

Wild Night 671

Chapter 671 Impromptu Dinner Date

"What are you doing?" Desmond asked when he joined Evelyn in the den and noticed she was watching Cartoon Network.

Evelyn smiled as she turned to him, "I thought I should get familiar with the cartoons they show these days," She explained and Desmond chuckled.

"It's not like the baby has been born already or you are going to be spending that much time with the baby..."

"I plan to spend that much time with my grandkids," Evelyn said, and Desmond shook his head as he picked up the remote and changed the channel.

"By the way, do you really think we should let Tom let that girl go just like that?" Evelyn asked and Desmond gave her a pointed look.

"If he said let it go, then you should let it go. Don't go looking for trouble when there is none," Desmond said, and Evelyn eyed him with displeasure as she picked up her phone and rose.

"I'm not looking for trouble, but she did look for trouble. I see no reason why we should let her go," Evelyn said before walking away, leaving Desmond alone in the Den.

He shook his head as he watched her leave, wondering how they had both been able to live with each other for years despite their differences in personality.

Not bothering to take Desmond's advice, Evelyn dialed Harry's line the moment she walked into their bedroom.

Tom had not given them any details on the lady in question and since she could hardly call Tom to enquire about it after he made it clear he didn't want to pursue the issue, she knew she could ask Harry since he would know the silly girl who had dared to pull such a prank on her son.

Something like this could not have happened to Tom without Harry's knowledge, of that she was confident.

Harry who was driving him, raised a brow the moment he saw Evelyn's call. He briefly considered ignoring the call so he could call Tom and find out what was up before talking to Evelyn, but on second thought he decided to take the call.

"Hello, Mrs Hank!" He greeted politely.

"Harry, you are my son's best friend and my daughter's boyfriend now? When will you ever stop calling me that and call me just Evelyn?" She asked, and Harry's lips twitched.

If only she and her husband knew that he referred to them that politely mostly because he knew it irritated them and made them uncomfortable.

"Soon. I'm working on it," Harry promised, and Evelyn laughed softly.

"How have you been? And how is your father?" Evelyn asked, and Harry raised a brow wondering if she had called to make small talk or if there was something she wanted to know.

"I'm fine and my father is well. I hope you are fine too," He said politely.

"Yes, I am. How are things going with Jade?" Evelyn asked and Harry almost sighed.

"Everything is going quite smoothly," he said with practiced patience.

"I know you didn't call me to make small talk. Is there something you need me to do?" Harry asked smoothly so she wouldn't beat around the bush any more, and Evelyn smiled.

"You hurt my feelings, Harry. Do you mean I can't call just to check on you?" She asked, and Harry almost snorted.

"My apologies. I guess you called to make small talk. On that note, congratulations on Bryan's engagement," Harry said, deciding to just play along with her until she was ready to get to the subject.

Something told him it had something to do with Kimberly and she was beating around the bush because she was about to ask him to do something that Tom wouldn't want.

"Thank you. Harry..." Evelyn said, and then cleared her throat.

Here it comes, Harry mused as he waited.

"Uhm, Tom discussed something disturbing with us before we left. I believe you know about it. I mean some random girl claiming she had a child for him," Evelyn said, and Harry's lips twitched.

"That has been resolved. I trust he told you the DNA paternity test result came back negative," Harry said since Tom had told him about his conversation with his grandfather, Kimberly, and his parents before leaving the office.

"Yes. Thankfully so. I was just curious. Do you know who the lady on question is? I mean, did you look into her?" Evelyn asked carefully, not wanting to give away anything that would make Harry suspicious enough to inform Tom about their conversation.

"Yes, I did," Harry said, not giving any more information than was necessary.

"What did you find? What's her name?" Evelyn asked, and Harry shook his head.

"I think Tom is in the best position to be telling you that not me," Harry said politely.

"Harry, you are family, and we should all look out for each other. Do you think we should let her get away with doing something like this? She needs to be cautioned, and if Tom wouldn't do it, I should as his mother. You don't have to tell Tom you told me anything. And I won't get you involved. All I need from you is her name and contact details and I will handle the rest," Evelyn said, and Harry smiled wistfully.

Even though her approach was almost always wrong, Harry admired Evelyn because her intention was always right and her heart was in the right place. She was a very loyal and protective mother, and she made him wish he had a mother like her and not Sara.

"I think you should listen to Tom and not do anything," Harry advised since he knew that Evelyn would feel terrible if she realized this had happened in a way because of her meddling.

"Why not? Why are you all willing to let it go? Even you, Harry? Isn't he your best friend? If he won't do anything, shouldn't you do it?" Evelyn asked irritably.

"I wouldn't go behind Tom to do anything unless I thought it was necessary. And in this case, it's not necessary to do anything. We got the DNA results and that's all that matters," Harry said, and Evelyn hung up angrily without saying another word to him.

Before Harry could decide how to feel about that, his phone started ringing almost immediately and he chuckled when he saw that it was a call from Jade.

"I think your mom might oppose our relationship now," Harry said as he received the call, and Jade raised a brow.

"Why would she do that? Did something happen?" Jade asked as she stepped on her brake pedal when the traffic light turned red.

"I might have just got on her bad books. But not to worry, I'm sure she would realize sooner than later that it was for her own good. So, how is my favorite girl in the world doing?" He asked and Jade rolled her eyes.

"I'm sure you also refer to Candace and Lucy like that as well," she said, and Harry chuckled.

"Alright. How are you doing, esquire? I don't call them that," He said, and she scowled.

"I'm fine! Very fine, thank you!" She said, making him grin.

"At least one of us is fine. I'm not fine. I'm missing the love of my life terribly," Harry said, and her lips twitched involuntarily.

"Want to see her?" She asked hopefully since that was the reason she had called, because she wanted to see him.

"I didn't say you were the one," Harry joked, and laughed out loud when Jade hissed.

"I didn't say I was the one either. Harry, you better not get on my nerves!" She warned testily as she resumed driving.

Harry smiled, "I always want to see you. I'm on my way home from work. Want me to stop over at Tom's before going home?" He asked, thinking that he could see her and Tom as well so he could tell Tom about his conversation with Evelyn.

Jade shook her head immediately even if Harry could not see her, "No. Why don't I come see you instead? If you come over here there is every possibility that you and Tom would want to talk about something or it would become a group hangout. I want you to myself," Jade said, and Harry chuckled.

"I won't have any privacy with you if you come over to see me too. I want you to myself. And I don't want you driving all that distance. Why don't we meet halfway instead? We can have dinner together at a restaurant not far from Tom's place or mine..."

"You mean Philip's restaurant?" Jade asked since that was the only restaurant she knew was comfortably between both places.

"Yeah. If you want us to go someplace else we can do that," Harry assured her.

"No. I'm okay with that. I'm that far away from there. I should be there in ten minutes," Jade said, and Harry glanced at the time on his car's dashboard.

"You will most likely get there before me. I hope you don't mind waiting?" He asked, and Jade shrugged.

"You waited for me for years so a couple of minutes shouldn't be too much," Jade assured him.

"I might not be there until an hour..."

"An hour?" Jade exclaimed and Harry grinned.

"Is an hour too much to wait for someone who waited years for you?" He asked, and Jade cleared her throat.

"Of course, not. I was only surprised. I mean, you said you were on your way home so I didn't expect you would take that long to get here," she explained, and Harry chuckled as he pulled into the parking lot of Golden Lotus Restaurant.

"I will try to be quick. I will inform them you're coming so they direct you to a table. You can go into the restaurant when you get there and wait for me at our table," Harry said as he turned off his car.

"Alright. Just so you know, I will order the most expensive drink on their menu. See you soon," Jade said before hanging up.

Harry got out of his car immediately and walked in quick strides to the entrance to request a table for their impromptu date.

No sooner had he gotten seated, before he saw Jade approaching, and they both grinned at each other when their gaze met.

"You sly bastard," Jade said once she got to where he was, and he kissed her lips softly.

"I didn't keep you waiting, did I?" He asked with a grin as he held out her seat, but instead of sitting down Jade embraced him.

"God, I missed you. I missed your scent," she said as she buried her nose on his chest, making him chuckle.

"People are watching," he whispered as he kissed the side of her head, and she reluctantly pulled away and sat down.

"I missed you more," Harry said as he sat down across from her and they both picked up the menu when a waiter approached them to take their orders.

Once they had sorted that out, they smiled at each other once they were alone again.

"How did your day go?" Harry asked, and listened as Jade told him all she had done and her meeting with Rebekah.

"I'm psyched about tomorrow. Can't wait to see that bitch in cuffs," Jade said, and Harry nodded in agreement as the waiter came to serve their drinks.

