

Wild Night 591

Chapter 591 Family Confrontation

"You need to be calm," Ron said, casting a worried glance at his wife, who seemed very upset.

"I'm calm! I have been calm all day," Lisa assured him as she looked outside the window.

"You are not calm. This could have waited until morning...."

"No, it can't wait!" Lisa cut in angrily.

She couldn't wait for them to arrive at her mother's house so she could confront her concerning her affair with Adam, blackmailing Bernice, and what she had just been told by Anita about her being responsible for their father's death.

"You are getting worked up, and it isn't good for you or the baby," Ron said with a frustrated sigh.

It annoyed him that her family was always coming up with one thing or the other to get her worked up, and her emotions were so invested in them that she put them before the well-being of herself and their baby.

"The baby is fine, and so am I," Lisa assured him, and he sighed.

"You said Anita will be there as well, right?"

"She is probably there already," she said impatiently as she tapped her foot restlessly.

Seeing her tap her foot that way, Ron knew better than to continue with the questions or to keep talking. She was on the verge of snapping at him, and she was holding onto her last thread of self-control.

As soon as Ron parked the car in front of Rebekah's house, Lisa sighted Anita's car and got out of the car without waiting for him to help her with the door, and she wobbled her way to the car where she knew Anita was waiting while Ron hurried to catch up with her.

She tapped on the window, and immediately Anita opened the door and got out, "Let's go in," Lisa said before Anita could say a word.

Looking at Lisa, Anita could tell that she was upset. Or maybe mad was a better description. Anita winced as she looked at Ron, who looked back at her with weary eyes.

Although Lisa was the most reasonable and calmest among the Miller sisters, she was also the craziest. Whenever she got angry, she always threw a destructive fit.

As Anita followed Lisa, Ron patted his pocket to make sure his phone was close just in case he needed to dial the emergency number urgently.

"Lisa, wait up," Anita called calmly, and Lisa turned to look at her at the door.

"Why don't I go in first? She might be more willing to talk to me alone than she would be to say anything to you...."

"Do you honestly think I came here to have a reasonable conversation with her?" Lisa asked in disbelief before ringing the doorbell.

When one of the housekeepers answered the door, Lisa brushed past her into the house and stopped abruptly in her track, shocked by the unexpected scene in front of her.

"I am going to prove it! I'm going to find evidence to prove that you killed him!" Tiffany was yelling at their mother, who stood in the middle of the mess staring at Tiffany like she had lost her mind.

Anita's and Ron's faces mirrored the shock on Lisa's face as their gaze swept over the living room, which looked like a storm had blown past it.

The pieces of furniture were overturned, and the flower pots and artworks that decorated the living room lay shattered on the floor.

"Did uncle Wyatt pay you a visit too?" Anita asked before Rebekah could say anything, surprised that Tiffany knew about their mother being responsible for their father's death.

Rebekah and Tiffany turned when it occurred to them that they were no longer alone, and Rebekah fixed her gaze on Anita, "What are you all doing here at this hour, uninvited? Didn't I teach you better?" Rebekah asked with disapproval.

"You are in no position to talk about teaching anyone anything," Lisa pointed out, annoyed.

Judging by how calm their mother looked and her tone, it was obvious that she was unaffected by Tiffany's outburst.

"What are you talking about?" Tiffany asked Anita in confusion.

"You were talking about father, weren't you? How did you find out she murdered father? Did uncle Wyatt tell you about it too?" Lisa asked Tiffany, whose eyes widened in shock at the question.

"She murdered father?"

"What nonsense are you talking about?" Rebekah snapped at them in annoyance. They were all getting on her nerves, and she wasn't in the mood for this sort of nonsense.

"Who were you talking about if not father?" Anita asked Tiffany in confusion.

"Didn't either of you see the news? Adam is dead, and Jack was arrested as the prime suspect!" Tiffany announced.

Lisa's mouth dropped open in surprise, and Anita raised a hand to cover her mouth as she looked at Tiffany in disbelief while Ron simply stared.

Anita had missed the news because she had turned off her data after the live video she made because she didn't want to get any more new comment notifications. Her heart jumped every time her phone beeped.

Lisa had also missed the news because after watching Anita's interview, she had called to commend her for doing it, only to be told about their mother's possible involvement in their father's death.

Checking social media for news was the last thing on her mind after she heard that, and it was the last thing on Ron's mind. Not when his wife had been so upset, and he kept trying his best to calm her until she decided she was going to confront their mother else she wouldn't be able to go to sleep.

"Adam is dead? How? How is that possible? What happened?" Ron was the first to get over his shock at the news.

"That is what I'm here to ask her! You just said uncle Wyatt told you she is responsible for father's death, right? If she has done it once in the past, then there is every possibility that she did this too. I know you killed Adam. I know you are behind this...."

"SHUT YOUR MOUTH AND GET OUT OF MY HOUSE THIS MINUTE! ALL OF YOU!" Rebekah roared angrily. She had had enough!

"Did you murder father?" Lisa asked, stepping forward.

"Are you crazy? How foolish can you be? Why would you be listening to your addict of an uncle? He will say anything ridiculous to get money from you! What do I stand to gain by murdering your father?" Rebekah asked angrily.

"Shouldn't you be reminding us that he committed suicide instead of asking us what you stand to gain by murdering him?" Anita asked, and Rebekah glared at her.

"You are all an ungrateful lot. I did all I could to raise you to be prestigious ladies, but I can't believe this is how you choose to reward me! How dare you stand in my house and accuse me of murdering your father, my own husband? How dare you accuse me of murdering Adam and setting your husband up? HOW DARE YOU?" Rebekah screamed angrily.

"Because we know you are capable of all of that and more! If you were shameless enough to have an affair with your daughter's husband and blackmail her, there is no limit to how low of a scum you are! Do you think father didn't tell me about your numerous affairs? Do you think I did not know he was working on divorcing you? Do you think I was deceived by the crocodile tears you shed as Richard Miller's widow? I'm disgusted whenever I remember that you are my birth mother!" Lisa spat out angrily, wishing Tiffany had not broken all the breakables in the living room already.

She had been so looking forward to causing some damage to the house, but Tiffany had beaten her to it, and now all she could do was pour out her bitterness.

"All these years, not once did you apologize for having sex with my boyfriend! Do you think I do not know that you tried to seduce Ron too?" Lisa asked, surprising every one of them, including her husband, who looked at her in surprise.

"What?" Tiffany and Anita asked in unison while Rebekah's eyes twitched in embarrassment.

"What? You think I did not know?" Lisa asked with disgust.

"Babe," Ron called softly.

"I'm not mad at you for not telling me, Ron. You did not fall for her wiles. That is the most important thing. I was grateful that you kept it to yourself despite how hard I tried to make you open up to me," Lisa assured her husband.

She had deliberately brought him home some weeks after they started going out to introduce him to her mother, as she had wanted to see if he would behave like her last boyfriend, who she had caught pants down with her mother. She had also wanted to see if that had been a one-time thing on her mother's part or if she would once again try to seduce her daughter's boyfriend.

She had excused herself, claiming she wanted to use the ladies as she was having a running stomach, and had found herself a nice spot to hide while she watched her mother make a fool of herself.

Lisa had joined them some minutes later after Ron politely turned down her mother's advances, and Rebekah had told Lisa there and then that she didn't like Ron and she didn't want her to continue going out with him. Of course, that did not stop Lisa from marrying him when he proposed some time later.

"I thought Bernice and Tiffany were safe because you chose their husbands, but I should have known better than to expect better from a constantly horny worn-out slut like yourself," Lisa spat in disgust.

"It seems you are having sex with everyone's man. Did you have sex with Jack too?" Tiffany asked, and Rebekah glared at her, choosing to conceal her embarrassment with anger.

"You must be very stupid! If you all don't get out of my house within the next minute, I'm going to call the police," Rebekah threatened.

"Why don't you do that? When they get here, I can ask them to take a good look around here. I'm sure they will find something since Adam was first here before Jack found his body, and for all we know, he could have been murdered right here," Tiffany said, and Rebekah balled her hand into a fist.

She had only included that piece of information in Adam's text to Jackson because her housekeeper had seen him in the house, and just in case Adam had told anyone he was coming to see her.

"I had no reason to murder Adam, unlike your husband...."

"First, your husband turns up dead, and now your lover. And you had no reason to murder either of them, yet they just happened to end up dead," Tiffany said sweetly.

"I need you to be sure of one thing. I'm going to investigate my father's death. It wasn't properly investigated because it was ruled as suicide. Now I'm going to go back to it, and God help you if uncle Wyatt is telling the truth," Lisa said just as her water broke, surprising everyone.

"I knew this was going to happen. Let's leave," Ron said, and without arguing with her husband, she let him lead her outside.

"Each time I think you can't shock me anymore, you manage to come up with something worst. For your sake, I hope Uncle Wyatt is wrong, and I hope Tiffany is wrong," Anita said with a shake of her head as she headed for the door, and then she stopped.

"Uncle Wyatt said you should call off the dogs you have searching for him, else he is going to be forced to expose your secrets," Anita delivered the message before hurrying outside so she could join Ron and Lisa at the hospital.

"I'm going to make you regret what you did," Tiffany promised before walking away.

The moment the door shut behind Tiffany, Rebekah let her knees which had been trembling the whole time, give way as she fell to the ground.

Chapter 592 Memories

After seeing the news online, Lucy dialed Harry's line. Although the problem of the Millers wasn't her business anymore now that she had told Tom to let Anita go, she knew that that Barry was still monitoring the Millers and would know about whatever it was that was going on.

"Hey, LuLu! Is everything alright?" Harry asked, surprised to be receiving a call from her.

Although he had planned not to receive any more calls the moment he stepped into his apartment since he wanted to spend the evening only interacting with his family, but Lucy was family too.

"Yeah. Did you see the news concerning Anita's brothers-in-law?" Lucy asked curiously.

"Yeah. Don't worry about it. Let's meet in my office in the morning and I will give you the details," Harry promised.

"Does that mean you have heard from Barry?"

"Yes. I believe with this case we can handle everything. Don't worry and go to bed Lucy. Everything is okay," Harry assured her before hanging up.

If Harry said everything was okay, then everything was fine, Lucy decided as she returned to the bathroom to dry her hair which was still damp.

She had gotten out of the bathtub immediately she saw the news and had only wrapped a towel around herself before dialing Harry's line because she felt it would be indecent to call him while naked.

After blow drying her hair, she returned to the bedroom and dressed in only an oversized tshirt before crawling under her duvet.

The bed felt strange. It was funny that her own bed now felt strange simply because she had spent the last couple of weeks in Tom's bed. With him.

He had not been gone for up to four hours yet she missed him already. Even though they weren't exactly on the best of terms, she missed his presence. Lucy sighed as she shook her head to block out the thoughts.

She reached for one of the romance novels arranged on her nightstand and adjusted her pillows as she settled down to read.

One would think that by the number of romance novels she had read in her life she would be an expert in handling her relationship, but here she was with no clue on how to make her relationship work.

She was a sucker for happy endings in novels and even in the life of other people, but when it came to herself, she was scared shitless. Too scared to make that happy ending move because she wasn't wired to focus solely on those romantic moments.

It was just the same way she was excited about Sonia's pregnancy. As long as it wasn't hers, she was happy since Sonia was happy. It was something Sonia wanted. And because Sonia wanted it, she would welcome the changes that came with it.

She would probably be able to live with being responsible for another human being. A human being you would most likely have no control over. A human being who could turn out to become a psychopathic stalker or the pitiful victim of such a stalker.

Lucy shuddered at the thought and took a deep breath as she got off the bed. She picked up a pillow and her duvet and headed for the living room with her novel.

As much as she wanted to distract herself and relax it seemed like her mind had plans of its own and nothing was working.

Since her mind was being very active, she could as well put it to work by thinking of pleasant things instead of focusing on worrisome thoughts.

She wondered if Sonia had been able to tell Evelyn about her pregnancy and what the reaction was. In a way she wished she was there to join in the celebrations, but she would rather spend the night here on the couch in her apartment than sleep in that bedroom without Tom.

How would the next couple of days be without Tom? She would have to drive to work herself. Since Tom appeared in her life as her driver she had never had to drive herself to work, and the only time she had been away from him was during work hours.

Lucy sighed when her stomach rumbled, and she realized that she was yet to eat. She was hungry and there was nothing to eat.

She thought of going out to get something, and then she smiled when a memory of one of her first interactions with Tom came back to her

So much had happened between them in such a short time, and so much had changed too, now instead of Tom, the people in the next apartment were Mia and Jeff, Lucy thought with a nostalgic sigh as she decided to order a box of pepperoni pizza instead.

She picked up her novel again and willed herself to concentrate on it until her pizza arrived.

As she opened the box of pizza another memory hit her. The last time she had eaten pizza, it had been right here in her living room with Tom and that had been the night he told her he didn't have sex with her as she had thought.

Lucy sighed as she chewed on the pizza dispassionately as though it was a chore. Okay. It was obvious that in the short time she had been with Tom, he had affected her life a lot more than she had thought possible.

Maybe moving back to her apartment wasn't such a bad thing. She needed to learn to live without Tom. Yes, she needed to learn how to enjoy her life without thinking of him every single time or making everything about him.

She was going to think of him as much as she could tonight, and then tomorrow she wouldn't. Until he got back, she was just going to put him at the back of her mind. She couldn't afford to miss him this way. How was she ever going to cope if she had to give up on him later? Lucy asked herself before she finally dozed off.

Away from there, Harry and Jamal were having a good laugh over winning Aaron and Candace who had paired up against them in most of the games they had been playing together since dinner.

After a while, Candace looked at Harry with a slightly raised brow, "When do you plan to tell us about your meeting with her?" Candace asked, and Jamal looked up curiously.

"With who? The lawyer lady?" Jamal asked, and they all turned to him.

"It's adult discussion. You've had enough fun for tonight, Jam. It's time for you to go to bed. The adults need to talk," Candace said as she rose not giving Jamal the time to argue.

