compromise and finding a middle ground.

When Harry brought up that subject while seeing them off, she had given it another thought and tried to relate it with what she told Sonia earlier by looking at it from Tom's perspective instead of hers.

"I know we talked about reviewing this next year, but I spent some time thinking about it while waiting for you last night," Lucy paused to see if he got what she was trying to say.

Tom's heart skipped a beat. Was she talking about her decision not to get married? Did she change her mind already?

"What about it?"

"I tried to understand things from your perspective. I want to see it from your angle, and I want you to see things from my angle. I want us to reach a compromise," Lucy suggested.

"I thought we did already. Wasn't that the reason we said we would review it next year?" Tom asked, and Lucy shook her head.

"That isn't a compromise. That was us trying not to face it at the time. It's like postponing what needs to be said or done. I don't want us to wait a year to realize we don't want the same things," Lucy said, and Tom raised a brow.

"So what are you trying to say?"

"I want us to find a way around it. I don't want to deprive you of something you want, and at the same time, I don't want to do anything I might end up resenting either of us for," Lucy said, and Tom sighed.

"So, did you come up with a solution?" Tom asked, and she looked at him hesitantly for a moment.

She cleared her throat, "Well, I know you love kids, so I was thinking... don't get me wrong. It's only a suggestion. Would you mind adopting a kid?" Lucy asked, and Tom raised a brow.

"Adopting a kid?" He asked, not understanding what that had to do with her not wanting to get married or having a child.

Chapter 528 Your Baby?

Lucy took a moment to gather her thoughts together so she would know how best to put them to him. Maybe she should have told Sonia about it first and heard what Sonia thought so she would know if it made sense to suggest such a thing to Tom.

"Yes. I know you love kids. And I don't want to deprive you of having them. So I was thinking maybe you won't mind adopting a kid. There are so many kids out there without parents, in need of someone to take care of them. And I think you have what it takes," Lucy said, and Tom nodded thoughtfully.

"Okay. And then what?" he asked, making Lucy look at him in confusion.

"What do you mean?"

"I mean. What next after I adopt a kid or two? Are you going to marry me?" he asked, wanting to know if what she meant was that she would get married to him, but they would have to adopt kids. If that was what she wanted, the idea would be very well welcomed.

Lucy shook her head, "No. I'm not sure yet how I feel about that yet...."

"Alright. Let's see if I get what you mean. You still don't want to marry me, but you want me to adopt kids so I can be fine with just dating you, am I right?" he asked, and Lucy winced.

When he put it like that, it sounded somehow, "I..."

"Will you be the mother to the kids if I settle for an adoption?" Tom asked without letting her answer the first question, and Lucy's brows pulled together.

"Like be responsible for them?" Lucy asked, and judging by her tone, Tom could tell she didn't want that.

"Yes. Like taking care of them as a mother would. Of course, they would have nannies to cater to some of their physical needs, but they will need both parents to cater to their emotional needs. So will you be their mother?"

"Don't I need to be your wife to be their mother?" she asked carefully.

"You already made it clear you don't want to marry me...."

"I never said that... At least not that way," Lucy corrected, "If I ever want to get married, it would be you. I'm just not sure I'm cut out for it," Lucy said with a slight frown.

"Understood. As my girlfriend, will you be their mother?" Tom asked, and Lucy shook her head.

"Isn't that the same as having kids of my own and being responsible for them?" she asked, and Tom raised a brow.

"You don't want that too," Tom said with a nod. It wasn't a question. It was what it was. She didn't want to be responsible for any child.

"You don't want to marry me, and you don't want us to adopt the kids together either. In other words, you want me to opt for adoption, but you don't want to be a part of it. All you want is to remain my girlfriend, am I right?" Tom asked, trying not to sound annoyed, but Lucy could tell he was becoming upset.

"I just want things to remain the same between us. I don't want anything to change..."

"Do you have any idea how selfish that sounds?" Tom asked, cutting off whatever she wanted to say.