"What about you? How did your day go?" She asked after the waiter left, and he shrugged.

"It was hectic and I spent most of it missing you," Harry said, not going into details since he didn't want to be the one to tell her about Tom and Kimberly.

"Really? What did you miss most?" Jade asked excitedly and Harry grinned.

"Getting on your nerves," he said making her giggle.

"By the way what were you saying about my mom earlier?" Jade asked curiously and then looked behind her when she noticed that Harry was looking behind her with amused eyes.

She almost gasped in surprise when she saw Sara walking to a table with Crystal.

Chapter 672 Ryso

Bryan, who was lying on the bed beside Sonia who was seated, watched her as she worked on her laptop and flashed her a smile when she caught him staring at her.

"You're supposed to be rehearsing your lines not watching me," she reminded him.

"You're more interesting than the lines, fiancée," Bryan said, and Sonia giggled.

"When do you think your body is going to start changing to accommodate our munchkin?" Bryan asked curiously and Sonia raised a brow.

"Why? So you can make sure you're not here to see me grow fat and ugly?" She asked, and he grinned.

"I don't think you could ever be fat and ugly," Bryan said as he moved closer to her so he could place his hand on her flat abdomen.

"I'm looking forward to seeing the changes. I read that your boobs grow fuller when you're pregnant and..."

"Really? I never knew you preferred large boobs. So my boobs are too small for you?" Sonia cut in with a raised brow.

"I can't wait to see your belly grow rounder too. I suppose I prefer bigger abdomens. Your abdomen is too flat for me," Bryan said dryly, and Sonia eyed him.

"Are you trying to avoid my question by playing smart?" She asked, and Bryan nodded.

"Yes, I am. You seem to be in the mood to pick a fight with me when all I want to do is assure you that you'd always be the most beautiful woman in the world in my eyes," Bryan said as he set aside her laptop, and Sonia shook her head in amusement.

"You're distracting me," she complained even though she was enjoying the attention.

"Yes. I want us to take a break from work. We have been busy for hours. Why don't we give our baby a name?" Bryan asked as he kissed her belly.

"Isn't it too early for that? We don't even know the gender yet," Sonia pointed out.

"Not the real name. Let's pick a gender neutral pet name we can call our baby," Bryan suggested again, and Sonia shrugged.

"Alright. Do you have any in mind?" She asked curiously.

"What about Bryson?" Bryan asked with a grin and Sonia laughed softly.

"That is a masculine name," she said with a shake of her head.

"But we don't mean it like the masculine name itself. It's just a mix of both our names since the baby is a product of both our genes," Bryan countered.

"Okay. What about Ryso? I took out the first and last letter of Bryson," Sonia said, and Bryan thought about it for a moment before giving her a nod.

"I think that will do. So, you will be called, Ryso," Bryan said to Sonia's abdomen as he kissed it again making Sonia giggle.

Bryan sat up when his phone started ringing and he picked it up when he saw it was a call from Matt.

"Hey! What's up?" He asked once the call connected.

"I was wondering if I could come over and spend the night? And maybe we can spend some time together playing games seeing as you would be getting married soon," Matt said, and Bryan narrowed his eyes suspiciously.

"Is everything alright?"

"Sure. I just need a change of environment for tonight," Matt said, and Bryan sighed.

"Alright. I will give Tom a call and get back to you," Bryan said and hung up.

"What did he say?" Sonia asked curiously.

"He wants to come over to spend the night here," Bryan explained and Sonia raised a brow.

"Why? Do you think maybe he's aware that Candace is coming over to spend the night hence the sudden request?" Sonia asked, and Bryan grinned.

"She is spending the night here?"

"Yes. I told you I was meeting with girls tonight, remember?" Sonia asked and Bryan nodded.

"I thought you were referring to just Jade and Lucy. Matt probably knows Candace will be here hence he wants to sleepover. The sly bastard!" Bryan said with a chuckle.

"I wonder if Candace knows that Matt is coming over," Sonia said thoughtfully.

"Let's just pretend we don't know anything. Don't say a word to Candace," Bryan said as he dialed Tom's line.

Tom who was laughing at something Lucy said as they ate their ice cream received Bryan's call the moment his phone rang.

"Is everything alright?" Tom asked with concern.

"Yes. I'm sorry to bother you. I want to invite Matt over tonight. Do you mind if he spends the night here?" Bryan asked politely.

"He is welcome to stay," Tom assured him before hanging up.

"Tom says he is welcome to stay," Bryan told Sonia and she grinned.

"I wonder what those two plan to do tonight. I believe they will be sneaking down the hallway to each other's bedroom in the middle of the night," Sonia said, and Bryan chuckled.

"Let's not ask any questions and let them believe we've been fooled, okay?" Bryan said and Sonia nodded in agreement.

Away from there, just as Tom and Lucy got into the car after their ice cream date, Lucy's phone began to ring and she took it out of her handbag to see it was Evelyn who was calling.

Why was she calling? Had she heard from her father-in-law already? Lucy mused as she turned to Tom.

"It's your mom," she informed him before receiving the call.

"Hello, Lucy! How are you doing dear?" Evelyn asked pleasantly the moment the call connected.

"I'm fine. How are you and Desmond?" Lucy asked, and Evelyn smiled.

"We are fine. Are you alone? Can you talk right now? There is something really important I want us to discuss," Evelyn said, and Lucy raises a brow as she glanced at Tom who was yet to start the car and was staring at her.

"Is it urgent? I'm on my way home right now. If it is not very urgent I will call you back after I get home," Lucy said and Evelyn nodded.

"That's fine. I will like it to be between the two of us. I don't want Tom to know about it," Evelyn added.

"Alright," Lucy said before hanging up.

"What did she want?" Tom asked curiously.

"She hasn't said yet. I will find out when we get home. But she did say she didn't want you to know about it," Lucy said, and Tom shook his head.

He hoped for his mother's sake that she wasn't trying to stir any more trouble.

"You will tell me whatever she says, won't you?" He asked, and she smiled.

"Sure," Lucy assured him as he started the car and they headed home.

They both couldn't help wondering what it was Evelyn wanted to say to Lucy. While Tom was wondering if it was possible that his mother was calling to speak with Lucy because she had heard from his grandfather, Lucy on the other hand was wondering if it was about the conversation they had the last time about marriage.

They drove in comfortable silence until they got to the house, and Lucy dialed Evelyn's line once they walked into the bedroom and she kicked off her shoes.

"Lucy? Can you talk now?" Evelyn asked the moment she received Lucy's call.

"Yes. What did you want us to talk about?" She asked curiously as she placed on call on speaker for Tom to hear.

Evelyn cleared her throat, "We heard from Tom about the child as well as the DNA paternity test and result," Evelyn started, and Lucy raised a brow.

"I know you are aware of it since he told us he told you about it even before confiding in us," Evelyn said and Lucy frowned while Tom came to sit beside her after taking off his clothes and leaving on just his underwear.

"Yes, I am aware," Lucy said patiently as she waited for Evelyn to get to what she wanted to say.

"I was wondering if you know the identity of the lady behind all this," Evelyn said cautiously.

"Yes, I do. Why?" Lucy asked in confusion.

Evelyn cleared her throat, "I don't think we should let her go scot-free after trying to deceive Tom. Tom might not want to deal with her, but as the ladies in Tom's life I don't think we should let this go," Evelyn said and Lucy smiled.

"I agree with you. I thought Tom was too lenient with the people behind this. What do you suggest we do to her?" Lucy asked, and Evelyn beamed a happy smile while Tom raised a brow, wondering what Lucy was up to.

"I don't want you to get involved in case Tom finds out about this. I wouldn't want to be the cause of any problems between you two. All I need is for you to tell me the name of the lady," Evelyn said and Lucy considered it for a moment.

A part of her was tempted to say Evelyn Hank was the name of the lady, but another part of her wanted Evelyn to dig into Kimberly Moore and find out for herself her role in what had happened.

"Her name is Kimberly Moore," Lucy said and Evelyn frowned.

"Kimberly Moore?" She asked in confusion since she knew exactly who that was.

She had worked long enough for Lawrence Hank to know his relationship with the Moore family. She even remembered Lawrence talking about matchmaking Kimberly and Tom years ago but Desmond had been adamantly against it.

She also remembered that Lawrence had visited the Moores just last week after their family dinner.

Evelyn frowned, "Are you certain that is her name?"

"Yes. Do you know her?" Lucy asked innocently.

"Uhm, I will look into it. I believe there is a mistake somewhere," Evelyn said before hanging up.

"She knows Kimberly," Tom said and Lucy nodded.