"I thought this was family time. Shouldn't I be part of the family discussions?" Jamal asked, and Harry chuckled.

"Young boys need to go to bed early so they can grow tall. Don't you want to be as tall as your mom and uncle?" Aaron asked Jamal.

"How come I need to do a lot of things to grow tall?" Jamal head, wrinkling his nose distastefully.

"Maybe because nothing good comes easy," Harry pointed out.

"Is being short bad? What if I don't want to grow as tall as you? Can I stay a bit longer?" Jamal asked, and Candace shook her head.

"I want you to grow really tall and handsome...."

"Me too. Besides, Lucy likes tall guys. Can't you see how tall Tom is?" Aaron asked with a grin, and Jamal rose grudgingly at the mention of Lucy's name.

"I guess I'm tired," he said, and the adults hid their smiles.

"I will sleep in grandpa's bed," Jamal told them as he headed for the room, and then he stopped and turned.

"I guess no one is going to read me any bed time stories tonight?" He asked pitifully.

"Why not? Let's go," Aaron said as he rose from his seat to go with Jamal.

"Dad, you shouldn't be moving about without your wheelchair," Harry said as he rose to push the wheelchair forward.

"I'm fine. I need to stretch my legs a bit. I'm only going to walk to my bedroom, don't worry about me. You can start without me. I will catch up," Aaron assured Harry and Candace before leading Jamal away, eager to spend some time alone with his grandson.

"So?" Candace asked Harry who was still looking down the hallway in the direction Aaron and Jamal had followed.

"It was interesting," Harry said as he lowered himself back on the couch.

"I didn't wait all day just to hear that," Candace said with a scowl and Harry grinned.

"Well, there were tears. Tears of reconciliation," Harry said, and Candace raised a brow.

"She cried? Is she capable of tears?" Candace asked in disbelief and Harry chuckled.

"I did the crying. I felt so emotional meeting her," Harry said, and Candace rolled her eyes.

"Don't tell me she bought your act?" Candace asked, and Harry shrugged as he took out his phone to play the recording to her.

When she was halfway through it, Aaron joined them, "Is Jamal asleep?" Candace asked curiously.

"Yeah. What were you listening to?" Aaron asked cocking his head to the phone.

"The conversation between me and Sara," Harry explained as he urged Candace to resume listening. By the time it ended, Aaron shook his head sadly while Candace merely stared at the phone and sighed.

"We are still meeting with the fake me tomorrow, right?" Candace asked, and Harry gave her a nod.

"Yes. By morning Sara will wake up to find out she is trending all over social media and she will have to explain how she has a twenty-eight years old son. Before noon she should be hearing from her long lost daughter. You will leave with me to the office in the morning. Jamal can stay back at home with dad," Harry said, while Aaron listened without saying anything.

"Alright. Let's do that," Candace said with a yawn.

"I'm exhausted. I should go to bed now," Candace said as she leaned towards Aaron and kissed his cheek.

"What about your date with the other girl? I thought that was today too?" Aaron asked Harry as Candace rose to leave, and she paused to hear Harry's response.

"Well, she sort of knew I was interested in Jade, and that Jade felt the same way about me."

"She did?" Candace asked, surprised, since she had been sort of irritated by Aurora's insensitive behavior when they met.

"Yeah. And she noticed you didn't like her much. She said you kept scowling at her when she talked about getting married to me," Harry said with a grin, and Aaron chuckled.

"Why were you scowling at her? Didn't you like her?" Aaron asked, and Candace shrugged.

"I have no problem with her, it's just that my loyalty lies with Jade. Jade seemed to like the Harry guy and I didn't like that her friend was going on and on about him without noticing that Jade wasn't comfortable. Now that I know she did all of that deliberately, I will be more friendly towards her if we cross paths again," Candace assured them.

"I'm off to bed. Goodnight," Candace said before walking away, leaving Aaron and Harry alone.

"I guess you can go out with Jade now?" Aaron asked with interest, and Harry grinned.

"We are going on our first date tomorrow," Harry confided, and Aaron's eyes twinkled.

"Good! That's so good!" Aaron said with approval, and Harry chuckled.

"You didn't say anything about my meeting with Sara," Harry pointed out, and Aaron shook his head.

"I'm really not interested in her. Now that I have your sister and Jamal with me, I want to spend my time making up for lost time with your sister and Jamal. I'm not interested in wasting any time thinking or talking about Sara. You are free to do whatever you think you need to do," Aaron said, and Harry nodded.

"Alright. We should go to bed too. I have so much I need to do tomorrow," Harry said, and they both retired to their bedrooms for the night.

Once Harry lay on his bed, his mind drifted over all that had happened that day and he sighed.

He was satisfied with all that had happened. His meeting with Sara had been good, the same as his meeting with Aurora and Aurora's hookup with Philip. Anita had made a public confession and apologized to Tom and Lucy. Rebekah Miller had managed to dig her own pit by giving them exactly what they needed to punish her.

It had been one very long and interesting day. A day well spent. Tomorrow however was going to be better, because he had it all planned out already. Especially his dinner date with Jade.

Jade Hank was going to officially become his girlfriend in less than twenty-four hours. He couldn't wait to show up at Tom's doorsteps to pick her up for their date, Harry thought with a wide smile and sighed in contentment as he drifted off to sleep.

Chapter 593 Favourite Women

Lucy woke up the next morning feeling tired. Her body ached from sleeping on the couch, but that was the last thing on her mind as she looked around her apartment and sighed.

She had dreamt of Tom, and somehow she had expected to see him beside her when she woke up, only to realise she was lying on the couch in her apartment. It was going to be a really long next couple of days without Tom, Lucy realised as she rose to prepare for work.

As she stepped out of her apartment, she sighted Alicia, who ran over immediately after she saw her, "Hey, Lucy! Good morning! You're back in your apartment? I thought I saw the light on last night," she said excitedly.

"Yeah. I can't let the rent go to waste. Good morning," Lucy said with a brilliant smile.

"I'm sure Tom won't mind the rent going to waste. One of the perks of having a billionaire boyfriend," Alicia said with a wink, and Lucy gave an awkward laugh as she knew Alicia expected.

"How is Jasmine doing?" Lucy asked, and Alicia looked towards their apartment.

"She is good. Wanna say hello to her?" Alicia asked, and Lucy quickly shook her head.

"No! I'm in a hurry. Maybe later," Lucy said as she opened the car, letting Alicia know she was serious about leaving.

"Alright then. It's good to have you back here," Alicia said with a bright smile as she let Lucy get into her car.

"By the way, did you see the video trending online yesterday? Anita Miller is such a bitch. I can't wait for the interview with Eric Howells," Alicia said, and Lucy nodded, not bothering to tell her the interview might not hold anymore because all the secrets were almost out in the open now.

"Yeah, I saw it. I need to run now, Alicia. See you around," Lucy said as she started the car and drove off with a wave.

Once she arrived at the company, her plan was to head directly to Harry's office since she knew he usually arrived early, too, and she wanted to have the conversation about the Millers with him first before resuming work for the day. She didn't want any distractions once she got to her office.

She was surprised when she sighted Jade alighting from one of Tom's cars in front of the company as she parked her car, and she hurried to catch up with Jade.

"Good morning, Jade!" She greeted as she fell in step beside Jade.

"Good morning, Lucy! You were missed at dinner last night. Heard you decided to move back to your apartment because you couldn't stand being there without Tom," Jade said, and Lucy shrugged.

"I thought it would be easier being at my apartment."

"Was it?" Jade asked with interest.

"Nah. It wasn't," Lucy admitted, and Jade giggled.

"Well, don't try too hard. When you put too much effort into avoiding something, it becomes your reality," Jade advised as they stepped into the elevator and Lucy pressed the button for Harry's floor.

"I'm on my way to Harry's office. I suppose you're here to see him too? Heard about his meeting with Aurora. Congrats," Lucy said with a grin, and Jade giggled.

"Thanks. We have a dinner date tonight, but I'm here for business," Jade said, and Lucy took a second glance at her corporate outfit. Jade was dressed in a navy blue tailored pantsuit and red stiletto shoes.

"Oh! You're resuming here today?" Lucy asked curiously, wondering what was up.

"I'm sure you heard about Anita's brothers-in-law. Harry wants me to represent Jackson, and I'm here to find out why and what I'm expected to do," Jade said, and Lucy frowned in confusion.

"Why?"

"Why what?" Jade asked, not understanding Lucy's question.

"Why would he ask you to do that?" Lucy asked, and Jade sighed with exaggerated patience as they both got out of the elevator.

"I clearly just said I'm here to find out why as well," Jade pointed out as she took the lead.

"I'm going in first. You can join us after two minutes," Jade informed an amused Lucy.

She intended for Harry to see her first, not Lucy. She was going to be Harry's girlfriend, after all. She was ninety per cent there already, and his first smile of the day should be directed at her, not Lucy.

Lucy shook her head in amusement as she watched Jade walk into Harry's office without knocking, and Jade sighed, "Lucy, come in. There's no point waiting for two minutes," Jade said with a scowl when she saw Candace in the office with Harry.

"I like to believe the disappointment I see in your eyes is not because you saw me here, is it? What were you planning to do in here alone with him?" Candace asked in amusement, and Harry chuckled as he went around his desk to meet Jade.

"Good morning, beautiful," He greeted her as he kissed her cheek, but before he could pull away, Jade's arms went around his neck.

"Tell me you haven't smiled at anyone else today?" Jade asked, and Harry raised a brow.

"Why?"

"Because I was hoping to be the first reason you smiled today," Jade said with a slight frown, and Harry smiled into her eyes.

"You were the reason I smiled to sleep last night, and I had a wide smile on my face when I woke up this morning and remembered our dinner date was in a couple of hours. And your voice was the first I listened to this morning, remember?" Harry asked, and Jade blushed delightfully while Candace rolled her eyes, and Lucy, who was standing behind Harry and Jade, giggled.

Jade pressed her lips to Harry's for a quick kiss before pulling away, "I believe you."

"Good morning, LuLu. Did you sleep well?"

"I did, HaHa," Lucy said, and Harry nodded while Candace looked at them in amusement.

"I suppose Jade is JaJa, and I am CaCa?" Candace asked, and they all laughed.

"Good morning, CaCa," Jade greeted her pleasantly as Harry placed a hand on her lower back and led her to one of the seats close to Candace.

"Finally, you can see me, JaJa? I thought I wasn't welcome here?" Candace asked dryly, and Jade giggled.

"Why wouldn't you be welcome in your twin brother's office? I wasn't happy because you ruined my early morning quickie plans," Jade said, and Candace laughed while Harry and Lucy shook their heads.

"Good morning, Lucy! Jamal sent his love," Candace told Lucy, and Lucy grinned.

"Tell him I hope we can go on a date before he leaves. Just the both of us," Lucy said, and Candace laughed.

"He is never going to get over you if you do that," Candace warned.

"Oh, I don't want him to!" Lucy assured her, and Candace laughed.

"How lucky I am to have my favourite women in my office so early in the morning," Harry said as he watched them.

"Let's get down to business, Harry. I can't represent Jackson Bateman, and it's not just because I don't like his wife. Do you realise who the victim is? He is Adam Washington. The only son of the chief judge. Asking me to represent Jackson Bateman is a career suicide...."

"Yet, here you are dressed like you are going to see him after you leave my office," Harry cut in.

"That is only because I trust you must have a good reason for wanting me to do that. So I dressed up for the job hoping you will give me a good reason to go for it. We could have had this whole conversation over the phone and saved me this office visit had you not hung up after making such a request," Jade pointed out.

"I don't think you mind the visit very much," Candace murmured and Lucy grinned, while Harry chuckled as Jade scowled at Candace.

"It's good to see that you trust me. And yes, I do have a very good reason. Trust me. This isn't career suicide. If anything, it's going to be the best thing that ever happened to your career because Jackson isn't responsible for what happened, and the chief judge will forever be in your debt for making sure justice was served. We have all the evidence to prove it."

"Is the evidence admissible in court?" Jade asked, and Harry shrugged.

"You will have to determine that."

"But why are we doing this? I mean, I thought the Millers were our enemy. Are we suddenly going soft now just because of Anita's apology?" Jade asked, and Harry shook his head.

"Rebekah Miller is the ultimate enemy. And as much as we would have just preferred to let it all go following Anita's apology, we can't turn a blind eye to Rebekah's crimes. Her daughters will have so much to learn from their mother's downfall," Harry said, and Jade sighed.

"Alright. So, if Jackson Bateman didn't murder Adam Washington, who did?" Jade asked the question which was on Lucy's and Candace's minds.

"Rebekah Miller did and is deliberately framing Jackson for it."

"What?" Lucy and Jade asked in unison while Candace watched in confusion, not really understanding anything.

"Why would she murder one son-in-law and set up the other son-in-law?" Jade asked.

"I thought Adam was the one she was having an affair with?" Lucy asked in confusion.

"She was having an affair with her son-in-law?" Candace asked in disbelief, and they all turned to her.

"Yeah," Harry said, answering both Lucy and Candace at the same time.

"Don't be too shocked. That's not the worst thing she has done," Lucy assured Candace, who looked disgusted.

"And I thought Sara was the worst thing that could happen to anyone," Candace said, and Harry smiled.

"They're cut from the same cloth. Maybe Lucy's mom isn't the right twin. A switch must have happened at the hospital," Harry joked, and they all laughed.

"Unfortunately, there is a resemblance thing between them. Or at least there was before all that surgery," Lucy pointed out.

Before Harry could respond, his phone started ringing, and he grinned, "Speak of the devil. It's Sara," Harry announced as he received the call and placed it on speaker for them to listen to her.

"Good morning, Mom...."

"Have you seen what is trending on the internet? It's a picture of us together!" Sara announced, sounding very displeased.

"Together? As though we are lovers or what?" Harry asked with mock innocence, and it was all the ladies could do not to laugh.

"Don't be silly! All those silly people are talking about how you're my son, and we reunited. We can't have that now, can we? We need to do a damage control...."