"Selfish? I'm only saying this for you..."

"For christ's sake, Lucy! Do you have anything against having a nice peaceful moment together? We are out here having a beautiful morning, and you decide to bring this up, knowing how sensitive the conversation is for the both of us, and you claim you're suggesting this for my sake?" Tom asked as he let her leg drop from his thigh and stood up.

He couldn't help feeling offended by the selfishness of her suggestion. He felt so offended because he was disappointed. For a moment, he had been hopeful that she had changed her mind and was going to say they could get married but adopt kids.

"I didn't mean to ruin the moment. I thought the suggestion would work best for us..."

"How does this work for me? Does it make any sense to you that I adopt a child, and then I'm in a separate relationship with my girlfriend, who doesn't want to be involved in the child's life? I can see how well it works for you, but how does it work for me? Last time I checked, I said I wanted a family, not just a child. If all I wanted were a child, I would have over a dozen kids from different women running around the house already!" Tom said angrily, trying hard not to raise his voice.

"You know what? Maybe I should bring my own suggestion. How about I get someone to have my baby instead? Since we are talking about what works best for me, we should consider this too," Tom said, and Lucy's heart skipped a beat.

"Your baby?" Lucy asked as she rose.

"Yes. Doesn't that sound like a good idea? I could get someone. Anyone. To have a child for me. Maybe if I like her enough, I could marry her. We don't have to worry about you being my wife or the child's mother then, do we? That way, you get to remain my girlfriend for as long as is convenient for you, and I get to have a family. It's a win-win. I'm sure she won't mind me having a mistress. I will be sure to explain the situation to her..."

"How can you say such a thing?" Lucy asked in a hurt tone, her heart beating fast and aching at the thought of Tom being with another woman.

"What? Don't you like that suggestion? Of course, you don't. That is the same way I don't like your suggestion. You talked about this suggestion being borne out of compromise, yet I can't find what you're willing to give up for this. So far, you've only told me what you think I can do so we can be together, not what you're willing to do," Tom said, and as he turned to walk away from the balcony back to the bedroom, Lucy grabbed his hand.

He was right. This wasn't really a solution either. Somehow she had thought that he would be fine once he had his own kid and he wouldn't mind just being in a relationship with her.

"Please, don't leave. I'm sorry. I didn't give it as much thought as I thought I did," Lucy said apologetically, and Tom paused.

He observed her as different emotions flickered on her face, and he closed his eyes and took a deep breath to calm himself. He tried to remember all the reasons he loved her, and he tried to remind himself that although he did not like her suggestion, she had not said it to annoy him but had only suggested it because she was trying to find a way for them to work.

"Jewel?" he called when he felt he was calm enough, and she met his gaze.

"Did anyone bring the issue up while I was away? Did someone pressure you into thinking about this again?" he asked calmly, and she sighed.

"It's not that. It's just that I was sort of worried about it..."

"Why? I haven't brought it up or asked you anything about that since we talked about it. Did I say or do anything to make you feel pressured?" Tom asked, and she shook her head.

"No. It's not you. It's me."

"From what I can see, you are not ready to change your mind on the subject, and I'm not forcing or urging you to do that either..."

"But what about you? I know you want..."

"Forget about what I want. We had an agreement. We agreed already to revisit the issue in a year. Let's stick to that. You don't have to worry about anything else," Tom said, and Lucy sighed.

"I'm sorry I ruined the mood."

Tom pulled her close and cupped her chin with his hands, "I don't know what's going on in your head, but I just want to be able to have a nice time with you without either of us worrying about anything else. So please do me a favor and not bring up this subject until the stipulated time. Unless, of course, you're bringing it up to tell me you've changed your mind," Tom said on a lighter note, but Lucy looked at him with worried eyes.

"You are not going to consider your suggestion, right?" she asked, and Tom sighed as he kissed the tip of her nose.