"She does. I would love to see what she will do after she realizes what happened," Lucy said as she rose to take off her clothes.

Tom held her hand and pulled her to himself so that she was standing in front of him while he remained seated, and his hands went around her waist as he looked up at her.

"Are you mad at her?" Tom asked with a concerned frown.

"I'm not. But that doesn't mean you should be so okay with what she did. I think it's time we need to set some healthy boundaries in our relationship. That's a concept I don't think your family understands yet. No offense," Lucy said, and Tom raised a brow.

"What does that mean?"

"Are you asking me what healthy boundaries mean?" Lucy asked with a grin and Tom chuckled.

"I'm not trying to judge you or anything. All I'm trying to say is that I wouldn't let my family meddle in our relationship in the manner your family does whether or not they have our best interest at heart. I don't think you should let yours do so either. I think when it comes to your family you are just too tolerant," Lucy said as she wrapped her arms around his neck.

Tom nodded, "You are right. And that's the reason I left this to you, remember?" He asked, and she scowled.

"And here I was thinking you left it to me because you wanted me to be the one your family sees as the bad person," Lucy said and he chuckled.

"No one would dare see you as the bad person. And maybe you're just who they need to teach them how not to meddle in other people's business," Tom said, and Lucy kissed the top of his nose.

"When she calls you after finding out the truth about Kimberly and your grandfather, make sure you let her know it's no longer okay for her to meddle in our relationship going forward," Lucy said and Tom nodded.

"Yes, milady. Now let's get you out of those clothes so we can freshen up together," Tom said as he rose to help her undress.

Chapter 673 More Lies

As Sara sat down, she stiffened the moment her gaze met with Harry's who was seated only a couple of tables away from her.

Not knowing what to do, she smiled at him, but Harry ignored her by turning away from her and returning his gaze to Jade who was speaking to him.

"Do you want to go over to their table to say hello?" Jade asked and Harry nodded.

"I have no reason to do that. I have no direct business with her anymore," Harry said, and Jade raised a brow.

"What happened?" Jade asked and Harry shrugged.

"I'm just fed up with her antics. I have better things to do with my time than to indulge her foolishness," Harry said and Jade narrowed her eyes.

"Did she do or say something to trigger this?" She asked and Harry sighed as he told her about the conversation he had with Sara on Saturday.

From where she sat, Sara frowned, not knowing how to feel or react to such dismissal from her own son. If anyone was to dismiss the other, it was supposed to be her ignoring him not the other way around. Nobody ignored Sara Walker.

And why did his behavior upset her? It wasn't like she wanted a real relationship with him anyway. Perhaps it was her pride which was hurt.

"Wasn't that your best friend's son? Aren't you going to say hello to him?" Crystal asked with a curious smile when she saw that Sara seemed disturbed about running into Harry in this manner.

"No. I don't think I should. It will only make the rumors about us worse, and neither of us wants that. Besides, he should be decent enough to come over to say hello to me if it was important to him," Sara said as she picked up the menu and scanned it.

"I wonder who the lady with him is. I hope she is not his girlfriend. I was hoping you would introduce us. He looks really handsome," Crystal said and watched as Sara blanched at the thought of both her kids hooking up.

Crystal laughed softly, "Why do you look so pale? I was only kidding. I wouldn't dare suggest you hook me up with someone who has been accused of being your son," Crystal joked, and Sara forced a laugh.

"You got me there. For a moment I was startled by your request because I couldn't bear the thought of disappointing you," Sara lied without so much as blinking.

Crystal smiled but said nothing as the waiter came to take their orders.

After the waiter left, Sara faced Crystal again, "So, tell me. Do you have any important person in your life? I mean someone who would miss you if they didn't see or hear from you for a couple of days? Like a boyfriend?" she asked, wanting to know if Crystal's future disappearance might raise an issue for her so she would know how to go about it.

Crystal smiled, "Why would they not hear from me for a couple of days? It's not like we are going to a place without an internet connection, are we?" she asked as she watched Sara with amused eyes.

Sara smiled, "Of course not. I'm only asking to know the important people in your life," Sara assured her as the waiter returned with their drinks.

"Because of my experience at the orphanage, I'm not very fond of people, and I like to come and go as I please without having to bother about who is missing me or not. So, there are no boyfriends or very close friends. No one would try to find me if they never hear from me again for life," Crystal assured Sara, knowing that was what she wanted to hear.

She intended to make everything as easy as possible for Sara so she could draw her into her own trap. She didn't understand why or how the woman could think that she could outsmart her.

Sara tried not to let her joy at Crystal's words show on her face as she took a sip from her wineglass.

This was perfect. It was going all too perfectly! She could get rid of the girl without any problem and it would never be traced back to her.

"I'm curious about something," Crystal said, and Sara arched a perfectly carved brow.

"What do you want to know?" She asked, and Crystal shrugged.

"My father. What about him? And how did I end up in an orphanage?" Crystal asked, and Sara's face fell.

"He died a long time ago. He was so heartbroken when we lost you," Sara said sadly, and Crystal frowned.

"How did you lose me?" Crystal asked curiously.

"Your nanny stole you from us and we never saw you again. I thought you were dead this whole time," Sara said, and the ridge between Crystal's brows deepened.

"So how did you know I'm alive?" She asked, wondering how Sara came up with such unreasonable lies.

"I received a letter some time ago telling me about it. The letter said your dad had an affair with the nanny and dumped her. So, out of spite she took our little girl and sold her off. The letter told me where to look," Sara lied without blinking.

"But it wasn't stated anywhere on the internet that you've ever been married or had a child," Crystal said and Sara nodded.

"That's because I've never opened up about this part of my life. It really hurt me and I buried it all deep within me until that letter came and I realized it was time to find my you," Sara said and Crystal smiled.

"I'm glad the letter came. And I'm glad you came to find me. Thanks for not giving up on me despite my shitty attitude," Crystal said, and Sara waved it off dismissively.

"Let's forget about the past and focus on the future. Our future together," Sara said as she raised her glass in a toast and Crystal clinked it with hers.

A couple of feet away from them, Jade looked at Harry with concern, "We can leave if you feel uncomfortable being in the same space with her," Jade assured him.

"If anyone should be uncomfortable here, she should be the one. I have no reason to feel uncomfortable. Besides, our dinner will be served soon," Harry said just as the waiter brought their meal.

Jade glanced behind her at Sara and Crystal, "I guess things are going well between the both of them," Jade said, after the waiter had left and they both picked up their cutlery to eat.

"Too well if you ask me. Let's hope the girl doesn't get greedy and mess things up," Harry said thoughtfully as he ate.

He had received a message from Barry earlier letting him know that Sara transferred a huge sum of money to Crystal's account. He wondered what the money was meant for and why Crystal was yet to mention it to him.

"Why did you say that? Did she do something to make you suspicious?" Jade asked with interest and Harry explained the details of his conversation with Barry to her.

"I guess it's a good thing she doesn't know that her phone is being monitored then. Let's wait and see if she informs you about it. If she tries to play smart by revealing everything to Sara for money we can just cut her off," Jade said after some time.

"I don't think she is going to expose us," Harry said confidently.

"Why not?"

"She is smart enough to know that she stands to gain more by pretending to be the daughter. I think what she plans to do is take as much money from Sara as she can. I don't mind her doing that. I will just prefer that she keeps me informed on all that she is up to. That is the only way I can trust her," Harry said thoughtfully.

"Alright. Let's focus on us now. I didn't come out to talk about that," Jade said and Harry nodded.

"I wanted to discuss something important with you," he said, and she sat up when she noticed he was suddenly looking very serious.

"Go on," She urged him when he said nothing for some time.

"Let's talk about something you did at the club on Saturday," Harry said and she frowned.

"I already apologized for making the video. And I did promise to be more careful next time. Why are you bringing that up again?" Jade asked with displeasure.

"We didn't talk about you sharing so many details of our relationship with everyone else. How would you like me to talk to Tom about what happened between us in my bedroom?" Harry asked and she winced.

"I didn't exactly give them all the details of what happened..."

"So, you did tell them part of what happened then? I didn't want to believe you did. But the more I thought about what Lucy said about you thinking I was a monk, the more inclined I was to believe that you discussed that," Harry said, and Jade looked away from him guiltily avoiding his gaze.

"Jade," he called softly so that she would look at him.

"It is normal for girls to talk about these things. Besides, I wasn't the only one who talked about stuff like that. Candace and Aurora did too," Jade said with a frown as she looked at him.