"Damage control? What for? You're my mother. I want the world to know you're my mother, and I'm...."

"Can you shut up!" Sara snapped and then took a deep breath when she remembered that she was supposed to be nice.

"Listen to me, honey. There is no reason for the public to be involved in our private family business. As much as I want to tell the world that you are my son, I don't think it's a wise move. We are both public figures, and it's going to be very inconveniencing. Also, I don't want Lucy to misunderstand and try to hurt me. I told you she warned me," Sara said, and Lucy snorted while Jade and Candace shook their heads.

"So what do you want me to do? Deny the claims?" Harry asked curiously.

"Well, let's tell them my late best friend was your mother. I would have said my sister, but everyone believes I'm an orphan. So maybe we can say my best friend who died before I became a model. Okay? Our stories have to be the same. If anyone asks you, tell them I'm your late mother's best friend. I'm doing this for you, trust me. I have enemies that might want to go after you if they believe you're my son. I have to protect you. And just so you know, I will be leaving Ludus tonight. I don't think we should meet again," Sara said, and Harry nodded in agreement since he had no plan for meeting her that way again.

"Alright, Mom. If that's what you want, I will do so," Harry promised before hanging up.

"Your mother's best friend? Seriously?" Jade asked irritably.

"When is she getting here?" Candace asked, referring to Crystal, the con artist.

Harry glanced at his wristwatch, "Soon. You can place the call to the orphanage home and ask someone from there to go inform Jade's boss that they have found her," Harry instructed Candace, who took out her phone to do so immediately.

"Jade, you should get to work. You can go pay Jackson Bateman a visit. I will transfer the evidence you need to prepare for the case," Harry told Jade, who sighed.

"Alright. This won't interfere with our date, right?" She asked hopefully.

"Nothing will interfere with it. I will pick you up by 6 p.m. Let me know how the meeting with Jackson goes," Harry said as he leaned forward and kissed Jade.

"Alright. Let me know how it goes with the girl who doesn't suck pussies," Jade told Harry with a wink and giggled when he scowled.

"See y'all later," Jade said as she headed for the door and then paused to look at Lucy.

"You're still here?"

"No. I'm heading to my office now since I've heard it all," Lucy said as she rose.

"See you later. Give my message to Jamal," Lucy said to Harry and Candace before walking out with Jade.

"I heard from Bryan and Sonia last night," Jade said with a wide smile.

"I suppose they've made the announcement? How did Evelyn and Desmond react? They must have been very excited," Lucy asked with a grin.

"They couldn't make the announcement last night. We got carried away with the Miller family drama," Jade explained, and Lucy sighed.

"Too bad."

"Yeah. By the way, you and Tom are cool, right?" Jade asked as they walked into the elevator, and Lucy turned to her after pressing the button for her floor.

"Sure. Why?"

"I don't know. Maybe it's the lawyer in me, but I didn't believe anything you said earlier about crashing at your apartment just so you wouldn't miss him too much. If Harry travelled out of town, I know I would want to lie on his bed and inhale his scent all night long instead of avoiding his place together," Jade said with a shrug.

"Different strokes for different folks, remember?" Lucy asked, and Jade nodded.

"Yeah. That's what I told myself as well. Hence I'm asking you if everything is fine. Tom truly loves you, Lucy, and I believe you love him too. So I really hope things will work out between you two. Whatever might be wrong, I hope you both can work it out. Okay?" Jade asked as the elevator stopped at Lucy's floor.

"Sure."

"Have a pleasant day," Jade said and embraced Lucy before letting her step out of the elevator.

Lucy sighed as she walked into her office, and she paused when she saw a note on her desk. She picked it up, and a smile tugged on her lips when she read the handwritten note.

[Good morning, Jewel. Missed me last night, didn't you? I know you're probably trying hard not to think about me. Too bad I plan to stay on your mind all day. Every day. I love you. Your handsome boyfriend.]

Chapter 594 Get Lost!

By the time Jade parked the car in front of the station, Harry had transferred all the files he had received from Barry to her, so she had remained in her car as she looked them over.

A crooked smile tugged her lips as she watched the very clear video evidence Barry had attached. This was going to be a very interesting case, and Harry was right. It would be very good for her career.

Jade got out of her car, and with confident strides, she walked into the station and approached the first desk she saw.

"Good morning, officer. I'm Jade Hank, and I'm here to see Mr. Bateman," Jade said, and the officer raised a brow.

"What's your relationship?" the officer asked, looking her over.

"I'm going to be representing him in court if he doesn't have a lawyer yet," Jade said briskly, and the officer looked at her as though she had lost her mind.

"Do you know the details of the case? Are you aware that the victim is the only son of the chief justice?" the officer asked, and Jade flashed him a smile.

"Yes, I am well aware. Now if you don't mind, can you take me to him?" Jade asked politely.

Instead of taking Jade to Jack, the officer led her to the detective in charge of the case, and the detective took her to the room where Jack was being kept.

Immediately she walked into the room; Jack raised his head, and looked at her in confusion, since he had no idea who she was, "Do I know you?" Jack asked after the detective excused them.

"I'm not sure you do. I'm Jade Hank. If you don't have a lawyer already, I will take up your case if you don't mind," Jade offered as she sat opposite him.

Jack looked at her in confusion, "Why?"

"Why what?" Jade asked with a friendly smile.

"Why would you take up my case? You don't know me, do you? Did Adam's father send you here?" Jack asked suspiciously.

"Because I like a challenge? If you don't want me to, I could leave. It makes no difference to me, really," Jade said as she rose, but before she could turn around, Jack stopped her.

"Do you believe I'm innocent?" Jack asked, looking at her with hopeful eyes.

"Well, it's your responsibility to convince me of your innocence. It's only after you have convinced me that I can convince the others. You have had a lot of cases against you in the past, but you are lucky those cases were handled by the Washington law firm. Hence they can't dig them up and use them against you now since that would send the wrong message to their clients, and they wouldn't want that," Jade said as she sat down and opened a file.

"Seeing as you stopped me from leaving, I assume you don't have a lawyer, right?" Jade asked, and Jack nodded.

"It's not surprising. No one in their right mind would want to take up a case such as this," Jade said, and when Jack raised a brow, she laughed softly.

"I'm not in my right mind," she said, and Jack smiled hesitantly. For reasons he couldn't explain, he liked her and somehow trusted her.

"Can you really do this?" he asked, and Jade gave him a nod.

"Now, I want you to tell me exactly what happened between the both of you. I'm not talking about just the incident that led to his death. I want to know everything," Jade said, watching him now with a blank expression.

"There is not much to tell. We are married to two sisters. We have been friends for a long time, and as you know, already, his law firm handles all our legal issues. We got into a little fight two days ago...."

"What led to the fight?" Jade asked, even though she already knew all the details. She needed to establish trust between the both of them, so she needed to be sure he was going to be hundred percent honest with her.

Jack looked away. He couldn't bring himself to tell Jade the truth. That wouldn't be good for Bernice's reputation.

"You have to be honest with me, Mr. Bateman. It won't do you any good to hide it from me."

"I can't tell you that. I'm sorry," Jack said quietly.

"Why not? Are you certain that whatever you're hiding from me is a secret?" Jade asked reasonably, and before Jack could respond, the door opened, and Tiffany stormed in angrily.

"What are you doing here?" she asked Jade, eyes blazing with anger.

"What does it look like I'm doing?" Jade asked calmly while Jack looked at his wife, wondering why she seemed upset.

"What's the problem, Tiff?"

"Don't talk to her. Don't trust her. She is not on your side," Tiffany warned her husband before facing Jade.

"Get lost. We don't need you," Tiffany said, holding the door open.

"I suppose you've gotten a suitable lawyer to represent your husband, then?" Jade asked Tiffany without rising.

"That is not your business. Our family will handle it. Get lost!" Tiffany snapped at her, and Jade sighed when mock patience.

"What do you say, Mr. Bateman? Should I leave? You're the one who needs to be represented, not your wife. I do not even like her. If she were the one seated there, I wouldn't get involved in this," Jade said, and Jack looked at Tiffany before returning his attention to Jade.

"Can you give us a moment alone?" he asked, and Jade rose.

"Sure. I will be outside," Jade said as she walked out of the room.

Once she shut the door behind her, Jack looked at Tiffany, "Do you know her?"

"Yes. That is Jade Hank. Sister to Thomas Hank," Tiffany explained.

"Why don't you want her to represent me?" Jack asked, at a loss.

Tiffany quickly explained the situation between both families and the confrontation at the spa, "She doesn't have any reason to want to do this. What if she deliberately makes a mess of things just to get back at us?" Tiffany asked reasonably.

"Although I don't understand her motive for taking up my case, I don't think she will do that. No one is willing to take up my case. We have to give her a try," Jack said, and Tiffany frowned.

"I don't think this is a good idea."

"We don't have much of a choice right now," Jack reminded her, and she sighed as she rose.

"Let me talk to her, and then I will send her in," Tiffany said as she rose.

"I'm going to tell her the reason Adam fought with me was that he found out I made sexual advances at his wife...."

"Or you can tell the truth. You beat Adam up for having sex with his mother-in-law," Tiffany said, giving him a pointed look.

"I can't do that to your mother...."

"She isn't my mother anymore. Say it! There is no need to make Adam look like a saint. If you don't tell them about my mother and Adam, I'm going to tell them. So deal with it," Tiffany advised before going out to meet Jade.

"You are not doing this to mess with me, are you?" Tiffany asked the moment she stopped in front of Jade.

"Remind me again, who are you? And why should I waste a second of my time messing with you?" Jade asked, not bothering to hide the irritation on her face.

"If I find out you're messing with me, I'm going to...."

"Shut it! You are in no position to threaten me. I could walk out right now, and that doesn't make a difference to me or change the fact that your husband is screwed if I don't represent him," Jade said with a careless shrug.

Tiffany looked at her for a moment, "I'm going to let you...."

Jade walked past her and back into the room before she could complete her sentence, making it clear she didn't need her permission for anything.

"Since you have decided to let me represent you, I hope you are willing to tell me the truth. Only the truth," Jade said, giving him a pointed look.

Thirty minutes later, Jade stepped out of the station and saw Tiffany standing outside waiting for her. Wasn't she the lesbian fucking all her maids? Why was she so devoted to her husband? Jade mused.

"Do you have a minute?" Tiffany asked, sounding more polite now than she had been earlier.

While Jade had been busy inside with her husband, Tiffany had called her sisters to seek their opinion, since Bernice and Anita were at the hospital with Lisa who had delivered a beautiful baby girl in the early hours of the morning.

After much consideration, they had all reached a consensus that they leave their personal sentiments aside and allow Jade to handle the case especially as this was coming after Anita's public confession and apology.

"Depends on what you want to talk about. If it's unrelated to the case, I don't," Jade said without stopping, and Tiffany nodded as she followed.

"It's about the case," Tiffany assured her.

"I'm sorry for my shitty attitude earlier. I had no right to act that way especially when I was at fault the last time. Thank you for offering to help even though we don't deserve it," Tiffany said quietly, and Jade faltered in her steps as she looked at her.

"Don't worry. I won't mess up the case just because I don't like you. It's my duty to uphold justice, and I won't let my feelings get in the way," Jade said and continued walking, but Tiffany continued to follow her.

"What do you think? Do you believe my husband?" Tiffany asked, and Jade shrugged.

"What I believe doesn't matter. Do you believe him?" Jade asked as she stopped by her car, and Tiffany nodded.

"Jack is a lot of things, but there is no way he could have hurt Adam. Did he tell you about the weird text message he received from Adam?" Tiffany asked, and Jade nodded even though she had seen the text before talking to Jack.

"Yes. What about it?" Jade asked, and Tiffany took a deep breath. She knew she was taking a big risk by trusting Jade Hank, but what harm could come from telling Jade that she believed her mother was behind it?

"I don't think Adam typed that text. It is unlike Adam. Also, shouldn't we find out what happened between the time Adam left my mother's house to the time he got to their meeting center? I mean, it doesn't make sense that Adam would ask Jack to meet him in such a remote place, considering what happened between them the previous day. The whole thing is not adding up," Tiffany said, and Jade narrowed her eyes.

"Are you trying to tell me you think your mother might have a hand in this?" Jade asked, and Tiffany swallowed hard before nodding her head.

"Do you have any tangible reason?" Jade asked and listened as Tiffany explained the entire situation to her, including how Rebekah had sent out the maids and what she had said during her visit to the hospital.

"I see," Jade said with a nod.

"I might be mistaken, but I know for sure that Jack is not responsible for this. Maybe you can investigate the crime scene some more and visit my mother. You could check for fingerprints in Adam's car, right?" Tiffany asked, and Jade eyed Tiffany with interest.

"You must have given this a lot of thought," Jade said, and Tiffany sighed.

"Yes, I have. Did Jack tell you that Adam and my mother were having an affair?" Tiffany asked, and Jade gave her a nod.

"He did."

"He also told me he made a pass at your sister. What did you think about that?" Jade said, watching Tiffany closely.

Tiffany shrugged, "It's complicated. Nothing happened between them, okay? Jack had always been in love with Bernice long before he married me, and when he realized she wasn't happy in her marriage, he tried to hit on her, but she turned him down. Adam found out about it, got mad, and started a fight with Jack. It's nothing more than that," Tiffany said, and Jade nodded thoughtfully.

So they were trying to protect Bernice. That was admirable, "So you're not mad at your husband?"

"We didn't get married because we were madly in love or anything. It was an arranged marriage, and we both pursued our interests," Tiffany said without meeting Jade's eyes.

"I see," Jade murmured.

"You can help him, right?" Tiffany asked hopefully.

"I know we have our differences, and I'm sorry for everything. But this is really important to me, and I need to be sure that you can help my husband," Tiffany said, and before Jade could respond, her phone started ringing.

She raised a brow when she didn't recognize the number, and she received the call, "Hello.... Yes. This is Jade Hank," she said when the person on the other end of the line interrupted her.

"Yes, sir. I will be there in thirty minutes," she said before hanging up.