"No, I'm not. I'm sorry I said that. It's not an option. We will put our heads together and find a way to work things out so we are both fulfilled and happy. For now, don't worry about anything else, and let's focus on finding ways to spend more time together and be happy," Tom assured her as he raised her hand to his lips and kissed her knuckle.

There was no need to tell her right now that even if she failed to change her mind, he was not going to give up on her. He hoped she would be more open to it then or at least to the idea of parenting. He could settle for adoption later, as she had suggested, but if he was going to do that, he wanted her to be involved in the kid's life. She should be able to do that much for him. In a relationship, there had to be give and take on both sides.

"So what are we doing now? Going back to bed?" Lucy asked, and Tom shook his head.

"No. I want to do something else. There's something I've always wanted to do," Tom said, and Lucy raised a brow.

"What?"

"Let's go to the spa together. After the body treatment, I want to watch them take care of your hair and give you a makeover. Also, you can get your nails done. I noticed you need a pedicure," Tom suggested, and Lucy giggled in embarrassment as she looked down at her nails and feet.

"Yeah, I do need a manicure and pedicure. I haven't done that since I moved here. But don't you think you will get bored waiting for me to do all this?" Lucy asked, and Tom grinned.

"I can never get bored watching you. After that, we can go on a dinner date. What do you say?" Tom asked, and Lucy's eyes twinkled.

"There is something I would like to try too," Lucy said with a shy smile and Tom raised a brow.

"What's that?" he asked, and Lucy drew close to him.

"Sex in the car," Lucy whispered, and Tom chuckled.

"Before or after the spa session?" Tom asked with a silly grin, and Lucy giggled.

"Isn't it better in the dark? I mean, anyone could see us by the roadside during the day," Lucy said, and Tom chuckled.

"Leave that to me. Only make sure you're putting on a dress, and you don't wear undies," Tom said with a wink as he led a giggling Lucy back inside the bedroom so they could get ready to leave.

If there was one thing they both loved about their relationship, it was how quickly they resolved their conflicts and moved past them.

Chapter 529 Don't Tell

Sonia walked into Bryan's bedroom and saw him seated on the bed with his phone to his ear, speaking with Jeff.

"Alright. You don't have to come over. I need to leave the house anyway, so I will meet you both instead," Bryan said and turned to look at Sonia.

"It's Jeff," he informed her and then chuckled at something Jeff said.

"I believe she has forgiven you. But you'll have to confirm for yourself when you see her," Bryan said and then paused as he listened to Jeff again.

"Alright, sure. I will try to see if I can convince Samantha to prepare some for you both," Bryan said before hanging up.

"Jeff sent his apologies, and Mia sent her love," Bryan said as he scrolled through his phone for Samantha's contact.

Sonia smiled at the mention of Mia, "Is she living with Jeff?" Sonia asked as she went to sit beside Bryan.

"Yeah. Didn't I mention that they will both be sharing Tom's apartment? I mean the one beside Lucy's apartment," Bryan said as he dialed the number, and Sonia shook her head.

"Maybe you did, and I forgot. Is everything alright?" Sonia asked curiously since the tone of the conversation from Bryan's end had been serious when she walked in.

"Give me a second," Bryan told Sonia when Samantha received his call, and he quickly requested for her to pack a meal for Mia and Jeff.

Once he was done, he faced her again. "Everything is okay. Jeff called to report the expected issues following the interview. Paul had been breathing fire initially but seeing how the agency's stocks keep plummeting. He is now wanting to reconcile. Unfortunately, he can't get through to me anymore, so he is bothering Jeff and Mia," Bryan said with a sigh.

Jeff had started buying out as many of the shares as he could get the moment the stock began to fall. Bryan had done his best by trying to warn Paul that Tom was involved and he was a little fish in the ocean filled with sharks, but Paul had not paid heed to his advice. Now Paul was going to lose Golden Star, and he would have no one to blame but himself.

"Do you feel bad about it?" Sonia asked as she studied his expression.