"I don't know about their men, but I don't like being the subject of such discussions. I feel somethings are meant to stay between us. I don't like the idea of Candace or Lucy or Sonia or even Aurora knowing such intimate details about me. That knowledge is reserved for you alone," Harry said and Jade sighed.

"Alright. Fine. Whatever happens in your bedroom stays in your bedroom going forward," Jade promised.

"Do you think I'm being too rigid?" Harry asked and Jade shook her head.

"No, you're not. Even though I hate to admit it, I know you are right. I don't think I'd feel comfortable knowing you discuss stuff like that with Tom and the other guys," Jade said and Harry nodded.

"I would never do that to you," Harry assured her as he took her hand and raised it to his lips.

"Being my girlfriend must be tedious, right?" He asked, and Jade smiled involuntarily.

"It is. But I can't complain because you've never demanded for anything unreasonable," Jade said and Harry kissed her palm.

"If or when I do, do not hesitate to decline. And you should also let me know whatever makes you uncomfortable," Harry said and Jade nodded.

After dinner, they rose to leave, and Sara's feelings was hurt when Harry walked past her table without acknowledging her.

Without thinking she called out to him.

"Harry?" Sara called with a forced smile, and both Harry and Jade turned to look at her.

"Yes, ma'am?" Harry asked politely as he looked at her with a blank expression.

Sara rose, "Are you leaving already? I didn't want to interrupt your date with your friend hence I didn't stop by your table," Sara said as she looked at Jade and then she silently cursed herself for stopping them when she recognized Jade.

"Hello! I'm Jade Hank. I believe we have met before," Jade said, referring to their meeting outside her former office in Varis when she had left her cheque book in her boss' office.

"Have we?" Sara asked, wanting to act like she didn't remember.

"Yes. You met with Mr Amos who was trying to help you find your missing daughter. I suppose you've met her now?" Jade said as she glanced at Crystal who was still seated enjoying her meal.

Sara's gaze moved from Jade to Harry quickly and she shook her head, "No. I don't know what Mr Amos told you, but that was a misunderstanding. And this isn't my daughter. She is just a young friend of mine," Sara rushed to assure them.

"Oh! I see. My bad then. I'm sorry," Jade said with an apologetic smile.

"Let's leave," Harry said as he led Jade away without saying another word to Sara.

Sara frowned as she watched them leave and then she looked around to make sure no one had noticed what happened before she sat down.

She had almost ruined everything. She should have left the moment she saw Harry in the restaurant. What had she been thinking stopping him?

Now that Jade had made that statement she had no doubt that Harry would want to look into Crystal to confirm if she was truly his sister.

All the lies she had told Harry about Lucy threatening her was useless now.

How could she have forgotten about Jade Hank?

This was all because of the stupid mistake Amos had made by involving Jade Hank in searching for her missing daughter.

"Are you alright?" Crystal asked, and Sara flashed her a smile.

"Yeah. I'm sorry about that. The rumors must have upset him a lot more than I thought. I think we should leave the country as soon as possible," Sara said and Crystal nodded.

"Let's do that."

Chapter 674 Trouble Everywhere

"Are you okay?" Jade asked Harry as he escorted her to her car, and he nodded.

"Sure. Why wouldn't I be?" Harry asked and Jade looked at him with a concerned frown.

She couldn't help being worried about him. Harry could put up the hard and careless facade all he wanted but she could see that this whole Sara thing was beginning to get to him, and she couldn't blame him.

"Harry, you can talk to me if you're not fine. You don't have to be so strong in front of me," Jade said softly as they stopped by her car, and Harry drew a deep breath.

"I'm fine, esquire. There's no reason for you to worry your pretty intelligent head. You have better things to worry about," he said softly, and she shook her head.

"None of which is as important as your well-being," Jade said and he smiled.

"Including our vacation?" He asked with a grin and she giggled.

"I'm not worried about that. What's there to worry about when I'm actually looking forward to it?" She asked, and Harry smiled.

"Looking forward to confirming whether or not I'm a monk?" He asked, and she laughed softly.

"Why did you do that anyway?" She asked with a scowl and Harry rested his back against her the drivers door while she leaned into him

"Do what?" He asked, not understanding what her question was.

"How could you laugh the way you did when I walked into the bathroom? It was embarrassing, you know?" She said with a pout and Harry smiled.

"What was embarrassing about it?" He asked with interest.

"You took one look at my body and you laughed as though I looked funny," she said with a frown, and Harry smoothed out the crease on her brow with his thumb gently.

"I wasn't laughing at your body. I laughed because you claimed to be embarrassed about being naked while I was fully dressed and I excused you, only for you to walk up to me naked," he explained and she scowled.

"You could have at least let me— allowed me to—" unable to complete her statement she looked away from him and he chuckled.

"Allowed you to do what? You can't even say the words?" He asked in amusement and she eyed him.

"Pleasure you!" She snapped at him and he laughed.

"Pleasuring you was more than enough pleasure for me. You look so beautiful when you orgasm," he said and she gasped at his words making him grin.

"Don't worry, esquire. Soon I will let you do whatever you want with me as I will with you," he promised as he kissed her lips lightly.

"It made me curious though," Jade said, and Harry raised a brow.

"About what?"

"Have you ever found yourself in such a situation? I mean have you ever been seduced before that way?" She asked, and Harry shrugged.

"Sure. It would be strange for a man in my position not to have experienced that, don't you think? There are lots of desperate ladies out there, sugar. And I've met my fair share of them."

"Really? How did you handle it? You didn't laugh at them, did you?" Jade asked, and Harry shook his head.

"Nope. Told them they're beautiful and some day they will find the right man who appreciates their beauty, but that man isn't me and I'm not moved by things like that," Harry said and Jade smiled.

"Did you say it that way or were you harsh?" Jade asked curiously.

"I only get harsh when they don't listen the first time. Have you ever tried to seduce anyone that way before?" Harry asked and Jade frowned.

"No. I've never wanted anyone as I want you," Jade admitted and Harry smiled.

"That's good to know."

Jade sighed deeply as she rested her head on his chest and listened to his heartbeat, "I wonder what living with you would feel like. I mean waking up every day beside you. Coming back home to you and sleeping next to you every night," she said and Harry smiled as he pictured it.

"You didn't add driving to work together everyday," he said, and she pulled away to look up at him.

"That's true. Just like Tom and Lucy," Jade said thoughtfully.

"It would be beautiful, wouldn't it?" Harry asked and Jade pursed her lips.

"Won't it get tiring? I mean, seeing each other all the time," Jade said, and Harry raised a brow.

"You plan to get tired of seeing me all the time? You'd rather I make myself scarce?" He asked and she shook her head.

"Of course, not! I'm just saying what if we get tired?" She asked, and he shook his head.

"I could never get tired of seeing you all the time. But you don't have to worry. I travel a lot anyway, so you will have more than enough time to miss me in between," he assured her.

Jade sighed, "It feels good talking about the future this way, doesn't it?" she asked with a small smile.

"It sure does," Harry said with a nod.

Although he wanted to suggest that they leave now so that Jade would get home on time, he refrained from doing so since he could tell she wasn't ready to leave yet.

"Jonas?" Jade called softly, and he looked at her.

"Yeah?"

"I will be there for you in every way she wasn't," Jade promised as she held his gaze.

"Are you offering to be my stepmom again?" He asked with a raised brow.

"When did I ever do that?" She asked, and Harry chuckled.

"Right inside this very restaurant the first time I brought you here, remember?" Harry said, and Jade giggled when she remembered it.

"I was only kidding then!" Jade said, and Harry chuckled.

"So you said," Harry said and Jade looked at him with interest.

"What was on your mind when I said that?" She asked when she remembered he had not smiled or laughed at her joke as she had expected him to at the time.

"I thought if you were ever going to go by the name Mrs Jonas, it would be as my wife. I wouldn't even let you marry any other man by that name," Harry said, and Jade giggled.

"What would you have done then?" Jade asked and Harry smiled.

"It's a good thing we both will never find out, right?" Harry said and then took out his phone when it started ringing.

"It's Candace," he told Jade before receiving the call.

"Missing my presence badly?" Harry asked and Candace rolled her eyes.

"I have no use for you. I'm spending the night at Tom's place with the girls and I was calling to inform you of that I won't be home when you get here," Candace said and Harry raised a brow.

"So I heard. Are you taking Jamal with you?" He asked curiously.

"No. He's staying back."

"Alright then. I guess I will see you tomorrow then," Harry said before Candace hung up.

"I guess it's time for me to go home," Jade said, and Harry nodded.

"Yeah. I will drive behind you and see you off..."

"Why? That's stressful. You don't have to do that," Jade protested.