"I will help your husband. If for nothing, for the fact that you're willing to throw your mother under the bus," Jade said with a wide smile that left Tiffany confused as she got into her car.

As Jade drove away from there, she dialed Harry's line, "I just left the station. I'm on my way to meet with the chief judge right now. Someone informed him I've taken up the case," Jade informed Harry briskly.

"You don't sound like you're talking to your almost-boyfriend," Harry pointed out, and Jade grinned.

"Sorry. My mind is on other things right now," Jade said apologetically.

"I know you can handle it," Harry said confidently.

"Sure, I can. How did the meeting with Crystal go?" Jade asked curiously.

"Everything is in place. All that is left is for Sara to reunite with her daughter," Harry said, and Jade giggled.

"That's good, then. I was just checking in. I will let you know how the meeting goes. Talk to you later," Jade said before hanging up.

She hadn't realized how much she missed working on a case until she caught her reflection in the rearview mirror. She was grinning and humming a happy tune.

She giggled at the thought of bringing down Rebekah Miller. Wasn't it funny that her own daughter was willing to testify against her in order to save a husband she wasn't even in love with? That was what you got for being a shitty person. This was exactly what was going to happen to Sara as well.

Jade paused when something occurred to her, and she burst out in laughter. Sara and Rebekah? Was it a coincidence that both shitty ladies bore the biblical names of a mother and daughter-in-law? There was a connection, after all, Jade thought in amusement.

Chapter 595 League Of Fathers

Sonia woke up to see Bryan grinning at her, and she turned away, feeling slightly embarrassed, "For God's sake, Bryan!" She scolded half-heartedly as she sat up.

"What did I do?" Bryan asked, amused by her display of self-consciousness.

"You can't just be staring at me with that creepy smile while I'm asleep," she complained, and Bryan raised a brow.

"Why not? And since when did my smile become creepy?" Bryan asked, and she shrugged.

"I guess it has always been creepy, but I've been too blinded by my love for you to notice it," Sonia said, and the twitch of her lips gave her away.

"Yeah, right! Let's freshen up and go down for breakfast. We should share the news with them this morning," Bryan suggested as he rose and held out a hand to her.

"Bryan?" Sonia called hesitantly.

"Yes, baby?"

"Are you sure you want to do this? I mean, the moment we tell them, there is no going back, you know?" Sonia asked, and Bryan sat on the edge of the bed and took her hands.

"What can I do to convince you, Sony? Should I start shopping for baby stuff? Or building a nursery? I'm not changing my mind, babe. As long as this is what you also want, let's do it," Bryan said as he kissed the back of her hands, and she smiled softly.

"Alright. Let's do it," she said with a nod, even though there was a lot of stuff she still wanted them to discuss before making the big announcement.

"What is it?" Bryan asked, studying her face.

"Tell me what's on your mind. What are you thinking?" Bryan asked, urging her to speak.

"Well, I was just thinking that with this new development, we might have to reconsider our living arrangement," Sonia said, and Bryan nodded.

"Alright. I'm listening. Go on," he said, watching her intently.

"Do you still want us to keep living together?" She asked cautiously.

"Of course. We agreed to do that, right?" Bryan asked, and she nodded.

"Yeah. We did. But I might not be able to travel around with you when you start working again as planned, and I can't possibly live here when you're not here," Sonia explained quietly.

"We won't be here for long. Paul is already having problems, and soon, we will take over Golden Stars. Once we do that, we can go back to our home in Sogal. And if that doesn't work, we can just buy a property here in Ludus if you'd rather be closer to Lucy," Bryan assured her and smiled when her eyes lit up.

"We can do that?" Sonia asked, and Bryan nodded.

"Sure. We are starting a family, and your comfort is the utmost priority to me. You will need Lucy around you if I'm not around all the time. Besides, Tom and Jade are in Ludus too, so it makes visiting easier for my parents," Bryan said explained, and Sonia embraced him without saying another word.

"I take it you want us to settle in Ludus?" Bryan asked, and Sonia bobbed her head.

"Alright then. I will contact I-Global real estate director to find us a suitable property after we decide on the kind of building we want," Bryan said as he kissed the side of her head, and she sighed contently as she snuggled closer to him and kissed his neck.

"Sony," Bryan called in a husky voice as he pulled away.

"What?" Sonia asked with a slight frown.

"Let's freshen up and go down for breakfast," Bryan said, kissing her cheek.

"You don't want to have sex with me?" Sonia asked with a frown. She had made advances at him last night, but he had gently turned her down and just cuddled her to sleep instead.

"We both know I want to. But I'm trying to be careful right now. Once we have seen a doctor, and I know it is safe to do so without hurting you or our baby, we can do whatever we want," Bryan assured her, and Sonia sighed.

"I already told you it's safe. I'm not fragile, you know? I was sick, you refused to touch me, and now this," Sonia complained, and Bryan smiled.

"You are fragile, Sonia. And even if you're not, I'm not taking any chances. I know you have the hots for me...." The rest of his words drifted off in a chuckle when Sonia rammed her elbow into his side.

"Who has the hots for you, idiot?" She asked as she got off the bed and headed for the bathroom, and Bryan's laughter rede followed her as he joined her.

After freshening up, they found something decent to wear and went downstairs to join the elders.

"For a moment, I thought you were not going to come down for breakfast. The table is so empty this morning, and I can only imagine how it's going to be tomorrow morning when Janet and Andrew go over to be with Lucy at her apartment," Evelyn complained with a sigh as Sonia and Bryan sat down.

"We have been eating alone for years since the kids left the house, and soon we will go back to doing that. Why are you suddenly worried now about an empty table?" Desmond asked under his breath.

"That is different! I didn't leave my house only to come to be lonely in Ludus!" Evelyn snapped at her husband.

"That can't be helped, Mom. Everyone is busy right now. Anyway, we have important news to share with you all," Bryan said, and Evelyn looked at them wearily.

"Nothing bad, I hope?" Desmond asked as he looked from Bryan to Sonia.

"It depends on how you take it," Bryan said with a shrug, and Sonia stepped on his foot.

"You are not breaking up, are you?" Evelyn asked, and Bryan raised a brow.

"They don't look like they want to break up. They look chummy," Andrew pointed out.

"Go on. What is it?" Evelyn asked impatiently, but Bryan said nothing as he placed some muffins in front of Sonia.

"You want to tell them, or should I do it?" Bryan asked, realizing they had not talked about who was going to break the news.

For reasons Sonia could not understand, she suddenly felt nervous as she looked from Evelyn's concerned gaze to Desmond's expectant gaze, to Andrew's amused gaze, and then Janet's curious gaze, and then she looked back again at Evelyn.

"The stuff you saw in Lucy's handbag is mine," Sonia blurted out to Evelyn.

"That's not how I was going to say it," Bryan murmured, disappointed by Sonia's undramatic announcement.

"What is she talking about?" Desmond asked his wife, who was just staring at Sonia speechlessly.

"What did you see in Lucy's handbag?" Janet asked Evelyn curiously.

"Oh, my God!" Evelyn shrieked happily, startling everyone, and in the next moment, she was out of her seat, tears gleaming in her eyes as she went to embrace Sonia.

"What is going on?" Desmond asked with a frown, not liking the fact that he didn't know what was going on.

"You're going to be a granddaddy soon," Bryan said with a grin, and Desmond's eyes widened in disbelief, while Andrew grinned happily as he slapped Desmond's back.

"Congrats, Buddy!"

"Sony dear!" Janet cooed as she went to embrace Sonia was now crying softly against Evelyn's shoulder.

"This is so beautiful, Sonia. Thank you," Evelyn whispered against Sonia's hair.

"I'm going to be a grandfather," Desmond cried in disbelief, and to the shock of everyone at the table, he broke into an unexpected sob.

"C'mon, Dad! You shouldn't be crying?" Bryan said as he rose to join his father.

As he sat beside his father on the seat Evelyn had vacated, he placed his hand behind Desmond to comfort him, and Desmond turned to him.

"Congrats, son. I'm so proud of you," Desmond said as he pulled himself together while Andrew shook Bryan's hand.

"You're welcome to the League of Fathers, boy. I hope it's a girl," Andrew said warmly.

"Sony, can I get a hug?" Desmond asked as he rose to meet Sonia, remembering that he was yet to congratulate Sonia.

"Sure, Desmond," Sonia said as she rose to embrace Desmond.

"We should let Tom and Jade know...."

"They are aware," Bryan said, and Evelyn frowned.

"I see. We are the last to know," Evelyn said with displeasure.

"Does it matter? What matters is that you're going to be a grandmother, right?" Desmond reminded her, and Evelyn beamed once again.

"You're right."

"This calls for a celebration. I should take out my cigar, and then we can drink," Desmond said as he walked away to get his cigar, ignoring Evelyn's disapproving stare.

"I suppose you haven't visited a doctor yet, have you? Get dressed. Let's go to the hospital," Evelyn suggested excitedly.

"If we do that, everyone is going to know," Sonia pointed out, glancing at Bryan.

"They're going to know in a couple of months either way. Let's just go get a proper test at the hospital and see a doctor," Evelyn said, patting Sonia's shoulder.

"Yes, Sonia. You should see a doctor," Janet encouraged as she returned to her seat beside her husband.

"You don't have to worry about it, Mom. I will take her myself," Bryan said, but Sonia quickly shook her head.

"It's bad enough that I'm going there. If we go together, it's going to be a major scandal...."

"It's my career. Let me worry about it. Eat for two, and then we can leave when you're ready," Bryan said, jerking his head towards her untouched muffins.

"You should eat up, Sony. Tell me whatever you want, and I'm going to prepare it for you right away, alright? I no longer feel comfortable about leaving. Maybe I should stay a bit longer. Will you come with us back to Heden so I can take better care of you?" Evelyn asked, and Bryan scowled at his mother.

"She is not going anywhere with you. I can take care of her, okay? But you're welcome to stay with her in my absence after we get our own place," Bryan said, and Evelyn's eyes lit up.

"You are getting your own place here in Ludus? This is so lovely, Bryan!" Evelyn cried happily as Desmond returned carrying his box of cigars, which his kids had gifted him on his birthday.

"I'm feeling generous today. Want a cigar, Andrew?" Desmond asked, and Andrew grinned.

"I don't mind. Leave the women and come hang out with us men, Bryan. We need to celebrate, and you need to learn a thing or two about being the partner of a pregnant female and fatherhood," Andrew suggested as he and Desmond headed for the bar.

"Call me when you're done with breakfast," Bryan told Sonia before walking away with the men, leaving Evelyn and Janet to fuss.

"Tell us, Bryan, how did it feel getting the news from Sonia?" Andrew asked when they got to the bar.

Bryan shrugged as he took out wine glasses and did the honor of pouring the wine. He could hardly give them the details and how mad he had been about being left in the dark, "Awesome. I've not been able to think of anything else since yesterday," Bryan said with a grin, and both Desmond and Andrew chuckled.

"You know, earlier, I remembered the day Evelyn told me she was pregnant with Bryan. And I got so emotional thinking that my little boy is going to be a daddy," Desmond said, and Andrew chuckled.

"He is not so little anymore, seeing how he managed to impregnate her," Andrew pointed out, and they all chuckled.

"How did Mom break the news to you?" Bryan asked curiously, and Desmond chuckled at the memory.

"It was on a weekend. I was sleeping in. She tapped me gently. I woke up, and she said, 'Tommy is so lucky to have you, you know? You have been such a wonderful father, so I decided to give another child the privilege of being fathered by you. Baby two is on the way' Can you believe it?" Desmond asked as Bryan and Andrew laughed in disbelief.

"What was your response?" Bryan asked in amusement.

"I said, 'That's great!' And then I pulled her against me, kissed her, and made love to her," Desmond said, and Bryan scrunched his face up in disgust, not wanting to imagine his father releasing inside his mother while he was in the womb.

He made a mental note not to subject his baby to such emotional torture. If he was going to make love to Sonia, he was just going to work harder on his pull-out game.

"What about you, Andrew? How did you feel when Janet told you about her pregnancy?" Desmond asked curiously.

"How did she break the news to you?" Bryan added.

Andrew chuckled, "It was our first anniversary. We agreed not to have a baby until after a year. It was her idea, not mine. So after we got back from dinner, I handed her the gift I got her, a gold necklace. And she gave me hers. It was an envelope. I opened it, and there it was—a positive pregnancy test result. I looked at her with all my love in my eyes, and she had a wide smile on her face. I smiled back, swept her off her feet, and made love to her as gently...."

"Save the details. I'm sure your kids won't appreciate knowing that you did that with their mother while they were in there. I know I don't," Bryan said, and both Desmond and Andrew roared with laughter.

"Ignorant boy," Andrew said with a shake of his head.

"Teach him, Andrew. Teach him," Desmond said with a chuckle.

Chapter 596 You Or Your Son

In the office of the Chief Judge, Jade sat across from the man who seemed to be in his mid-sixties.

"Are you related to Lawrence Hank?" he asked, watching her, and Jade smiled.

"Yes, I am. But that is totally unrelated to the reason I took up this case," Jade said confidently.

"Why then did you take it up knowing who you are going against?" the chief judge asked, and Jade shrugged.

"It's a matter of justice. I believe my client is innocent. Hence I'm defending him," Jade said, and he glared at her.

"If he were innocent, my son wouldn't be lying dead right now...."

"We both know your son is not dead," Jade cut in, surprising him.

"I beg your pardon?" the chief judge asked.

"Your son is not dead as the public thinks, is he? I know he is in critical condition, and I believe the only reason you haven't made that information public yet is that you want to be able to charge my client for murder and not attempted murder in the case that your son eventually dies. Am I wrong?" Jade asked, and his eyes hardened.

"It doesn't change the fact that he hurt my boy. I won't let him get away with it. And I strongly advise you not to get in my way," The chief judge warned.

"What makes you so confident that my client is guilty? I mean, this could be a setup, you know?" Jade asked reasonably.

"Do you have any idea the number of crimes we have covered up for that nitwit? Judging by his records, I won't put this past him. Besides, they had a fight the day before this. Did you know that?" the chief judge asked, and Jade sat forward in her seat.