"No, I don't. His greed and ego put him in this situation, not me. Derek, on the other hand, is threatening to take Jeff to court for using him and tarnishing his image in that manner. And there are a couple of calls from producers and companies who want to meet with me to discuss movie roles and endorsement deals," Bryan summarized, and Sonia smiled.

"It's all good. I know you can handle all of it," Sonia said confidently, and Bryan nodded.

"Yeah."

"So we are going to see them?" Sonia asked, and Bryan looked at her with an unreadable expression.

"I'm going to see them, but you are welcome to go with me if you want to," he said, and Sonia rolled her eyes.

"Did you have to say it that way? Sounds like I'm actually not welcome to come with you," she said, and Bryan shook his head.

"No. That is me saying I can't dictate for you or us. I'm leaving you to make the decision to come with me on your own. You could have made other plans to hang out with Lucy or Jade or even to write," Bryan said, and Sonia sighed.

"Alright. I've heard you, and I'm coming with you. I don't think I have other plans. I'm not sure I will be setting eyes on Lucy today. She already made it clear she belonged to Tom for the whole of the day. The house will be boring without you. Jade is busy. Candace and Jamal should have left for Harry's by now. And your parents and the Perrys are busy with their own stuff. So you see? You are stuck with me, my dearest boyfriend," Sonia said with a grin as she placed both hands on his cheeks and pulled them together to make a funny face.

Bryan chuckled, "I guess this is one reason people go into relationships. They want someone who will be with them when all their friends are too busy to hang out," Bryan said dryly, and Sonia shook her head.

"No, I don't agree. Or maybe I agree, but only partially. We go into relationships because we want our own person. Someone who can fulfill some, if not all, of our emotional needs. Someone we click with both physically and emotionally. Someone who I expect to cuddle me and kiss my shoulder or neck or forehead or knuckles whenever we make physical contact," Sonia said as she stood from where she was seated and sat on his thigh, making Bryan laugh.

"Like this?" he asked as he kissed her shoulder.

"Yeah. Someone whose presence makes our eyes light up. Sometimes you get tired of just fucking and want someone you can make love with. Someone who makes us feel at home like you make me feel," Sonia said as she gazed into Bryan's eyes, and he held her gaze.

"Do I really make you feel that way?"

"Yes, you do, baby. And that's why you are stuck with me," Sonia assured him, and Bryan grinned.

"You are stuck with me too," Bryan said, and then he kissed her.

"I was going to ask, is Lucy the only friend you have? I've never heard you talk about anyone else," Bryan asked after he broke the kiss.

"Not anymore. I have Jade and Candace now, while Lu remains my best friend. Although before now, I had other acquaintances, yeah. But Lucy used to be like my only friend. I was her only friend too," Sonia explained, and Bryan nodded.

"What about you? Is Matt your only friend?" She asked, and Bryan shook his head.

"No. I used to have a lot of friends, but because of my career, I couldn't always keep up. It's easier to be friends with Matt because we share the same career," Bryan explained and then glanced at the wall clock.

"I should probably go see Jade now concerning Derek's lawsuit threat," Bryan said as he attempted to rise, but Sonia held him back.

"Derek is not going to do anything. He's merely barking, so let's not give him any more attention than we have already..."

"And what if he goes ahead to do it?" Bryan asked, and Sonia shrugged.

"Then I hope you don't mind others seeing the nude pictures he sent to you 'cause I'm going to sue him for that," Sonia said, and Bryan shook his head.

"Nah. I don't want that. Not because I'm ashamed or anything. I just don't want your business out there more than it is already. I won't let things get to that extent," Bryan said, and Sonia sighed.

"Alright. But you have to wait a bit before meeting Jade. She is distracted right now. Her mind is filled with thoughts of Harry, and they're probably still talking over the phone right now, or she might be getting ready to go over to see him. He sent her flowers and chocolates just to say good morning. It was so beautiful and heartwarming to see her speechless after fuming only minutes before," Sonia said with a grin, and Bryan chuckled.

"Flowers and chocolates?"