"I already dismissed the men following you, so I need to. Besides, I plan to see Tom briefly," Harry said and she scowled.

"I should have know he had to do with it," she hissed, and he chuckled.

"Stop being dramatic and get into your car," Harry said as he kissed her forehead before stepping away to help her open her car door.

Once Jade got into her car, Harry went to get into his car and drove behind her.

As Harry drove his thoughts returned to the events at the restaurant and seeing Sara there.

Suddenly he wanted to take care of her urgently and get her out of his life for good. He wasn't sure he could patiently wait for her to bite the bait anymore. He had to make her bite it.

He dialed Barry's line as he drove, and it didn't take long before Barry received his call, "Hey, man! Any update?"

"Things have been silent on the end of the Millers. The only important call Rebekah Miller received today was from Emilia Peterson, her cousin. It seems like she was the brain behind them dumping the girl at the orphanage and taking over all that belonged to her," Barry reported, and Harry raised a brow.

Now wasn't that an interesting point of intersection for both Sara and Rebekah? Both ladies had played a role in all that happened to Candace. Good thing they were facing judgement soon.

"And Sara? Anything on her?" Harry asked as he kept his gaze on Jade's car which was ahead of him.

"Between Sara and Mr Wilson, the lawyer is in a hot mess right now. Mr Wilson is threatening to take the lawyer down with him if he doesn't help him find the girl and find a way out of the mess..."

"Is Sara aware of this?" Harry asked curiously.

"She is. He reported it to her and she doesn't care. They are both planning to find someone to pretend to be the niece. And she is suggesting that the lawyer advise Mr Wilson to do damage control by claiming his niece was not abandoned as the media claimed but was rather happily reunited with her biological family thanks to him," Barry reported.

"Is there a way we can move things forward? I want things to go faster and for Sara to slip so she can be arrested," Harry said and Barry thought about it for a while.

"What if rumor gets out that the missing girl in question is Sara Walker's daughter who she sold for money, she might want to hurry things up, right?" Barry asked, and Harry considered the idea for a moment.

He had to put a lot of things into consideration before making any move. He didn't want to make things too complicated, especially for Candace's sake.

"I don't think so. That might make her want to put a hold on things because too many eyes will be on her. For the time being keep observing them. Let me know when they find someone to act as Wilson Peterson's niece," Harry said before hanging up.

Away from there, as Sara and Crystal got into the car after their dinner date, she received a call from her lawyer and rejected it.

"Any problem? I'm with someone important right now," Sara said, subtly letting him know she was with Crystal and there was a limit to what she could discuss.

"I think we might have a problem," Amos said anxiously, and Sara's brows pulled together as she glanced at Crystal who was pretending to be busy with her phone.

"Go on. I'm listening," Sara said as she was beginning to feel anxious herself.

Her brief exchange with Harry and Jade had left her nervous already.

"I just got off the phone with Wilson. I tried suggesting that even if we can't find the real girl we can pay anyone to act as her since no one would know about it, but he said even if that was already his plan, he still needs to find her and get rid of her. He thinks Thomas Hank might be searching for her as well as doesn't want him to get to her first," Amos said, and it took a moment for it to register in Sara's head.

"What? Why? Do you think they made the connection already? I mean, his sister worked with you and she is dating Ha..." she stopped when she realized she was saying a lot in Crystal's presence.

"I'm not sure. I believe they are two unrelated cases. I can understand that Harry might be searching for his sister since Jade must have confirmed it to them that you are searching for your missing

daughter. But the relationship between Thomas Hank and Wilson is different. It has more to do with Wilson's daughter and Thomas's girlfriend's family. He is after Wilson Peterson in this case, not you," Amos explained.

"That doesn't make it any better. If they are working on it from both sides they will make the connection sooner than later and realize it's the same girl," Sara said as she began to tap her feet anxiously.

"I was thinking, since Wilson plans on getting rid of the girl as well, can I just tell him about you..."

"Are you out of your mind?" Sara snapped at him before he could complete his statement.

"Sara, this is not the time for any of this. The enemy of your enemy is your friend, and right now that friend is Wilson. Besides, this will take a lot of pressure off me if Wilson knows you are with the girl and plan to get rid of her as well," Amos pleaded.

"Why should I care about taking pressure off you when you are the reason I'm under a lot of pressure myself? If you had not been so stupid to involve Thomas's sister knowing fully well their family relationship I wouldn't be in so much mess," Sara yelled at him not minding her driver or Crystal.

Although Amos wanted to remind her that she had also slipped and told Lucy some stuff, but he decided not to do so. He needed to butter her up if he wanted to get what he wanted.

"You do realize that if Wilson goes down he is going to want to take me down as well, right? I don't know what I might be forced to reveal about everyone involved..."

"Does he have any means to prove the identity even if you present just anyone to him?" Sara asked, knowing without doubt that Amos had just subtly threatened him.

"I don't think so..."

"Good. Then it doesn't make any difference who you present to him," Sara said reasonably.

"He is going to kill an innocent girl if I present her to him as his niece. That will be two murders on me, Sara. Two. Let's minimize this by..."

"Don't you dare tell him anything, you hear me? I don't care what he does to whoever you get. Get someone to do the job and make sure they are paid more than enough to make it worth it. Don't call me over this again," Sara warned before hanging up.

Now more than ever before she needed to hurry.

"Is everything alright? You sounded quite upset," Crystal asked with a concerned smile and Sara flashed her a smile.

"Sure. It's just my agent. He gets on my nerves all the time. He can't get his job done. What's so hard about finding new models?" Sara asked with a shake of her head.

"I see. You should take it easy then," Crystal said with a small smile as she returned her attention to her phone.

Sara glanced outside the window as she thought about her conversation with Amos. As long as Crystal was with her, then she was safe.

They would keep searching but would never find Crystal because she was going to take her far away from their reach.

She was already several steps ahead of them, Sara thought with a satisfied smile.

Chapter 675 Hypocritical

After her phone call with Lucy, Evelyn paced around her bedroom contemplating if she should give Lawrence a call or not to ask him if he knew anything about what had happened between Tom and Kimberly.

She hoped not. She really hoped he wasn't in any way involved in it and that it had all been an honest misunderstanding on Kimberly's end.

Now that she knew Kimberly was the lady in question, she couldn't bring herself to reach out to her.

She feared that it might not be a coincidence. How could it be when Lawrence had visited the Moore family recently?

Was Tom aware of this? Had he made the connection between Lawrence and Kimberly? Was that the reason Harry suggested she let things go as Tom had said?

Perhaps it was best if she left things the way they were since Tom was willing to.

She glanced at her phone when it began to ring and she quickly picked it up when she saw it was a call from her father-in-law.

"Lawrence..."

"Is Desmond there with you?" Lawrence asked before she could speak.

"No, he's not here. I'm alone. I was just contemplating whether or not I should call you," Evelyn said and Desmond who had been about to walk into the bedroom to ask her to come down for dinner, paused at the door when he heard she was on the phone.

It was something about her tone that actually made him stop to listen to her.

"What did you want to call me for?" He asked, wanting to stall a bit before telling her why he had called.

"I wanted to find out if you know anything about Tom and Kimberly Moore?" She asked, not wanting to give him the details in case he wasn't involved.

Desmond frowned, wondering what business Tom had with his father's goddaughter.

Lawrence cleared his throat, "That's the reason I called..."

"Please tell me you are not involved, Lawrence," Evelyn pleaded knowing that this was all going to come back right to her.

Lawrence? She was talking to his father? What was going on? Desmond mused.

Lawrence winced, "You asked me to do something..."

"For God's sake Lawrence! I asked you to find a way to convince him about getting married and starting a family, not ask your goddaughter to accuse him of being the father of her baby! What were you thinking?" Evelyn asked as she lowered herself to the bed weakly.

"It was supposed to be a harmless prank," Lawrence said and Evelyn frowned.

"How can something like that be a harmless prank? Do you have any idea how worried he was? I was upset he chose not to pursue it and punish the lady involved, but now that I know who she is and how it all happened, I'm relieved. Tom doesn't know you are involved, right? It's best if he doesn't know and we can all just pretend this didn't happen," Evelyn said and Lawrence sighed.

"He's aware of it all. Lucy is aware too. And she threatened to report it to the whole family if I don't do so myself. That's why I called," Lawrence said and Evelyn massaged her temple.

Lucy was aware? Was that why she had so willingly told her about Kimberly? Evelyn mused.

"We can't let Desmond know about this. He would be furious if he got to know you were involved in this. I will talk to Lucy and plead with her to keep it to herself and..." she stopped talking when the door opened and Desmond stood there looking at her.