"And do you know the reason for the fight? Are you aware that your son has been having an affair with his mother-in-law?" Jade asked, and the chief judge jerked back as though she had slapped him.

"How Dare You? How dare you come in here and make such accusations against my son?" he asked angrily, struggling not to raise his voice.

"It's not an accusation. Are you aware that your daughter-in-law attempted to take her life a couple of days ago? Do you know why? It was because she caught them. You can ask your daughter-in-law for the video evidence if you can stomach seeing your son doing it with his mother-in-law," Jade said, not caring that she was not being totally honest with the man.

He wasn't her client after all, and if he wanted to know the whole truth, then it was best he looked into it more. One thing she knew for sure was that regardless of what he would find, they would keep the whole thing hush-hush within the family because they cared more about their public image than they cared about anything else.

The chief judge was silent for some time, and then he looked at Jade, "Why are you so sure that Jackson is innocent? Do you have evidence?"

"What case was your son working on? Which witness did he have to meet at such a remote location? Does he usually do that? What if the so-called witness had hurt him before my client arrived at the scene?" Jade asked matter-of-factly.

The Chief Judge shook his head, "I don't think that is the case."

"Can I ask you a question?" Jade asked politely, and he gave her a nod.

"Are you more interested in punishing my client than you are in apprehending the real culprit who did that to your son?"

"I'm not asking you to release him or anything. Don't you think your integrity would be questioned when your son regains consciousness and admits my client was not behind it?" Jade asked before the man could answer.

"And what if he doesn't wake up? What if he wakes up in a vegetative state?" he asked, and Jade shook her head.

"All I'm asking is that you do not frustrate my effort by trying to use your influence to turn an innocent man into a criminal. I will apprehend the criminal myself. Let me do my job, and I won't have to tell anyone that your son is still alive," Jade threatened subtly.

"How did you know my son is alive?" he asked, narrowing his eyes.

Jade shrugged, "The same way I know my client is innocent. You will just have to trust me on that," Jade said as she rose.

"As much as I have enjoyed talking to you, I need to run along now," Jade said with a polite bow, and the Chief Judge rose.

"I looked into you before you arrived. You have quite an impressive record, and I can see you are a very intelligent lady," He said, and Jade smiled.

"I'm flattered."

"Can you not bring up the issue of Adam's infidelity in court?" he asked uncomfortably.

"If the prosecutor brings up the fight between them as my client's motive, I will have to bring it up," Jade said, meeting his gaze squarely.

He sighed, "I will ask him to leave that out."

Jade shrugged, "If that's what you want. But you must know that leaving that out means there is nothing to hold against my client. Being at the crime scene at the time the police arrived doesn't make him guilty," Jade pointed out.

"If you are able to apprehend the criminal who did that to my son, I think we will get along pretty well," he said, and Jade grinned this time.

"I have no doubt that we will get along, sir," she said, and they turned to the door when they heard a brief knock before it opened.

The secretary walked in, "Mr. Bateman is here to see you," he said apologetically, referring to Jackson's father.

"Let him in," The chief Judge said and looked at Jade, "I suppose you're familiar with your client's father?" he asked, and Jade shook her head as the door opened and the man walked in.

"I'm not. But I don't mind saying hello to him," she said, curious to see the face of the man who was having an affair with his son's mother-in-law.

Jade wondered how he would react when he found out that his lover was the one messing with his son's life.

"Thank you for agreeing to see me...."

"You have this young lady to thank. She is your son's lawyer," The chief judge said, and Mr. Bateman's gaze shifted to Jade as the Chief Judge made the introductions.

"Jack informed me of your visit," Mr. Bateman said, looking at Jade while wondering what she was doing with the Chief Judge and if he had sent her to jeopardize his son's chances.

"Yes. I will be representing him. If you don't mind, I will excuse you both to talk while I go about my business. I hope you can make out time for us to discuss the case," Jade said to Mr. Bateman, and he gave her a nod.

"If you're not in a hurry, you can wait. This meeting won't be long," he said, and Jade nodded.

"I will wait for you by the reception," she said and gave the chief judge a polite nod before walking out.

She waited about fifteen minutes before the senior Bateman stepped out of the office, "Can I buy you a drink?" he asked, and Jade shook her head.

"I'm afraid I don't have the time. Let's talk in your car," she suggested instead, and they both walked out together while Jade tried to organize her thoughts.

Once they got into his car, the driver excused them, and they faced each other, "Why were you in his office? Did he send you to jeopardize the case?" Mr. Batman asked, and Jade stared at him with a blank expression.

"Is your son aware that you are having an affair with his mother-in-law?" Jade asked instead, and he blinked in surprise.

"What? What does that have to do with this case?" he asked, shifting in his seat uncomfortably.

"We will get there. Tell me something, Mr. Bateman. If you had to choose between saving yourself and saving your son, who would it be?" she asked, and he frowned.

"What do you mean?"

"I can help your son. I have what it takes to make all of this go away. But I need you to do something first," Jade said, and his frown deepened.

"What is that?"

"I want evidence that you and your lover, Rebekah Miller, murdered her late husband, Richard Miller...."

"I didn't do any such thing," he cut in, his eyes wide with fear.

"Yes, you did. You both duped him and robbed him of all he had. If you can give me evidence of his murder, then your son will be free. It's going to have to be you or your son. I will await your call," Jade said, slipping her complementary card into the space between them.

"And don't think of doing anything silly. A lot more people are with me on this than you can imagine. And if I were you, I wouldn't talk to Rebekah about our conversation. She isn't your friend. I will prove it to you in time," Jade promised as she got out of the car and walked away, feeling like the protagonist in an action movie.

Once she got into her car, she hummed a happy tune as she checked her reflection in the mirror, thinking about her date with Harry.

She still had to stop at the crime scene for formality's sake and take a look around, even if she was aware that wasn't exactly the place where the crime had truly taken place.

She picked up her phone and dialed Candace's line, "Hey! You busy?" she asked immediately after it connected.

"Not exactly. Just watching a television show," Candace said with a yawn.

"Good. Mind coming with me to inspect a fake crime scene? I mean, you're going to be a lawyer, right? I don't mind accepting you as an intern," Jade said, and Candace grinned.

"That's not a bad idea. Where should I meet you?" Candace asked as she rose and then looked down at her casual mom clothes.

"I will pick you up, don't worry...."

"I don't exactly have the wardrobe of an intern," she said with a slight frown.

"Don't worry, anyone who sees us will just assume you have bad taste in clothes," Jade said, and Candace chuckled.

"Gee, thanks! I feel much better," she said dryly, and Jade grinned.

"We can get you something nice to wear if it bothers you so much. And maybe after checking out the crime scene, we can go somewhere nice, and I will tell you about how much I love your twin brother and how I'm looking forward to our first date," Jade said, and Candace giggled.

"I don't want to hear any of that," Candace said and Jade rolled her eyes.

"I don't think you have much of a choice."

"By the way, Harry told me about Aurora," Candace remembered.

"Oh, yeah. I will give you more details when we see," Jade promised.

"Alright. I will be waiting for you," Candace said before hanging up the call, and then she went out to the balcony to inform her father and Jamal that she was going out.

After telling them she was going out, she turned to leave and then paused when she remembered she was yet to relay Lucy's message to Jamal.

"By the way, Jam. Lucy says she hopes you both can go on a date before we leave," Candace said and watched in amusement as Jamal's eyes lit up.

"Really? She said that?" he asked, and Candace nodded while Aaron chuckled.

"What about Tom? Did they break up? Going out on a date means she is going to be my girlfriend, right?" Jamal asked excitedly, and Candace and Aaron laughed out loud.

"Why don't you ask Lucy those questions on your date? I need to get ready before Jade gets here," Candace said as she walked away, and then she laughed when she heard Jamal tell Aaron that he needed to go shopping for his date.

Living with Andy must have really taught him a lot more about dates than she expected, Candace mused, and then the smile vanished from her face as she thought of Andy.

How could she be so happy and go about her life like everything was fine when she had no idea where Andy was or if she was alive? Candace mused sadly.

Chapter 597 FaceTime

As Lucy worked that morning, her gaze moved to the wall clock at intervals, and although, at first, she couldn't exactly tell what it was she was waiting for when she realized it was Tom's call she was waiting, she sighed and picked up her phone.

She didn't have to wait until he arrived at his destination before reaching out to him, did she? She could send a text to just check on him the same way he had left that note on her desk. She would just respond to his text.

Thinking about the note, she smiled again. Was it Harry? Who could have helped him leave the note on her desk? The most beautiful thing about the note was the fact that it was handwritten by him. She thought it was sweet that he had thought of writing such a note for her before leaving. He had managed to accomplish the exact reason for which he must have written the note, staying on her mind all day. Not that he had not been on her mind even without the note.

[Good morning, Ace. I'm waiting to hear from you. Call me the moment you arrive, alright? Try to get some rest, and don't overwork yourself. I got your note. I love it. I love you. Your beautiful girlfriend.]

The smile on Lucy's lips wobbled as she reread the text, and she realized her vision had become blurred by tears.

'Okay. I miss him. I do miss him very much already,' Lucy admitted to herself as she brushed her tears away and tapped on send.

Almost immediately, a knock sounded on her office door, and she was surprised to see Adolf standing by the glass door with a food pack.

"Come in," she told him as she rose to greet him.

"Good morning, Adolf," Lucy greeted with a confused smile.

"Good morning, Lucy. Tom instructed that we bring you breakfast because you often forget to eat, and you have an ulcer," Adolf explained as he placed the food pack on her desk and Lucy blinked in surprise, touched by the gesture.

"Thanks, but you shouldn't have bothered...."

"It's not a bother. Janet asked me to bring the keys to your apartment. I'm going to drop them off there later in the day," Adolf cut in politely, and Lucy nodded as she walked back to her desk to get the key from her handbag.

"Samantha says you should let her know if there is anything you prefer in particular. She says you can make a list," Adolf said, and Lucy smiled.

"Tell her I'm fine with whatever she makes for everyone else. Thank you, Adolf," Lucy said, and Adolf gave her a polite nod before walking away.

As Lucy returned to her seat, tears gathered in her eyes once again, and she covered her face with her hands as she took a deep breath.

Why was she feeling so emotional? It was almost like she had assumed in her mind that the relationship was over, and seeing everything Tom had arranged for her before leaving made her tearful.

Tom loved her. He still loved her. While he was busy fighting for their relationship to work, she was busy looking for a way to survive without him if the relationship didn't work.

Was this what Sonia had meant when she said Tom was going all the way to chase her, and she wasn't putting in any special effort?

Lucy picked up her phone and dialed the number of one of the therapists, and once her secretary received the call, Lucy booked an appointment for the next day.

She looked up when a knock sounded on her door again, and she smiled when Harry walked in, "You're not too busy to chat with your favorite cousin, are you?" Harry asked with a wide smile and approached her desk.

"I don't think I am. What are those?" she asked when she noticed he was holding a couple of books.

"They are called Books," Harry said dryly, and Lucy rolled her eyes.

"Oh! Really? I had no idea," Lucy said in an equally dry tone, and Harry chuckled.

"I told you I was going to lend you a couple of books on relationships, remember?" Harry asked, and Lucy raised a brow.

"Oh!"

"Yeah. Oh. I wasn't joking," Harry said as he placed the books in front of her.

"Did you read all these?" Lucy asked as she picked up the books. They were five in number.

Harry gave her a nod, "I have more where those came from. But these are some of my favorites," Harry said as he took his seat, and his gaze shifted to the food pack.

"You brought breakfast from home?" Harry asked curiously.

"No. Samantha made it, and Tom had Adolf deliver it," Lucy explained.

"Mind if I find something to munch on?" he asked, and Lucy spread her hands.

"Help yourself. Speaking of Tom. You are the one who left Tom's note on my desk this morning, aren't you?" Lucy asked, and Harry raised a brow as he opened the food pack.

"I didn't. Tom left a note?" Harry asked as he took out a muffin while Lucy fished it out from within the pages of her journal where she had tucked it and gave it to Harry.

Harry grinned as he read it, "Who knew the idiot had it in him to do something like this? I thought he was only good at doing creepy things like stalking you."

Lucy laughed, "Don't insult my boyfriend."

"I will try to remember that. No, I didn't leave the note. Maybe his assistant did. I will ask him," Harry said as he returned the note to her and took a bite from the muffin.

"Right. I forgot about him. I guess Candace has left?" Lucy asked, and Harry nodded as he chewed.

"Yeah. We concluded with the orphanage home and with Crystal. Everything is going as planned," he said after swallowing.

"Do you still plan for them to be BFFs?" Lucy asked, and Harry shook his head.

"We changed our minds on that. If Candace stays by her side, Sara might want to dig into Candace, and then she will know Candace is somehow connected to Jade and us, and we can't have that," Harry said as he took another bite, and Lucy nodded.

"That's good to know. I was going to point that out. Hence I asked. By the way, how much longer before Tom arrives at his destination?" Lucy asked with concern, and Harry glanced at his wristwatch.

"About an hour or less," Harry said as he quickly ate the muffin as though just remembering he had to be somewhere.

"I have to run, LuLu. I'm sure you need to get back to work too. Make sure you read the books any chance you get, okay?" Harry said as he rose, and Lucy smiled as she gave him a nod.

"Yes, sir," Lucy said, and Harry walked away while wondering what Jade was up to and how the meeting was going.

Alone again in her office, Lucy glanced at the clock and decided to give Sonia a call to find out if she had told the family about her pregnancy yet, but before she could dial Sonia's line, her phone rang, and she received it when she saw it was her mother.

"Hi, Mom!"

"Are you busy?"

"Not at all. What's up?"

"Sony is pregnant!" Janet announced gleefully, and Lucy laughed.

"So I heard."

"It was so beautiful, darling. Evelyn wept. Desmond did too. I felt all emotional myself. I can't imagine how they must feel, welcoming their first grandchild," she said with a sigh, and Lucy sat upright, her sixth sense telling her what was coming next.