"Yep. And a handwritten note. It was such an old-fashioned and sweet gesture. We were all touched. By we, I mean your mom and Janet included," Sonia said, and Bryan made a mental note to do that for her sometime in the future.

"I see. Let's get ready to leave, then. I can talk to her on our way out," Bryan said, and they both rose and helped each other undress before going in to shower.

They were still in the shower when Bryan's phone started ringing, and Bryan quickly finished up and left Sonia in the shower to get his phone.

Bryan quickly covered up in his bathrobe before reaching for his phone, and he received the call immediately he saw that it was Matt.

"What's up, man?" Bryan asked as he sat back on the bed.

"Read you showed up like a fool with flowers to surprise Sony but ended up getting surprised," Matt said in amusement, and Bryan chuckled.

"It's good to see you've finally learned how to use your phone, dumbass," Bryan fired back.

"Seeing how lively you sound, I take it you and Sonia are cool now. You're no longer sulking like an idiot," Matt taunted.

"You're such a bastard. How was your date last night?" Bryan asked when he recalled that Matt had mentioned something about a date the previous day.

"Man, I don't want to talk about it," Matt said with a groan, and that piqued Bryan's curiosity even more.

"Did something happen?" Bryan asked with a grin, eager to hear it so he could taunt Matt.

"Not exactly. I found out she is a weightlifter," Matt said in a tone that made Bryan sputter with laughter.

"That was not supposed to be funny," Bryan said as he tried to compose himself while Sonia, who had just stepped out of the shower, looked at him with interest, wondering who was on the phone.

"Well, it isn't. I'm just not cut out for being with someone that could sweep me off my feet literally," Matt said dryly, and Bryan chuckled as he watched Sonia move around as she dressed up.

"Can you believe she asked how much I weighed? She kept going on and on about how people never believed she was a weight lifter because of her physique, and she even joked about lifting me from the restaurant door to my car at the end of our date," Matt said, and Bryan laughed harder.

"Well, look on the bright side. On your wedding day, you get to try something different. The bride can lift the groom bridal style," Bryan said with laughter, and Matt found himself chuckling too.

"I'm really not against her hobby, career, occupation, or whatever she chooses to call it. But I'd rather be with a feminine woman. You know, someone who can rely on me for protection and who will call me to help her lift stuff and open jars or containers. That sort of thing," Matt explained.

"Yeah, I get what you mean. So how did it end? Did you let her lift you to your car?" Bryan asked in amusement and reached out to slap Sonia's ass playfully when she walked past him.

"Of course not! Paul called for an impromptu meeting, so we had to call it a night. I dropped her off at her apartment, but I never looked back after I drove off," Matt said, and Bryan raised a brow.

"You didn't kiss her goodnight or go in for coffee?" Bryan asked, and Matt chuckled.

"She offered, but I told her I was in a hurry. There was no need to lead her on," Matt said with a sigh.

"So about Paul," Matt continued.

"Paul?"

"Yep. I told you he called for a meeting last night. That brings me to the second reason I called..."

"You don't intend to ask me to settle with Paul, do you?" Bryan asked with disapproval.

"I would be an idiot to do so, considering all he has said and done. Paul is desperate, and everyone at the agency is worried. I've received quite a number of phone calls this morning. One thing I know for sure is that Paul didn't expect you to do that interview or sell him out that way. You can't imagine the effect your action is having on the stock," Matt said, and Bryan shrugged.

"I warned him. What about you? Why don't you jump out of the sinking ship and join I-Global entertainment?" Bryan offered.

"I was going to get to that later. I overheard something disturbing. Something about Paul taking pictures of you and Sophia in compromising positions," Matt said, and Bryan raised a brow.

"Where did you hear that?"

"Paul's office. He was inside the office talking with Sophia when I arrived. It's the weekend, so his secretary wasn't around. I overheard them before I could make my presence known," Matt explained, and Bryan shook his head.

"He's never going to stop plotting, is he?"

"Well, I confronted him. I couldn't just pretend I didn't hear anything. I just called to be sure you had nothing with Sophia," Matt said, and Bryan smiled.