Evelyn immediately hung up the call as she rose and forced a smile, "Des..."

"Are you married to me or to my father?" Desmond asked before she could say anything and her smile faltered.

"What sort of question is that? I'm married to you of course," she said with a frown.

"So can you explain what I just overheard right now?" Desmond asked in a flat voice.

"That was your dad..."

"I know that much," Desmond said, and Evelyn sighed.

"The whole stuff with Tom was a prank and your father was behind it," Evelyn said and Desmond nodded.

"I see. And what was your role in it?" He asked, and she frowned.

"What do you mean my role in it? I had no idea about this until now! I'm only just hearing of it," Evelyn said defensively.

"If that is the case why were you talking about keeping it away from Tom and me?" Desmond asked and Evelyn shook her head.

"What good could come from it? Everyone is going to be angry and overreact. This is a family issue and we..."

"Am I expected to believe that you do not have a role to play this? Just a while ago you were overreacting and talking about punishing the girl behind this, and now that you know you have a hand in it you no longer want everyone to be angry and overreact? Isn't that hypocritical of you?" Desmond asked, trying to control his fast rising temper.

"I don't have a hand in it. I never asked your father to do that. I only asked him to try to convince Tom to change his mind about getting married and that was before I spoke with Lucy," Evelyn explained weakly.

"I told you to let Tom be and not meddle in his business. I clearly said if he says he doesn't want to get married, leave him alone to make up his mind when he is ready! Why did you have to involve my father in his business?" Desmond asked as his voice rose angrily, surprising Evelyn who had never seen him that mad.

"Des..."

"You never listen, do you? You prefer to do as you please because you think you know what is best for everyone, don't you? Now that you know you have a hand in it your tune has changed." Desmond cut in harshly.

"I just thought...."

"You thought what? That I was not being a good enough father because I didn't want to interfere in Tom's private life? That man was a bad father to me but you expect him to be a good grandfather to my kids? Am I that incapable to you?" Desmond asked and Evelyn stepped forward.

"No, Desmond! I swear I never thought of any of that," Evelyn said as she tried to touch him, but Desmond turned around and left the room angrily and she immediately followed him.

"I'm sorry," Evelyn pleaded as she tried to catch up with him and Desmond stopped abruptly and turned to face her.

"I'm very much upset and I want to be left alone right now. I don't want to say any hurtful words to you that I might regret," Desmond said as calmly as he could before walking away.

Away from there, Jeff rose very quickly from his seat on the couch when Mia walked into the house that evening and he looked at her with a worried frown.

"Where have you been all day? I kept trying to reach you but it seemed your phone was turned off," Jeff said as he approached her and then paused when he noticed that she was not very steady on her feet.

"Why?" Mia asked as she very slowly made her way to the couch so she wouldn't fall on her face.

"Are you drunk?" Jeff asked in surprise as he stood still while watching her.

"Just a little bit," Mia said and Jeff frowned, wondering what had come over her.

She had left the house earlier that morning without his knowledge and he had been so worried about her that he had gone to Alicia's to see if she was there and when he didn't find her, he had called Bryan to enquire if she was with Sonia.

It wasn't like her to go out without saying a word hence he had been very worried, and seeing her so drunk made him feel even more concerned about her.

What was the deal with her? Since they moved in together he had noticed that she was either out at night meeting strangers on a blind date or she was in her bedroom crying in the middle of the night.

He looked at her for a moment without saying a word and then left her there and went into the kitchen.

By the time he returned a short while later with a mug of warm honey water, Mia was lying on the couch with her eyes closed and he sighed as he dropped the mug on the table and crouched down in front of her.

"Mia," he called softly as he shook her shoulder to rouse her and she opened her eyes to look at him.

"Leave me alone," she said as she pushed his hands off her shoulder and Jeff moved back a little because of the stench of alcohol on her breath.

Ignoring her protest, Jeff took her by her shoulders and lifted her so that instead of lying on the couch she sat upright, and then he picked up the mug of warm honey water and sat down beside her.

"I will leave you alone after you drink this. It will help you not to feel like shit in the morning," Jeff said calmly and Mia reluctantly opened her eyes to look at him.

"Why do you care? Why should you?" Mia asked, and he frowned as he raised the mug to her lips.

"Because you are my housemate and I have to look out for you. Now drink this and stop talking. I fear I might get drunk just by inhaling the alcohol on your breath," Jeff said and as she opened her mouth to speak again, he placed the mug between her lips so she would drink instead.

Mia who was feeling thirsty, took the mug from him and gulped down the content because it was warm and sweet and once she was done Jeff took the mug from her and placed it on the table.

"Come, I will escort you to your room," Jeff said as he rose and reached for her but she shook her head.

"I can go on my own. I'm not that drunk," she said without budging.

"Alright," Jeff said as he rose and picked up the mug while Mia looked at him from under her heavy lids as he headed for the kitchen to rinse and keep the mug.

The conversation with Harry earlier had left her in a scattered state of mind and she had resorted to alcohol to get herself out of the pit the painful memories had thrown her into.

But she still wasn't feeling any better. Perhaps she was not drunk enough yet, Mia decided as she rose to get herself a bottle of wine.

As Jeff stepped out of the kitchen, he saw her by the dinning taking out a bottle of wine from the refrigerator and snatched it out of her grip before she could open it.

"What?" She snapped at him in annoyance.

"I didn't give you the honey water so you could get even more drunk. Go to your bedroom and sleep off whatever is bothering you," Jeff ordered and she glared at him.

"Do I look like your daughter or wife that you can order around? I bought that wine with my goddamned money and I can drink it whenever I want to!" She yelled at him, and Jeff frowned, slightly taken aback by her unexpected outburst.

"I'm not ordering you around..."

"You are not? Are you sure about that? Because you sounded very well as though you were trying to tell me what to do with my life!" She said, and he frowned.

"Mia, you are drunk..."

"I can be drunk if I choose to! It has nothing to do with you. Absolutely nothing. So get your butt out of my business and leave me the fuck alone!" She said as she snatched the bottle of wine from him and he let her have it.

"Did I say something to upset you?" Jeff asked, not sure what was going on with her.

She had seemed pretty drunk when she walked in, but she didn't sound so drunk right now and he had no idea why she seemed so mad at him like he had offended her.

Mia said nothing as she raised the bottle of wine to her lips and took a long drink, not minding that most of it was pouring on her dress.

She inhaled deeply and let out a deep breath as she dropped the bottle of wine on the dining table and sat down while Jeff continued to watch her.

Seeing as she was not retiring to her room yet despite the fact that she seemed upset, he thought she might want to talk so he took the seat opposite her.

"Are you hungry?" He asked, and Mia raised her head to look at him in confusion.

"What?"

"Do you want me to fix you something to eat? I doubt you've had anything to eat all day," Jeff said, and Mia shook her head.

"I'm fine. Thanks," she said, feeling guilty for going off on him a while ago. He had done nothing to deserve that. She had transferred her aggression to him when he wasn't the one she should be saying those words to.

She should have stood up to her family and her husband that way instead of being a coward. Maybe she was yet to heal and move past all that had happened because she was hiding instead of confronting it.

"Do you want to talk or you want me to leave you alone?" He asked, and she nodded.

"I want to be left alone," she said, and Jeff gave her a nod as he rose to retire to his bedroom.

"I don't know what the problem is, but whatever it is, I hope you're fine by morning," Jeff said as turned to leave.

"Jeff?" Mia called, and he turned to look at her.

"Yes?"

"I'm sorry I yelled at you. And thank you," she said, and he gave her a nod before walking away.

Right from the first time they started working together he had noticed that she both dressed and acted strangely but now that they were living together under the same roof he was beginning to realize that she was quite a complicated lady, Jeff mused.

Chapter 676 Dinner Table

After freshening up, Tom and Lucy went downstairs for dinner, and they exchanged a look when they noticed that no one else was at the dining.

"Are Bryan and Sonia not having dinner?" Tom asked Samantha who had come out to meet them after she was informed they were ready for dinner.

"I'm not sure. I will send someone over to inform them you are having dinner now," she said, but Tom shook his head.

"That's not necessary. I'm sure they will come down themselves when they are ready," Tom said as he held out Lucy's seat for her to sit down before taking his seat next to her.

"Without everyone else here the table looks too large and empty," Lucy observed after they were seated and Samantha had excused them.

"Get used to it since it would be just the both of us here most of the time," Tom said and Lucy looked at him with interest.

"How did you ever dine here alone?" She asked and he shrugged.

"I usually ate in my bedroom when I was alone, and Harry had dinner with me sometimes," he explained.