"With Lucas' break up with Rachel, I know settling down is the last thing on his mind, and I can't really blame him or pressure him. What about you, Lucy? How is your relationship with Tom coming? Evelyn mentioned that Tom announced during the family dinner that you both didn't have any marriage plans yet. What about kids? When do you both plan to start having kids?" Janet asked while Lucy tapped on her desk.

"Mom, I have to go now. I have to...."

"You said you weren't busy," Janet reminded her.

"Yes, I wasn't. But now I am," Lucy said with a frown.

"Why do I feel like you're avoiding the subject? We are going to have this conversation, Lu. Maybe not right now, but we will," Janet promised before hanging up.

Lucy sighed as she took off her glasses and relaxed against her seat. She rubbed her eyes, suddenly feeling drained because of the conversation with her mother.

Human needs were truly insatiable. A while ago, she was being pestered to get a boyfriend, and she did. Now it was marriage and kids? And after those, what?

She missed the days when all she had to worry about was meeting work targets.

'But you are happier now than you were in those days, ' a voice in her head said, and she sighed.

"Whatever," she muttered.

Instead of calling Sonia as she had planned, she pushed her phone away and placed the breakfast pack in front of her desk.

Samantha had neatly arranged muffins, sausages, scrambled eggs, and sandwiches in the bag. How was she supposed to eat all of that alone? She mused, then paused when she noticed a familiar piece of paper at the bottom of the bag.

She took it out and grinned when she noticed it was a handwritten note from Tom.

[Think of me when you eat. Will you send me a picture? I love you. I miss you. I love you again.]

"This is so silly," Lucy said with a giggle as she looked at the letter, and just then, her phone started ringing.

She picked up her phone and her heart skipped a beat when she saw it was Tom. She swallowed nervously as she received the call.

"Hey, baby!" Tom said in a tired voice, and her brows pulled together.

"Are you okay?" she asked with a concerned frown, her nervousness disappearing.

"Yeah. Just exhausted. I was busy going through all the details of the branch here. I just got off the plane. I'm on my way to the hotel now. How are you?" he asked, a smile in his voice, and she smiled.

"I got your notes," she said, and this time he grinned.

"Made your heart skip, right?" he asked, and Lucy giggled softly as she nodded.

"It did."

"Then I guess you've had breakfast, right?" he asked with concern.

"Not yet. I was about to before your call came in," she admitted.

"I should let you get to it then. We can talk later...."

"NO!" Lucy cut in, surprising Tom.

"I mean, let's just talk now. You're tired and will need to get some rest when you get to your hotel and...."

"You don't have to explain yourself, Jewel. I actually prefer the no," Tom said softly, and Lucy bit her lower lip.

"So, do you miss me? Did you miss me last night?" he asked, and she nodded.

"A lot more than I expected," she confessed, feeling emotional.

"Can I see your face?" he asked hopefully.

"You mean like a Facetime?" she asked, feeling self-conscious as she touched her hair to be sure it was still on her head.

"Yes. It's okay if you can't do that right now...."

"Let's do it. I want to see your face as well," Lucy assured him, and Tom switched to a video call, which Lucy promptly received.

"Hey, beautiful!" Tom greeted, and Lucy smiled as she looked at him.

"You look really exhausted," she noted.

"Yeah. I'm away from my energy booster," Tom said, and Lucy blinked coyly.

"You mean Harry?" she asked, and Tom chuckled.

"God, I miss you terribly, Lu! I can't believe it's not twenty-four hours yet since I last saw you. It feels like weeks," Tom said as he gazed into her eyes.

"I miss you too," Lucy whispered, unable to break away from his gaze.

"Should I just shut down the business over here and come back home?" Tom suggested with a grin, and Lucy giggled.

"Perhaps you should," she said, playing along.

"You said it! I'm going to do it. I won't care about the number of people that will be put out of their job or the families that will suffer...." Tom broke off when Lucy giggled.

"Do what you have to do. I will wait," Lucy assured him.

"What's going on over there? How is work going?" Tom asked, and Lucy remembered all that had happened in his short absence.

"So much has happened. Sonia told Bryan about the pregnancy. They are keeping the baby," she announced happily, and Tom smiled as he watched the excitement dance in her eyes.

"That's great! I will give Bryan a call when I can to congratulate him," Tom said, and Lucy nodded.

"Also, Anita's family is in a mess," Lucy said and explained the details to Tom.

"Harry wants Jade to represent them?" he asked, wondering what Harry was thinking but trusting him too much to express his concern over the decision.

"Yes. Maybe when you talk to him, he can explain better," Lucy said, and Tom nodded, barely managing to stifle a yawn.

"You need to get some rest," Lucy said with concern, and Tom nodded.

"Sure. I will soon as I get to the hotel," he assured her.

"Alright."

"Love?" Tom called softly.

"Yeah?"

"I thought about us. Our relationship, I mean. I realize that I'm a lot like you when it comes to being in control of things. We may not exactly express it in the same way, but I do have control issues and hate it when things don't go my way," Tom said as he watched her.

"Why are you telling me this?" Lucy asked in confusion, knowing it must not be easy for him to say that to her.

"Because I don't want to be controlling. At least not with you. I want you to be able to be yourself freely with me without tiptoeing around me like I made you do two days ago. I don't want to always be right. I just want us to be happy, okay? So if I start acting all-controlling, don't just accept it, alright?" Tom said, and Lucy nodded.

"I booked a therapy session for tomorrow," she said, and Tom smiled.

"That's good. I have to go now, Jewel. I just got to the hotel. I love you."

"I love you too. Take care of yourself. Don't skip meals, and don't overwork. And don't forget to call me," Lucy instructed, and Tom grinned, wondering if she knew she sounded like a wife and mom.

"Yes, Mom. Love you again. Bye!" once he hung up the call, he sighed.

He had been right. The distance was going to do them both much good. As much as he missed her, this was probably the best thing he could do for their relationship at the moment.

He could handle the Millers, Rebekah, and whoever else he needed to handle from the distance.

He couldn't handle things as his father had suggested. He loved her too much to be cold or distant, and he wasn't sure he could stay in his bedroom or lie on his bed without her by his side.

Of course he felt bad for deceiving Harry this way, but he was going to do what he had to do to get Lucy. Harry would probably have discouraged him from leaving if he had told him his plan.

The first time he had stalked her (howbeit with the best intentions) and had been all over her to get her to fall for him. Now he was going to give her space to make her see that she really didn't want to be alone and wanted him as much as he wanted her.

He wondered how she was going to react when he eventually told her he was going to be here for a while. That could wait until after the anniversary dinner party.

Chapter 598 Low Self-Esteem

After chatting with the men for some time, Bryan excused himself, wanting to go to his bedroom to give his best friend a call.

He needed to brag to someone, and who best to be at the receiving end than his single pringle best friend?

As he went up the stairs, he heard the women laughing, and he could only wonder what they were talking about and if it was in any way similar to the ew inspiring revelation his father and Andrew had shared.

Once he got to the bedroom, he dropped on the bed and took out his phone to dial Matt's line.

He paused and tried to figure out the most unsuitable way to break the news to him.

'Hey, partner! Get ready to be a godfather!' Bryan exclaimed and shook his head.

Not good enough.

"Guess who is about to join the League of Fathers?" Bryan asked, and even though he liked that one a bit, it wasn't good enough yet.

"Hey, dog! Add some respect to my name! I'm going to be a dad!" Bryan said and then sighed.

He was just going to go with all the lines, and whatever else comes to mind, he decided as he dialed Matt's line.

"Don't tell me you just saw me or someone you know saw me, okay? I just got into Ludus barely an hour ago, and I was going to call...."

"You are in Ludus?" Bryan cut in, taken aback by Matt's statement.

Matt sighed, "Oh! Yeah. Sogal is sort of boring right now, and since I'm done with all I have to do at the moment, I decided to relax. Though I have a meeting with Harry tomorrow. Maybe we can meet up later if you're not too busy," Matt said, and Bryan grinned.

"Why later? What are you up to? I have news for you. I was going to tell you over the phone, but now I think I should do it in person," Bryan said, bustling with excitement, and Matt raised a brow.

"What news? Is it about Sonia?" Matt asked, hoping everything was okay between them.

"If you're so curious, why don't you come over?" Bryan suggested, excited at the thought of hanging out with Matt.

Matt hesitated for a second, "Is she still over there?"

"Who? The sexy lady who used and dumped you?" Bryan teased.

"Yeah, my sexy dumper," Matt hissed, and Bryan chuckled.

"Yes. But she spent the night at Harry's. I don't know if she is coming back here today. Why? You're not going to come over if she is here?" Bryan asked as he spread out on the bed.

"Yeah. I'd rather not run into her. And I will appreciate it if you don't tell Sonia I'm in Ludus either...."

"That doesn't make any sense. Sonia, as well as everyone else, is going to be here when you drop in, so she is going to see you and know you're in Ludus unless you're wearing a mask or something," Bryan pointed out.

Matt sighed, "Let's meet somewhere else then. Maybe we can meet at one of the cafes around the hotel. I'm at I-Global hotel," Matt said, and Bryan looked up when the door opened, and Sonia walked in.

"I was just going to call you. Thought you were still with the guys," Sonia said before she noticed he was on the phone.

"Sorry," she whispered.

"It's fine. It's just Matt," Bryan assured her, and Sonia raised a brow.

"Did you tell him yet?" she asked in a whisper, and Bryan shook his head.

"Sonia is here. Want to say hello?" Bryan asked Matt.

"Hey, Matty man! You have no choice but to say hello, you know?" Sonia said as she fell on the bed beside Bryan, and Matt chuckled.

"Of course, Queen!" Matt said as Bryan passed the phone to Sonia.

"What's up? What are you up to?" Sonia asked as she lay face up beside Bryan, who seemed to be examining her abdomen.

"I'm in Ludus at the moment," Matt said, wanting her to hear it from him first.

"Oh, that's great! Are you coming over?" Sonia asked excitedly.

"No," he said without hesitation.

"I suppose you're not coming because you are avoiding Candace?" she asked knowingly.

"Yes. I am avoiding her. And I will appreciate it if you don't talk to her about me or to me about her," Matt said, and Sonia shrugged.

"Cool."

"Bryan says he has news for me. Want to share?" Matt asked, and Sonia glanced at Bryan, who shook his head.

"Sorry, buddy, you will have to hear it from him. I have to get ready to go out with Evelyn. See you hopefully before you leave Ludus. Kisses," Sonia said as she returned the phone to Bryan.

"I will call to let you know when I'm on my way," Bryan told Matt and then hung up to face Sonia.

"Where are you going with my mom?" Bryan asked as he watched Sonia take out a pair of jeans trousers and a top from the closet.

"She booked an appointment with a doctor friend of hers who specializes in obstetrics and gynecology," Sonia explained.

"And I'm not allowed to come with you?" Bryan asked with displeasure.

"You are welcome to come with us. But I think it might be best you don't make an appearance just yet. I'd love us to treasure this moment alone within the family before the whole world begins to speculate whether or not Bryan Hank is expecting his first baby," Sonia said, and Bryan sighed.

"How about we be on a video call while I'm there? That way, you can be there without really being there?" Sonia asked, not wanting him to feel bad.

"It's not the same. But I suppose that will do. Only for now," Bryan said, and Sonia bobbed her head.

"Sure," she said as she quickly kissed him and then began to take off her clothes.

As Bryan watched her, he couldn't help wondering how long before the baby bump would become visible. The thought of seeing Sonia full and ripe with his baby turned him on.

"Why are you staring at me that way?" Sonia asked in a husky voice when she noticed the way his gaze was caressing her body.

"You know, my dad and Andrew said it's safe to have sex...."

"You asked them that?" Sonia asked in disbelief as she flushed with embarrassment.

"No, I didn't. They were merely sharing their fatherhood experience. I wasn't particularly thrilled when my dad told me he welcomed the news of my conception by making love to Mom," Bryan said with a scowl, and Sonia giggled.

"So? You want to give it a try?" Sonia asked as she slowly moved towards the bed where Bryan was still seated.

Sonia straddled him and smiled cunningly when she felt his erection, "We will be gentle, and if it hurts or I become uncomfortable, I will let you know," she promised as she helped him take off his clothes.

Away from there, immediately Candace got into Jade's car; Jade started the car and drove off, "You didn't tell Aaron that was I picking you up, did you?"

"I may have. Why?" Candace asked, and Jade made a face.

"I haven't been here for some time, remember? And then stopping over to pick you up without going in might seem somehow," she shrugged.

"Don't worry. He isn't going to make a big deal out of it. And you can always go in to say hello when you bring me back," Candace assured her.

"So, where is this fake crime scene? And I hope we are still stopping by a clothes store to get me something suitable for an intern. This morning I was the only one underdressed in Harry's office," she complained with a slight frown.

"Really? I didn't notice," Jade said, and Candace rolled her eyes.

"As if you notice anything else when Harry is within a hundred-meter radius from you," she muttered, and Jade grinned.

"You are right. I don't notice anything or anyone else when Harry is around. I'm sure neither Harry nor Lucy thought you looked underdressed...."

"They're family. They wouldn't think so. I walked past human beings on my way in and out of the company, remember? What if later in the future, when they find out I am Harry's sister, they remember seeing me dressed poorly? That's going to be embarrassing for Harry and me too. I should have put a lot more thought into dressing up," Candace complained, and seeing that she was serious, Jade's gaze moved over her outfit in a quick glance.

"This was what you wore earlier, and there is nothing wrong with wearing jeans trousers, and a t-shirt...."

"A faded jeans trousers and a T-shirt that says 'Best mom in the world.' I wore that to my brother's place of work, and people saw him showing me around," Candace complained, feeling frustrated that Jade wasn't getting her point.

"Did Harry say anything to give you the impression that he didn't like your outfit?" Jade asked, and Candace sighed.