"I didn't. The funny thing is I suspected it. I told Sonia there was something suspicious about Sophia the last time I saw her. She was all over me, and that was weird," Bryan said, and Sonia paused to look at him.

"Well, I guess he is only trying to desperately reconcile now because you caught him. I'm done with him."

"I'm done too. I let him know I would be leaving Golden Star as soon as I was done with my pending assignments. I can't keep working with someone like him," Matt said, and Bryan laughed happily.

"I love this. I will let Jeff and the others know about this. We will be looking forward to having you here."

"I'm beginning to look forward to that too. Give my love to Sonia. I have to go now," Matt said before hanging up.

"What was that about?" Sonia asked curiously, and Bryan told her all they had discussed.

Sonia smiled, "I'm glad his date didn't work out. I want things to work out between him and Candace. And with him coming down here, I think there is a chance for them."

Bryan angled his head as he thought about it, "Oh, shit! Now he's going to have to deal with Harry and their dad too," Bryan said, and Sonia giggled.

"How I love Ludus," Sonia said as she picked up her phone to text Candace to let her know it didn't work out between Matt and his date. Although Candace didn't ask her for such information, and Candace denied being interested in Matt, Jade had told her about their agreement. So Candace could try again.

Bryan glanced at his phone when it started ringing again and raised a brow when he saw it was from Matt, "Did you forget something?"

"Yes. Please don't tell Sonia about my date...."

"You called too late. I already did," Bryan said apologetically.

"Can you ask her not to tell your sister or Candace about it?" Matt asked hopefully. He didn't want Candace to know. He had deliberately told them he was going on a date because he wanted her to know he had moved on. He would feel too embarrassed if she heard of it.

"Sure, I will. Take care," Bryan said as he hung up the call and turned to Sonia.

"You're not to tell.... what are you doing?" Bryan asked when he saw she wasn't listening.

"I just sent a text to our girls' group to let them know Matt's date didn't work. Now Candace can try to get him," Sonia announced with a grin, and Bryan groaned inwardly.

"So what were you saying?" She asked with a wide smile.

Chapter 530 Hurting People Hurt People

How could he say he would end whatever was between them if she showed up at his date with Aurora? Did that make any sense? How could his meeting with Aurora be more important than what they shared? Jade mused as she lay on her bed belly-down with her chin resting on both hands as she stared at the basket of flowers he had sent.

Wasn't Harry being too harsh with her? Besides, he had been there when she suggested a double date, so it wasn't supposed to be a big deal, was it? Why did Harry have to be so stubborn and controlling?

Her gaze shifted to the door when a knock sounded on it, and she raised a brow, but before she could speak, she heard her mom's voice, "Are you still in here, Jady?" Evelyn asked, and Jade sat up.

"Yes. You can come in," she said with a sigh, knowing that her mother was there to talk about Harry.

Evelyn opened the door and walked in, "That's not the look that should be on the face of a young lady that just received flowers from a dashing young man. You are not busy, are you?"

"I'm not. I thought you were busy with Janet?" Jade asked, and Evelyn nodded.

"Yes, I was. But I wanted to spend some time with you. I don't get to have you around as often as I want, so I have to make the best use of the time whenever I see you," Evelyn said as she joined Jade on the bed.

"Now that I will be working at I-Global, you'll get to see me as often as you want," Jade assured her.

"Yeah. I'm counting on that. I'm still so excited that the three of you are working together now," Evelyn said, and then she smiled.

"So about that..." she said, pointing to the basket of flowers.

"I take it things are going smoothly with Harry, yeah?"

"When he is not being annoying and controlling, yeah," Jade said, and Evelyn raised a brow.

"Controlling?"

"Yes! Can you believe Harry threatened to end things with me if I showed up on his date? Like, who does that? I mean, we are interested in each other, yet he expects me to be comfortable about him going out with someone else behind me," Jade said, and Evelyn frowned.