"It must have been lonely," Lucy said and Tom smiled wistfully.

He had always imagined that in a couple of years he would get to share the dining with his wife and kids, but that didn't seem feasible anymore.

"It's a good thing I have you now to share my dinner with me almost every night, isn't it?" He asked and she nodded.

"Why almost every night, though?" She asked, interested in his choice of words.

"Because we will most likely not have dinner together every night. Either of us might have other engagements that would make us unavailable to eat together. There are business trips, and stuff like that," Tom said reasonably and she smiled.

"We could make it a habit of eating together every night as long as we are both in Ludus together. And when either of us is away we could have dinner together through video calls unless we are having dinner with other people," Lucy said, and Tom smiled.

"I will like that."

"Maybe we can replace this large dinning set with something smaller?" Lucy suggested thoughtfully, and Tom looked at her with interest.

It was her first time talking about making any changes in his home. Was he reading too much meaning into all her words and actions lately?

"What happens when everyone comes visiting?" He asked casually, and she sighed.

"You have a point," she said and smiled when two maids came to serve them.

"Thanks," Lucy said after they were done serving them and they gave her a polite smile before walking away.

"If you want to replace the dining set you can do that," Tom said, and Lucy looked at him with a slightly confused expression before she recalled they had just been talking about changing the dining set.

"Oh, I don't think that is necessary. The two of us can use this very large table but the whole family can't use a smaller table. The last thing we want is to have to move the dining furniture every time the rest of the family is around," Lucy said as they both began to eat.

"That's fine then. I would have really hated to let go of this set. I still have fond memories of it," Tom said with a grin and Lucy giggled, knowing he was referring to the time they had made love there.

"Do you ever entertain guests at home?" Lucy asked curiously.

"I've never really had to because I was keeping my identity hidden. But now that I've made a public appearance I guess I might invite some persons over from time to time. Why? Don't tell me you are dying to play the perfect hostess again?" Tom teased and she grinned.

"I'm not thinking of doing that anytime soon. But last night at the engagement party I just kept thinking it wouldn't be a bad idea to host balls and cocktail parties here," she said with a shrug.

What she had actually thought about was what she could do as his partner to support him and his business.

Tom wasn't just the usual or average boyfriend. He was a very successful businessman and things like these were expected from time to time if he was going to establish his place in the prominent society. This was something she believed he needed to start doing now.

"Aren't ball parties old-fashioned?" Tom asked, amused by Lucy's unexpected show of extroversion.

Lucy shrugged, "We would host a modern themed ball party then. It will be unique and strictly by invitation for only the top 0.1% with a couple of celebrities in attendance. No media people will be present. The pictures those celebrities would post on their social media pages will be enough to tell the tale of the party. Naturally people would want to know more about you and your businesses. You'd get more investors especially for that mountain resort project you are working towards," Lucy said and Tom looked at her in amazement.

"Who are you? And what have you done to my introverted girlfriend?" Tom asked, and Lucy giggled.

"Hosting a party once or twice a year doesn't make me any less of an introvert. Besides, it's for you. Now that you have made your identity known to all, I was thinking it wouldn't be a bad idea to expand your social circle. It would go a long way in helping the company," Lucy said reasonably and Tom smiled.

"You never cease to amaze me, Jewel. You know what? You can do whatever you want with the house and with my money," Tom said as he reached for her hand and kissed it.

"What a romantic sight to behold," Harry drawled as he joined them and Lucy giggled while Tom raised a brow.

"Missed me and decided to come see me?" Tom asked with a smirk which quickly transformed into a scowl when Harry bent forward and kissed his cheek.

"I missed you baby," Harry said making Lucy choke on her food as she laughed while Tom pushed Harry away.

"Harry, quit being silly." Jade laughed as she handed Lucy a glass of water while Harry sat down.

"Are you here to spend the night with your girlfriend as well?" Tom asked with a raised brow.

"Who else is here to spend the night with their girlfriend?" Jade Matt was coming over," Tom said and Harry chuckled as he exchanged a look with Jade.

asked curiously as she sat down.

"Lucy said Candace is spending the night and Bryan called to say Matt was coming over," Tom said and Harry chuckled as he exchanged a look with Jade.

"Do you think it was planned and Candace is aware?" Harry asked curiously.

"What was planned and what am I aware of?" Candace asked as she joined them.

"When did you get here? We just drove in and didn't see you coming behind us," Jade said and Candace rolled her eyes.

"If you weren't too busy kissing and smooching each other in his car immediately after you both drove in, you'd have noticed I drove up behind you," Candace said dryly and Jade flashed Harry an apologetic smile since she was the one who had gotten into his car before he could get out to assault his lips.

"I need to go get out of these clothes," Jade said as she dashed off, and Harry smiled as he watched her go.

"I see my boy is growing into a man gradually," Tom said as he slapped Harry's back playfully.

"Fuck off," Harry said as he pulled out a seat for himself.

"Hello, Tom! Hey, Lulu!" Candace greeted.

"Hey CaCa! I can see you are fine. How is Jamal doing? You didn't bring him along?" Lucy asked curiously.

"Nah. He will stay with his grandpa. Besides, now that he has decided to let you go for Tom..."

"Let her go for me as though he could snatch her from me in the first place," Tom cut dryly and Lucy grinned.

"Don't be so sure. Jamal is such a charmer. You are lucky he cares about you and doesn't want to be responsible for your heartbreak," Lucy said making them all laugh.

Tom turned to Candace and Harry, "You've both not had dinner yet, right? Why don't you join us..."

"Thanks. I had dinner with my dad and Jamal already. Maybe you should ask Harry since he chose kissing your sister over coming home to have dinner with us," Candace said dryly as she sat down.

Harry shook his head, "It's a good thing you are able to have dinner now. A couple of nights ago I was so worried about you because all you could do was glare and hiss jealously around the dinner table while others were enjoying their dinner," Harry said, referring to the anniversary party.

"And thanks, Tom. Your sister and I had dinner already," Harry told Tom who was laughing with Lucy.

"Did you both have real food or your lips?" Candace asked with a sweet smile.

"How do people ever cope with having sisters? Or is mine just different? From what I know Jade is a sweet sister to you, and Lucy is an Angel...."

"You should be happy. You got the sister you deserve," Candace said, making a face at Harry.

"Talking about getting what we deserve. I ran into your mom and Crystal at the restaurant earlier," Harry told Candace and she scowled.

"Your mom, you mean? You were the one who kept calling her 'mom' over the phone the other day in your office," Candace said, mimicking Harry's tone over the phone when he talked to Sara.

"Will you both ever stop bickering?" Lucy asked in amusement as Tom signaled to one of the maids to get Harry and Candace something to drink.

"Tell that to Candace."

"Tell that to Harry," they both said in unison, and they all started laughing.

"Don't bother with the drink. I've had enough for one night. And I'm driving," Harry told the maid who was waiting to receive instruction from him on what drink he wanted.

"Anything sweet is fine, Clara. Thanks," Candace told the maid, she was familiar with their names from the little time she had spent with them in the kitchen.

"So, what happened when you ran into ?" Candace asked the same question that was on Tom's and Lucy's minds.

Harry shrugged, "Nothing eventful. Ignored her and then she stopped me on our way out," Harry said, explaining their brief exchange.

"Her feelings are probably hurt because she is not used to being at the receiving end of such treatment," Lucy said with a shake of her head.

"Too bad that's what she is going to be getting from me going forward," Harry said and Candace smiled in approval.

"I like that you are giving her the cold shoulder. She doesn't deserve being treated any differently whether or not you are playing pretend," Candace said and Tom nodded in agreement.

"She must be planning to run off with Crystal by now. I'm sure she likely thinks you are still searching for your sister," Tom said thoughtfully.

"Luckily I didn't have to search. Trouble walked up to me herself," Harry said dryly, and Candace scowled at him while Lucy and Tom laughed.

"I didn't walk up to you," Candace hissed at him.

"Whatever. Anyway, I should let you both continue with your romantic dinner. I will be waiting to have a word with you in the Den before I leave," Harry told Tom as he rose and Tom turned to Lucy.

"Do you mind if I go speak with him now?" Tom asked and Lucy shook her head.

"You definitely shouldn't keep him waiting," Lucy said and Tom kissed her cheek as he rose to leave with Harry.

"I suppose we are going to be mothers-in-law in the future seeing as you agreed to let Jamal have your future daughter, right?" Candace asked Lucy with a grin now that they were both alone.

Lucy giggled, "That wasn't what happened. What did he say?" She asked in amusement as the maid returned with Candace's wine.