"It's not about Harry, okay? It's about me. Everyone else is doing great. You all are accomplished and look so smart. Look at my father. He owns HAJ Studios. My twin brother is a CEO at I-Global. You are an accomplished lawyer. Lucy is a director at I-Global. I am like nothing compared to all of you. And when Harry decides to introduce me to everyone else, what will he say? I have no accomplishments for him to be proud of," Candace cried, tears spilling from her eyes.

Okay. This was clearly an issue of low self-esteem, Jade deduced as she found a spot by the side of the road and pulled over before taking Candace's hand.

"I don't think you are nothing. And I know neither Aaron, Harry nor Lucy thinks so. I would never have survived all you survived. Look at you, Candace! You are beautiful! You are strong! You even raised an amazing kid like Jamal. How could you ever think you are nothing? Yes, you weren't dressed in your best clothes, so what? Listen, we will go to the nearest clothes store we can find and get you some pretty impressive clothes, and if you want, we can both go to Harry's office tomorrow and make another first impression if that's what you want. I don't mind wearing this T-shirt and trousers when we go there tomorrow," Jade said, trying to make her smile.

Candace took a deep breath, "I don't know, Jade...."

"Then you can trust me as you've always done, Candace. I know enough for two. And stop comparing yourself to everybody else in your head. Only a smart person can study to become a lawyer. Besides, have you forgotten already that you are my intern? Just take it easy on yourself, okay? In the next couple of years, this will be a distant memory," Jade assured her as she squeezed Candace's hand.

Candace nodded, "Thanks."

"Come on, cheer up. We will get you some clothes and then go over to inspect the fake crime scene. When we are done, we will find somewhere to relax and talk for a bit before I go back home to get ready for my date," Jade said, buzzing with excitement as she started driving again.

"Why do I feel like you just want to use me to kill time?" Candace asked suspiciously, and Jade grinned.

"I don't think I can stay home doing nothing while waiting," Jade confessed, and Candace giggled.

"You should be well rested before your date...."

"I've been resting for long enough. Now I just want to get home, get dressed, open the door, and see Harry," Jade said, and Candace shook her head.

"What do you see in Harry anyway?" Candace asked, and Jade turned to look at her incredulously.

"What do you mean what do I see in him? Harry is the best guy in the world. He is everything. A complete package," Jade said, and Candace rolled her eyes, even though she was pleased that Jade felt this way about Harry.

"Good for you both. That's a dress store over there. Pull over," Candace ordered, pointing at the building quickly, and Jade did as she asked.

By the time they walked out of the dress store an hour later, Candace had ditched her jeans and t-shirt and was now dressed in a coral-colored sleeveless turtleneck jumpsuit with white blazers and a pair of white high-heeled sandals to match.

"Now I feel like I'm your intern," Jade said as they placed the shopping bags in the backseat of the car, and Candace giggled.

"Will you be very surprised if I tell you I've never dressed up this way?" Candace asked, and when Jade looked at her with a raised brow as they got into the car.

Candace shrugged, "I've never had a reason to. I went from working at a bar and restaurant to living with Jero and having Jamal to being a stripper. And I dress casually when going to school. I've always wanted to dress up this way and feel like a brilliant lady who has got her life put together," Candace explained, and Jade felt tears gather in her eyes.

"There's a feel to it, you know? You must be so used to it that you won't get what I'm saying," Candace said as she looked down at her clothes in admiration.

She looked like a kid. Jade thought as she turned away from Candace to brush off her tears.

Damn, Sara! It was all Sara's fault!

"Let's go to the fake crime scene! I feel like a true intern now," Candace said with a wide smile, oblivious to Jade's sadness.

"Sure."

"I'm curious about this case, though. Can you tell me more about it?" Candace asked, and Jade told her everything she needed to know as they headed to the scene.

As expected, there wasn't much blood around to indicate that whatever had happened to Adam had happened right there.

"This doesn't make sense," Candace murmured after they had looked around for a moment.

"I already told you it's a fake crime scene, so you shouldn't expect anything here to make sense," Jade said, and Candace nodded.

"You are right. I just think if they planned on making this place look like the actual crime scene, they should have put more thought into it. And why didn't they make sure he was dead before doing this?" Candace asked with a shake of her head.

"It was probably a spur-of-the-moment decision. She didn't plan to hurt him, but when she mistakenly did so and thought he was dead, she decided to make the most out of the situation," Jade reasoned as she took some snapshots.

"Let's get out of here. Our job here is done," Jade said, and they both returned to the car.

"That's Tom's hotel, right?" Candace asked when she saw the I-Global hotel ahead of them.

"Yeah," Jade said as she glanced at her wristwatch. It was past 3 p.m.

"I'm hungry. I skipped breakfast," Jade murmured.

"Me too. Let's stop over at the cafe over there," Candace suggested, and a minute later, Jade drove into the parking lot of the cafe.

"Isn't that Bryan?" Candace asked as they got out of the car and sighted Bryan going into the cafe.

"What is he doing here?" Jade mused as they both headed inside.

"What do people do at cafes?" Candace asked dryly and stopped abruptly when she saw who Bryan was greeting.

Chapter 599 Gemima

If Candace had not pointed out the cafe and asked to have lunch there, she would have believed that Jade had deliberately brought her here so they could run into Matt. But seeing how it had been her own decision, she marveled at the way the universe pulled it off.

She remembered during his visit to the hospital he had said he would visit Jamal at Tom's place some time this week. It was funny how she had forgotten about it and only just remembered now.

Immediately Jade sighted Matt, she turned to Candace, "We can go somewhere else," she offered.

"Make up your mind before he looks this way," Jade whispered when Candace said nothing, and just then Matt who was laughing over Bryan's joke looked up, and saw them.

"Too late to bolt. He has seen you," Jade announced as though Candace was blind.

"For god's sake Bryan! I asked you not to let her know I was here," Matt hissed under his breath.

"Let who know what?" Bryan asked in confusion and turned to look behind him to see who Matt had seen.

"Oh, wow! Even Sonia didn't know we were meeting here, so it has to be a coincidence," Bryan said as he waved at Jade and Candace.

"There is no need to leave without saying hello," Candace said with a shrug.

Matt wasn't her enemy after all. The last time they met they had parted on friendly terms. She was pretty sure this awkwardness was mostly one-sided since she was the guilty party. She also reminded herself that Matt had been out on a date the other day, so he must have moved on.

"Alright. Let's say hello to them. Get whatever we want, and scoot. We can eat in the car," Jade offered as she waved back and approached their table.

"What coincidence? You expect me to believe that?" Matt asked incredulously, but his face did not give away anything as he smiled at the ladies and rose.

"So, what? You think she heard you were in Ludus and ran all the way over here to run into you after rejecting you?" Bryan asked with a scoff as he rose and Matt glared at him.

He did have a point, Matt thought.

"Hello, beautiful ladies!" Matt greeted pleasantly as he embraced Jade and flashed Candace a smile.

"It's always good to see you, Matt. I didn't realize you were in Ludus," Jade said, and he shrugged.

"Got in a while ago," Matt explained and then looked at Candace again.

"Hello, Candace!"

"Hi!" she responded awkwardly without meeting his gaze.

"It's been a while. How is everything going with you? And how is Jamal?" Matt asked, and Candace risked a glance at him.

"Great! He is great. Everything is great!" she said, wishing they could leave now.

"You look gorgeous, Candace," Bryan said as he admired her outfit.

"Thanks," Candace said with a polite smile, doing her best not to look at Matt again.

"What are you both doing here?" Bryan asked Jade curiously.

"We went to inspect the crime scene. Candace is working with me as an intern. We decided to stop over and get something to munch on...."

"Why don't you both join us, then? We have been standing for a while now and people are watching," Bryan suggested, and Jade turned to Candace who quickly shook her head to Matt's relief.

The last thing he wanted was to be in the same space as Candace. Yes, he had no hard feelings toward her, but he was yet to successfully get over her and running into her like this was just going to just make things hard for him.

"I was going to call you after leaving here, Jade. Let's speak privately for a moment. You both can catch up," Bryan suggested, and walked over to another table with Jade, leaving Matt alone with Candace.

Matt cursed Bryan in his mind as he held out a seat for Candace, "You should sit," he suggested, and Candace sat down stiffly, praying that Jade would be quick.

They were both silent for a moment and Candace's gaze was fixed on her hands which were resting on her thighs.

A waiter came to their table to ask them if they wanted anything, and they both said they didn't. Eating alone together would look like they were on a date and they both didn't want that.

"You look quite different. Beautifully so," Matt observed, and she looked at him.

"It's just the clothes. I got them earlier. I wanted to look smart beside Jade as her intern," she explained awkwardly.

"No. It's not the clothes. The clothes do look good on you, but you look beautiful," Matt said, thinking she looked brighter.

"Thanks," Candace said with a nod.

"You don't have to take it the wrong way. It's only a compliment, I'm not trying to hit on you," Matt assured her.

"I wasn't going to take it anyway. I know you have moved on," Candace said, and Matt nodded.

"Yeah," Matt said, and Candace swallowed, feeling oddly disappointed that he did not deny it.

"You still haven't heard from your sister yet, have you?" he asked, and she shook her head.

"No. No news from her yet," she said, and they both turned when a pretty young lady approached them.

"Hello! I'm sorry to interrupt. I'm a huge fan. Can I get a picture?" she asked shyly, and Matt shrugged.

"Sure," he said, and she turned to Candace with an apologetical smile.

"I'm sorry," she said, and Candace nodded as she watched the girl lean close to Matt and take a selfie.

On seeing that, the others who were hanging around but didn't have the confidence to walk up to Matt approached them too and Candace smiled awkwardly as she watched them.

"I'm sorry," Matt said apologetically after they had left, and she shook her head.

"It's fine. You're a celebrity after all," she said, and Matt nodded.

"One of the reasons you don't like me," Matt said with a grin and Candace opened her mouth to deny it, but he shook his head.

"By the way I heard about you meeting with your family. I'm happy for you," Matt said changing the subject.

"Thanks. Do you still plan to see Jamal while you are here? He's at Harry's. He will be happy to see you," Candace said, and Matt smiled.

"Sure. I should. I will arrange to see him before leaving," Matt said, and they were both visibly relieved when Jade and Bryan returned to the table.

Candace rose immediately, giving Jade a let's get out of here look.

"We will just get what we need and be on our way. I have a date to prepare for," Jade announced as Bryan sat down.

"Bye," Candace murmured to the guys.

"You guys enjoy yourself. See you some other time, Matty," Jade said and linked her hands with Candace as they went to the counter to get some snacks.

"She looks so chic, doesn't she?" Bryan asked, and Matt glared at him.

"Was that the reason you left me alone with her? What did you have to discuss with Jade that couldn't wait until later?" Matt hissed.

"You both are not enemies. How would you know you're over her if you don't spend time with her? Candace is practically family now, and you are bound to run into her often as long as we remain friends. Signing with I-Global where her twin brother works guarantees that too," Bryan pointed out.

"I should reconsider our friendship then. And I should definitely think twice about signing with I-Global. Thanks for...."

"Matt, darling! I was wondering where you went to," an excited feminine voice called from the doorway causing heads to turn.

Jade and Candace who were still standing by the show glass also turned to see who it was. It was the beautiful model, Gemima. One of the numerous celebrities Matt had been romantically associated with in the past.

She was dressed in a skimpy black dress and gold gladiator heels. They looked from her to Matt who was now standing to greet her.

Matt tried not to wince or look in Candace's way as he welcomed Gemima who gave him a full lip kiss right there, not caring that they had an audience.

"Gem, you do realize we are in a public place, right?" Matt asked as he pulled away.

"Will you feel better if I kiss Bryan too?" she asked, and Bryan shook his head.

"Don't think about it. My girlfriend is going to rip you apart if you try that," he warned and glanced in Jade's direction in time to see her and Candace walking out of the cafe.

"I can at least peck you," Gemima said as she did just that, and then she sat on the seat Matt held out to her.

"So, what's up? I was surprised to receive your text," Gemima said, looking at Matt a happy smile.

"What text? Are you both getting back together?" Bryan asked incredulously.

"Why do you sound like that's such a bad thing?" Gemima asked, mildly annoyed.

"It's not bad, it's terrible! And I don't approve!" Bryan said, and Gemima scowled at him.

"We are never getting back together. I asked her to come keep me company since I was bored. Gem, don't attach any meaning to it, okay? We both know we are not good for each other," Matt said and Gemima sighed.

"But you know I want us to get back...."

"If it's going to be difficult for you, you can just forget my text and leave," Matt said, and she raised a hand.

"Fine. It's fine. I will keep you company if that's all you want," Gemima promised.

"I need to be alone with Bryan. Maybe you can go back to my suite and wait, or do whatever you want until I'm done," Matt suggested, and she rose.

"Try not to keep me waiting for too long," she said as she glared at Bryan before walking away.

"What are you doing?" Bryan asked under his breath.

"I just told you I was bored and invited her...."

"If you were bored you could have called me over. I'm in Ludus....."

"You don't have boobs. Sex with Gemima has always been great. I need the distraction."

"Have you forgotten how she used you?" Bryan asked in disbelief.

"I haven't forgotten. Now I'm the one using her to keep my boredom at bay. So can you please drop the subject now? I'm really not in a good mood right now," Matt said irritably.

"I don't want to see you get hurt," Bryan said, and Matt grinned.

"What a girly thing to say. What was the news you were going to share earlier?" Matt asked, changing the subject.

"Oh, that!" Bryan said with a grin.

"Shit! I've forgotten all the lines I memorized. I'm going to be a daddy," Bryan announced in a low but excited voice, and Matt's eyes widened in disbelief.

"What?" he asked, and Bryan chuckled as he bobbed his head.

"It's Sonia, right?" he asked suspiciously, and Bryan raised a brow.

"Who else would it be?" Bryan asked and watched as Matt's shocked face transformed to a happy smile.

"You lucky bastard! I always thought I was going to beat you to it!" Matt exclaimed as he shook Bryan's hand happily.

"We are keeping it a secret right now. Only the family is aware," Bryan said, and Matt nodded.