"Harry said that? He plans to go out with someone else aside from you?" she asked in confusion. Harry did not strike her like the two-timing kind, and he wasn't the type of person to be controlling either, at least to the best of her knowledge.

"Yes, he said so," Jade said angrily.

"Who is this other person? Are you sure she is not just a friend?" Evelyn asked, unwilling to believe that Harry was what Jade was painting him to be. That was something her late boyfriend would do, not Harry.

"Well, she is my friend...."

"Your friend?" Evelyn asked, and then she listened as Jade told her how she had tried to hook up Aurora and Harry.

"Ouch! What did you do that for?" Jade cried when her mother slapped her hard on the back.

"You are very silly for trying to paint Harry in a bad light when you are the one at fault!"

"Mom!"

"I knew it was a bad idea when your dad and brothers spoilt you silly by always letting you have your way, but I thought you would know better. I can't understand this childishness and silliness you are exhibiting now. I can't believe a grown woman like you can act like a spoilt six-year-old," Evelyn hissed, and Jade glared at her.

"What did I do that is so wrong?"

"You are acting like a brat! And you are lucky Harry is being so patient with you. If you know what is best for you, you better not show up on their date. Let him handle what needs to be done," Evelyn warned and took Jade's hands in her own when she sighed sadly.

"But..."

"Listen to me, okay? Harry is a thoughtful young man, and you'd be silly to lose him over useless insecurities or by making unnecessary comparisons. Harry is not Todd...."

"What do you mean?" Jade asked, wondering why her mother had to bring Todd into the conversation that way.

"It might not be a conscious effort on your part, but I think a part of you has not healed from your relationship with Todd. Although you've always been a brat...."

"Mom!"

"I was just kidding," Evelyn said with a grin.

"We both know you weren't this way when you were with Todd. Don't you think you're behaving this way with Harry because you are mistaking him to be Todd..."

"No, I'm not! They're two very different people. Todd could never be half the man Harry is!" Jade said passionately, and Evelyn nodded.

"That is very true. And I believe the smart and reasonable part of your brain knows that. But there is also a not-so-smart part of your brain that doesn't entirely believe that or seems to so conveniently forget it at the least signal of insecurity. I was like that too," Evelyn confided, and Jade looked at her in confusion.

"Like how?" Jade asked as she couldn't imagine her mother being anything other than the sweet wife she was to her father.

Evelyn sighed, "In the earlier years of my relationship and marriage with your father, it was tough letting go of my past. You know, when you were a kid, I wouldn't let him change your diapers or see you naked," Evelyn confided, and Jade was silent for a while, and then her eyes rounded when she understood what her mother was saying.

"But he never gave you any reason...."

"Yes. He never gave me any reason to feel that he was like my father, but that didn't mean I wasn't scared. It wasn't something I did consciously. Sometimes I could be in the kitchen fixing dinner, and it would occur to me I left him alone with the kids, and I would sneak up on him to see what he was doing. Of course, each time I did that, he knew. And he understood," Evelyn said with a small smile.

"Thinking about it now, I realize it must not have been easy on him. But he never once complained. He even took courses in psychology for my sake. I'm blessed to be married to a man like your father. Now what I'm trying to say is that, like me, you could be doing the same thing in your relationship with Harry. Maybe you regret letting Todd have his way, and now that part of you just wants to be rebellious regardless of whether or not you know Harry is right," Evelyn said, and Jade frowned.

Was that true? Was that what she was doing?

"Do you honestly think Harry is controlling, as you said earlier?" Evelyn asked, and Jade was silent for a moment as she thought about it.

"He said he wasn't going to let me always have my way...."

"And as the smart lawyer you are, does that mean the same as being controlling?" Evelyn asked, and without waiting for her to respond, Evelyn continued, "Besides, Is he supposed to let you always have your way? Will you always let him have his way? What sort of relationship would you both have if he always let you do whatever you want?" Evelyn asked, and seeing things from her mother's point of view, Jade scowled.

"It's just that Aurora really likes him, and Harry doesn't really have experience with ladies...."

"Does he seem naive to you? Harry is handsome and wealthy. Do you have any idea how many women must be throwing themselves at him? Are you the one who has been helping him keep them away this whole time?" Evelyn asked, and Jade raised a brow.

"Why do you trust Harry so much? If I didn't know better, I'd think he was your son," Jade said, and Evelyn laughed.

"Of course, I consider him a son. Trust me when I say Harry can handle himself. He won't cheat on you like Todd did," Evelyn said, and Jade frowned.

"How did you know Todd cheated? I never told you that," Jade said, and Evelyn looked at her incredulously.

"You were aware? Yet you remained with him?" Evelyn asked in disbelief.

"I found out only after he died. So how could you have known? Don't tell me Tom told you about it?" She asked, seething angrily.

"Tom knows too? Well, he didn't have to tell me. After you brought him home, I did a background search...."

"You did what?" Jade asked, feeling both angry and betrayed.

"I didn't like him. Your father didn't like him either. Your father likes everyone, and if he doesn't like someone, then something must be wrong. I had to look into him. Unfortunately, he was involved in the accident before the private investigator could give me any information on him. The private investigator told me about Todd's relationship with the lady who was in the car with him at the time of the accident," Evelyn said with a shrug.

"Why didn't you say anything this whole time?" Jade asked, feeling betrayed that her mother had kept that away from her this whole time.

"Because we thought you knew, and your father and I agreed that even if you didn't know, it wasn't our place to tell you something like that when he was dead. You'd either not believe us, or you'd be even more heartbroken than you were. I'm sorry we didn't tell you," Evelyn said softly, and Jade sighed.

"You are not going to do a background search on Harry now, are you?"

"Your grandfather did that when Tom took Harry to him before they started the business together," Evelyn said, and Jade's eyes widened.

"He did? So did he know about Harry's mom?" Jade asked, and Evelyn shook her head.

"Of course not! We were told his mother was late, and he was raised by his single dad, the chairman of HAJ photography studio. That was a secret between only Aaron and her, so there was no way anyone else could have known about it seeing how he relocated and changed everything," Evelyn said reasonably.

"What about Sonia and Lucy? Did you look into them? Or is it just the men I like you get to look into?" Jade asked dryly, and Evelyn laughed.

"What's there to look into? I only found out about Lucy's identity because of the scandal, and what other secret could she be hiding that could be deeper than that? I also met her and her parents. As for Sonia, I was going to look into her, but the scandal also told us about her background," Evelyn said with a shrug.

"Fine. Whatever. I won't show up at Harry's date if that's what he wants," Jade grumbled, and Evelyn laughed softly.

"I can't believe you are still so immature," Evelyn said as she patted Jade's hair fondly, and Jade rested her head on her mother's shoulder.

"So, what's your plan for the day? Are you going to visit him today?" Evelyn asked, and Jade shook her head.

"No, I'm not. I don't want to see him until the end of the anniversary when he is done with his date," Jade said, and Evelyn raised a brow.

"Why not?"

"There is no reason to. He is not my boyfriend yet," Jade said simply, and Evelyn smiled.

"If you say so. Since you're not busy, how about we spend the day together? Let's go shopping or get our hair and nails done. Or have a mother-and-daughter date," Evelyn suggested, and Jade's eyes lit up.

The last time they had done that was that same holiday when she had brought Todd home and met Harry for the first time. It would be nice to do that today.

Spending the day with her mother would help her take her mind off Harry for some time. She needed to be relaxed to think about all her mother had said and see if it was true that she was letting her experience with Todd affect her relationship with Harry.

She really didn't want to always be at loggerheads with him, so she wanted to take a step back now and look at things critically and analyze herself. She needed to be whole before going into a relationship with Harry. Hurting people hurt others, and she didn't want to carry her past hurt into her relationship with Harry and ruin his first relationship experience.

"Yes, let's do that. It's been forever since we did that together," Jade said, and Evelyn nodded happily.