"Sure. So what's your plan? Are you going to wife her or do you just want her to be your baby mama for now?" Matt asked in a low voice.

"I'm thinking of proposing to her this weekend. I want to be married to her before the pregnancy becomes public knowledge," Bryan explained, and Matt grinned.

"Why the hurry? You want to make an honest woman out of her, huh?"

"That sounds so old-fashioned. I have always wanted to get the order right. Marriage then kids. Not kids then marriage. I told you before that I want Sonia to be my wife. So it may be coming earlier than planned, but it's what I want," Bryan said, and Matt raised a brow.

"Have you asked if that's what she wants? Do you know if she wants that too?" Matt asked and Bryan shook his head.

"I believe she wants it too, but just to be sure I asked Jade to find a way to ask Sonia about it. And to find out the sort of proposal Sonia might prefer. I don't want to involve her best friend, Lucy. I can't trust her not to tell Sonia about my plans," Bryan said, and Matt grinned.

"Alright. I guess you are telling me this because you want me to be present?" Matt asked, and Bryan nodded.

"Of course. You are going to be my best man, you know?" Bryan asked, and Matt chuckled.

"Sure. I'm glad it worked out between you two. Apart from the fact that I love Sonia, I think she is your perfect match," Matt said, and Bryan nodded.

"I think so too, even if I some times feel frustrated by her independence and stubbornness."

"I'm sure you will both be fine. I will stop by the house to see her tomorrow," Matt promised as he glanced at his wristwatch.

"I should go join Gemima," Matt said, and Bryan scowled.

"You still have feelings for Candace, you know?" he asked, and Matt shrugged.

"Doesn't change anything," Matt said as he rose.

"She has feelings for you too," Bryan added as he rose up top.

"Still doesn't change anything. She is alright now and won't be needing me to play friend, protector or whatever. Give Sonia a kiss for me," Matt said as they both walked out of the cafe.

Chapter 600 I Forgive You

"Are you alright?" Jade asked after they had driven in silence for a while.

She had planned on spending the time talking about her love for Harry, but this was hardly the time to rub her love life in Candace's face.

"Sure. Why not?" Candace asked in a chirpy tone.

"It must have been awkward for you earlier, right?" Jade asked, and Candace shrugged.

"Sure. But it wasn't so bad. Matt isn't my enemy you know? We patted on good terms, so it wasn't so bad," Candace said still sounding cheerful as she bit into her donut.

"I don't think she is his girlfriend. They've shot ads together in the past, you know?" Jade said, and Candace shrugged dismissively.

"They don't look bad together. She could be his girlfriend or not. It really doesn't make any difference to me, Jade. So please stop trying to cheer me up like I just caught my boyfriend with another lady," Candace said, giving her a pointed look and Jade sighed.

Seeing that Candace was bent on acting like she was fine and everything was okay, Jade decided not to push it even though she had seen the flash of jealousy in Candace's eyes when they saw the kiss the model shared with Matt.

"Alright. I'm glad you're fine. By the way, Bryan and Sonia are expecting a baby," Jade told Candace and smiled when Candace screeched happily.

"Oh, my God! That is so wonderful! Was that the reason he asked to speak with you privately?" Candace asked excitedly, and Jade shook her head.

"No. He wants to propose to her. He asked me to discreetly find out from Sonia if she is ready to settle down, and the kind of proposal she might prefer. I was thinking you will do it with me. She might become suspicious if I bring up such a conversation, but if we both happen to be talking about it while she is within earshot I'm sure she would just join in the conversation and not give much thought to it," Jade explained, and Candace grinned.

"You know, I expected such a news from Tom and Lucy. It's sort of unexpected and cute in a funny way to see Bryan and Sonia get married," Candace said, feeling happy that she was going to be a part of something so beautiful.

"Tom and Lucy, right? Those two look more coordinated and seem more like the marriage and family type. Bryan and Sonia are more the forever boyfriend and girlfriend type," Jade said and they both giggled.

"I agree with you on that."

"Are you passing the night at Harry's?" Jade asked, and Candace nodded.

"Yeah. Since Harry will be out on his date with you, Jamal and I will stay home with Aaron. So feel free to release him tomorrow," Candace said with a wink, and Jade laughed.

"I will Keep that in mind. Thanks," Jade said, and they both lapsed into silence.

The silence was broken by the sound of Jade's ringtone and she tapped on her earpod to receive the call when she saw it was her mom.

"Hello, soon-to-be Grandma!" Jade greeted with a grin and Evelyn laughed gaily.

"Hello, you! Where are you? I haven't set my eyes on you all day. Are you not supposed to be getting ready for your date?" Evelyn asked excitedly.

She was very happy with her life and everything right now. Her children were all doing well. Even though she had been worried about Tom and Lucy's lack of marriage plans, she couldn't be bothered about it right now. Now when Bryan and Sonia had given her what she wanted.

She was expecting her first grandchild, and Jade was finally in a relationship. Tom had Lucy, Bryan and Sonia, and now Jade had Harry. They had all found wonderful partners for themselves and she felt really happy and fulfilled.

"I will be home soon. I had to take care of something first," Jade explained as she glanced at her wristwatch.

It seemed like the time was running now. This whole time the day had been going slowly and all of a sudden it was almost 5 p.m. already. Wasn't it just past 3 when they left the crime scene? Jade mused.

"I can take a cab. You don't need to take me home," Candace offered, knowing that Jade was going to be late.

"Are you sure you don't mind?" Jade asked, not bothering to pretend.

"I'm not a kid, Jade. I can find my way home myself. And I don't want you to keep my brother waiting. It's your first date and you've been waiting a long time for this. So let me take a cab, and go get ready," Candace said, and Jade looked at her apologetically.

"I'm really sorry. You know I planned to drop you off and say hello to Aaron."

"You don't have to be sorry. I'm sure he won't mind when I tell him you were in a hurry to meet up with your date. Pull over so I can get a cab," Candace said, and Jade did as she requested.

Jade got out of the car and assisted her in taking out the other bags while she hailed a cab.

Once Candace got into the cab, she waves at Jade as the cab drove off, and she sighed, grateful that she was alone now.

She needed some time to herself before facing her father and Jamal. She knew that after now the only time she would have time to herself was at night after everyone else had gone to bed, and she couldn't wait until then to analyze her conversation with Matt and her feelings.

From the little time she had spent in that cafe she had deduced three things. The first was that she still liked Matt very much and was still very drawn to him now as she had been in the past. The second was that she didn't like seeing him kissing someone else. And the third was that she still didn't intend to do anything about the state of their relationship or friendship.

As sweet as the whole love thing was, she wasn't ready for it yet. She wanted to put her life in order. Get a degree, get a good job, be someone she can be proud of, for herself, and for her family. Only after that could she let herself get involved.

She was still too ashamed of herself to want to be with someone like Matt. Unlike many women, she didn't believe she needed a man to complete her or to fix her life. She had made that mistake once, with Jero. Thinking a man was what she needed to make her feel complete. She wasn't going to repeat it. She would fix her life and then find love. It could be with Matt or with anyone else.

Away from there, the Miller sisters were all gathered together in Lisa's hospital room with Bernice's boys running around the place, to Ron's displeasure.

"Do you think maybe I should talk to her?" Anita asked her sisters, referring to Jade.

They were all still deliberating on the wisdom of letting Jade handle the case, especially considering the fact that they were all pointing to their mother as the suspect.

"I already did. What more could you possibly want to say to her? She made it clear that she would hand off it if I asked her to. She sounded more like she was doing us a favor," Tiffany said with a sigh as she watched Lisa breastfeed her baby.

"It does look like she is doing you a favor. I'm still wondering why she is doing this when every other lawyer is too scared of Adam's family to take up the case," Anita said thoughtfully.

"Maybe they are trying to show they hold nothing against you after that apology video you released," Bernice said to Anita.

"Keep the noise down, boys!" Bernice called out to her kids.

Lisa studied her sisters quietly, glad to see that they were all on the same team and could now see their mother for all she was.

"What do you think, Lisa?" Anita asked, since she trusted Lisa's judgement more than that of the others.

"We have been through this three times already. I think she must have a personal interest in the case to have taken it up not considering Adam's family background. But I doubt she would take it up just to sabotage it. If the Hanks want to come after you, I believe they have better and more effective ways to do it than to resort to such means. So, you should all relax and let the lady do what she wants to do. Neither of you is implicated in the case after all," Lisa said matter of factly.

"You have a point. It doesn't make sense that she will take up the case because she wants to punish me," Anita said with a nod, and then looked at the delightful bundle on Lisa's arm.

"Lisa, can I hold her now? I will scrub my hands and even sanitize them if you want me to," Anita pleaded.

"We should all be allowed to hold her. I can't believe you're keeping our niece away from us," Tiffany said, scowling at Lisa.

"I will let you hold her soon as I get my fill," Lisa assured them as she smiled down at her baby.

"And when are you going to get your fill?" Bernice asked dryly.

"Maybe a year from now," Lisa said with a grin, that earned her a glare from all her sisters.

They all turned to the door when it opened and Benny's boys ran to greet Rebekah who stepped inside.

Immediately, Ron who was seated at the other end of the room, giving the sisters room to talk, rose and approached her, "I don't think you should be here, Rebekah," he said politely.

"I have to see my grandchild," Rebekah said looking at Lisa and the bundle in her arms.

"You are not welcome here," Lisa said hotly.

"Calm down, Lisa. We will deal with it," Anita said as she rose to face their mother.

"We don't want to create a scene. We have told you all we had to say to you last night. Leave," Anita said, and Rebekah took a deep breath.

"Aren't you all being too harsh on me? All these years I've done my best...."

"Your best? Did you just say your best?" Tiffany asked heatedly as she also faced their mother.

"None of us would be in this mess had you not done your so-called best!" Tiffany hissed angrily.

Seeing that Rebekah wasn't going to leave so easily, Ron took Benny's boys outside to get them snacks.

"Alright. I did make some mistake. But I'm sorry. I never meant for any of you to get hurt," Rebekah said calmly.

"Well, we don't care about whatever your intentions were. We just want you out of our lives," Bernice said without bothering to move.

"You have no right to judge me, Benny. You of all people should understand. You are exactly like me," Rebekah said, annoyed that Bernice was still acting up when she was guilty of the same offense.

"I thought I was, hence, I tried to end my life. But since I regained consciousness I've realized that I'm nothing like you."

Rebekah took a deep breath, and reminded herself that she was here to make peace not start an argument, "What do you girls want me to do? Tell me anything you want and I will do it so we can all get past this," Rebekah pleaded.

"Start by telling us the truth. Did you kill dad?" Lisa asked first.

"I didn't! Why would I do such a thing? I loved him!" Rebekah denied vehemently.

"You loved him yet you cheated on him and abandoned him when he lost everything," Lisa said in disbelief.

"I'm human. I make mistakes," Rebekah said as tears gathered in her eyes.

"Did you murder Adam and try to put the blame on Jack?" Tiffany asked, and Rebekah looked at her like she had lost her mind.

"Why would I do that to my sons in-law and subject my daughters to such? When I heard the news all I could think about was the two of you and how to keep you safe from it," Rebekah promised, looking more contrite and sincere in that moment than she had her entire life.

Lisa sighed, "Alright. I guess last night emotions were running high. I forgive you," Lisa said, and her sisters turned to look at her like she had lost her mind.

"Are you crazy?" Anita asked in disbelief.

"Have you lost your mind?" Bernice asked angrily.

"Did having a baby make you go soft?" Tiffany hissed.

"I mean, she is still our mother, right?" Lisa asked, and then looked at Rebekah.

"Please excuse us for a moment, I need to talk to them," Lisa said with a small smile, and Rebekah nodded, and smiled at Lisa before stepping out of the room.

"What is wrong with you, Lisa?" Anita asked with a frown.

"What was that about? I thought you hated her more than the rest of us?" Tiffany asked in annoyance.

"Don't tell me you believe anything she said?" Bernice asked, disappointed.

"I'm perfectly okay. And I still don't believe her. I just don't think we should make mother our enemy. Pushing her away might not be the smartest move since we don't know what she might do if she loses it. If we want to expose her, we have to stay close to her. That way she will let down her guard," Lisa said, and they all looked at her.

"I can't remain close to her. I can't stand being under the same roof with her even if I wanted to. Besides, have you forgotten the apology video I made mentioning her. It's going to give the wrong impression about me and all I said there," Anita said with a frown.

"You should leave as you planned to, Annie. You wanted a fresh start. Leave this to the rest of us. We will take care of it," Lisa promised as she reached out to touch Anita's hand.

"So, you are saying we should remain by her side while looking for ways to prove she is behind everything?" Tiffany asked, and Lisa nodded.

"Let's make her believe everything is fine. Anita, when she comes back in, you can walk out making it clear you want no part in this," Lisa suggested.

"I can just leave right now," Anita said as she reached for her handbag.

"You should at least hold her in your arms before leaving," Lisa suggested, and Anita gently carried the baby from her and smiled as she looked down at her while Bernice and Tiffany moved closer to Anita so they could take a closer look at their niece.

"She is so beautiful," Anita said in awe.

"Yes, she is. I still can't believe she came out of me," Lisa said with a proud smile.

"I'm glad I was able to witness her birth as I always wanted to. As much as I would love to hold on to her and spend some more time with you, I have to leave so you can handle the unpleasant family business," Anita said as she returned the baby to Lisa's waiting arms.

"So where are you going?" Bernice asked, and Anita shook her head.

"I have no destination in mind right now. I'm just going to get into my car with my stuff and drive around until I find a place I'd like," Anita said, and Tiffany nodded.

"That means you are not going far-away then."

"I'm going very far-away," Anita assured her, and squeezed Lisa's hand.

"Take care of yourself," Anita said, and then turned to Tiffany and Bernice, "You too," she said before walking away.

As she opened the door, Rebekah looked at her hopefully, "They can forgive you if they want to, but I have no more business with you," Anita said as she walked past her, while Rebekah went into the room and was happy to see that she had won back the hearts of the other three.

If Lisa could come around, Anita would come around. She was sure of that.