"Thanks," Candace told her as she accepted the drink before turning to Lucy again, "He said exactly what I just said. He said you both agreed that he would let you be for Tom and in return when you both have a daughter he will date her in your stead," Candace said and Lucy laughed softly.

"You didn't tell him my daughter would be his cousin too?" Lucy asked and Candace rolled her eyes.

"As if he'd listen to that. There is no reason to worry. I know he will understand better the older he grows," Candace said confidently.

"He said he had a really wonderful time. It was all he talked about last night and this morning. Thanks," Candace said and Lucy smiled as she waved it off.

"I enjoyed myself too. How did you do such a good job raising Jamal to be so sweet?" Lucy asked and Candace shrugged.

"I have no idea. You know, I've often wondered the same thing myself seeing as his father wasn't the ideal father figure. I'm glad now that he is surrounded by such amazing men. I have no worries as far as Jamal is concerned. I hope you do know that you are lucky to have an amazing man like Tom?" Candace said and Lucy raised a brow with amused curiosity.

"Why do you think so?" Lucy asked and Candace smiled.

"It's open knowledge that the guy adores you. I mean that was one of the very first things I noticed about him the first time I met the both of you. He seemed so cold and unapproachable but when he looked at you his gaze was warm. I was so glad Jamal ran into you and not Tom," Candace asked, and Lucy smiled.

"That's right. I forgot about that," Lucy said as she remembered running into Jamal for the first time on the stairs

"Sitting here with you this way brings another memory to mind. Hearing your voice the night before I met you," Candace said with a grin, and Lucy raised a brow.

"What happened..." Lucy shook her head in embarrassment, "Don't tell me you heard us too?" She asked and Candace giggled with laughter.

"Of course, I did. It was mostly you making all the noise," Candace said, laughing harder when Lucy blushed.

"Jamal didn't hear anything, right?" Lucy asked, her ears burning in embarrassment and Candace wiped the tears from her eyes as she laughed.

"Thankfully he was very much asleep else I would have had to answer a lot of awkward questions."

"I was drunk," Lucy explained even if she couldn't remember the details aside knowing they had sex on the dining and she shouted a lot.

"After seeing how you act when you are sober and when you are drunk, I figured that out already," Candace assured her.

"I'm surprised you didn't say anything all this time. Especially to the others," Lucy said and Candace laughed.

"That's something Jade would do not me. I'm only bringing it up now because we are alone on the scene," she said with a wink.

"By the way, we are leaving for Sogal with my dad this weekend," Candace said and Lucy sighed.

"I will miss you all. I will have to take my first trip Sogal for your sakes," Lucy said and Candace smiled.

"It would be nice to have you around. I like you a lot, Lucy," Candace said and Lucy smiled.

"The feeling is mutual."

Chapter 677 Family Conflict

Once Tom and Harry were settled in the Den, Tom looked at Harry with a serious expression, "Is everything alright?"

"Sure. I wanted to check on you to see how you were feeling now about the whole DNA stuff," Harry said and Tom eyed him doubtfully.

"You saw me before I left the office..."

"That was at the office. I wanted to be sure you wouldn't be at home weeping," Harry said and Tom chuckled.

"Well, as you can see, I'm fine. Now tell me the real reason you wanted to see me," Tom said and Harry shrugged.

"Your mom called earlier," Harry said and Tom raised a brow.

"Earlier when? And what did she want?" He asked, feeling exasperated already even though he was yet to hear what Harry had to say.

The fact that she had spoken to Lucy already made him certain that her call to Harry had to do with Kimberly.

This was exactly what Lucy had been saying earlier about his family, especially his mother meddling in his affairs.

He had told her to let things be, so why was she still going about calling everyone?

"Not long after I left the office. About two hours ago," Harry said as he glanced at his wristwatch to estimate the time.

"She wanted you to give her Kimberly's details?" Tom asked and Harry nodded.

"How did you know?" He asked with interest

"She spoke to Lucy a while ago. I'm guessing she chose to ask Lucy about it because you turned her down," Tom said with annoyance.

"She is not okay with the fact that you don't want to do anything about what happened. She feels you shouldn't let Kimberly go just like that," Harry said and Tom nodded.

"Let's wait and see what will do now that she knows those behind it. It's annoying having her meddle in my business this way, you know?" Tom said, and Harry didn't know whether to pity him or envy him.

"At least you have a mother who loves you enough to want to meddle in your business," Harry said and Tom frowned.

"Don't go that route with me," Tom cautioned.

"I'm just trying to say you shouldn't be too upset with her. Maybe if you see her actions from a place of love you'd be less irritated. For your own good and peace of mind," Harry said reasonably.

"What I would rather do for my own good and peace of mind is put a stop to it once and for all. I've had enough of all of it. It's tiring. And seriously after this whole Kimberly stuff, I'm not ready to put up with it anymore," Tom said in annoyance, and as though summoned by the conversation Evelyn chose to call him at that very moment.

Tom scowled when he saw her call and received it without saying a word as he waited to hear what she had to say first.

"Tom? Are you there?" Evelyn asked, sounding agitated.

"Yes, I am. Is there a problem?" Tom asked, feeling slightly concerned by her tone.

"How could you let Lucy threaten your grandfather into..."

"Excuse me?" Tom cut in, not wanting to believe his mother was saying what he thought she was saying.

"I don't support what your grandfather did in any way, but handling it the way you did was wrong. How could you let Lucy get involved? This was supposed to be between your grandfather and..."

Tom rose from his seat involuntarily, "I don't want to believe you are serious right now. I don't want to believe you called me to say this, because you are really beginning to get on my last nerves," Tom cut in tersely and Harry raised a brow, wondering what was going on.

"I'm serious! Do you know how much problem this is going to cause between your dad and grandfather? Your father is mad at me alre..."

"He is MAD at you because you made him mad! It has nothing to do with Lucy! And you should know I'm mad as hell right now as well, and I don't even want to talk to you either! I'm disappointed that still can't see that you are the cause of everything. I'd appreciate it if you don't make this about Lucy! You wanted to punish Kimberly despite all I said to you before, so go ahead and punish her and grandfather as you deem fit, but DO NOT for whatever reason try to put any blame on Lucy.

Your issue with dad is your fault. Deal with it! Maybe this will teach you to listen to others," Tom yelled, and Bryan who had been on his way to the dining with Sonia, walked into the Den, leaving Sonia to go ahead of him to the dining.

"What's going on? Why is he mad?" Bryan asked Harry who remained where he was seated watching Tom.

"Tom..." before Evelyn could complete whatever she wanted to say, Tom hung up angrily.

"Can you believe her? Can you believe she is trying to put the blame on Lucy? This is unbelievable! It's crazy!" Tom said angrily, and Harry sighed while Bryan frowned as he looked at them, wondering what was going on.

"Why are you yelling at mom? And what is she blaming Lucy for?" Bryan asked Tom in confusion.

"Maybe you should call her and ask her that yourself! I'm too mad to talk to anyone right now. I'm going upstairs. See you tomorrow, Harry," Tom said as he turned and walked away while both Bryan and Harry frowned in concern as they watched him leave.

"Tom is losing his temper a lot lately. He never loses his calm this way," Bryan observed, and Harry had to agree.

"I guess everything is getting to him," Harry murmured as he rose.

"I just walked past Tom and I swear he was breathing fire. What got him so upset?" Jade asked both Harry and Bryan as she walked into the Den.

"I think it's mom. He was yelling at her a moment ago. Maybe Harry can tell us what is going on," Bryan said and both of them turned to Harry.

"Why is Tom upset?" Jade asked him flatly.

Not seeing any need to hide it much longer since it had become their family business, Harry sighed, "Your mom asked your grandfather to find a way to convince Tom to settle down, and your grandfather hanged up with his protege or goddaughter, I don't know what she is to him. She came to Tom claiming she had a daughter for him..."

"What?" Bryan and Jade asked in unison.

"You are joking, right?" Jade asked in disbelief.

"I wish I was. Tom had to come back earlier from his business trip because of that. He carried out a DNA test and it turned out the kid isn't his. The lab director told me your grandfather was trying to get him to tamper with the result and claim the girl was Tom's. You can guess the rest of the story from there," Harry concluded and both Jade and Bryan frowned.

"All this was going on since Friday?" Bryan asked in disbelief.

"Why didn't you say anything to me?" Jade asked Harry.

"Because it's not your business. Tom is mad right now. He has every right to be. So maybe you can both talk to your mom. This is not the best time for her to try to put any blame on Lucy. I need to leave now," Harry said as he glanced at his wristwatch and Jade sighed, while Bryan sat down.

"I will see him off to his car, and come back so we can talk," Jade told Bryan before walking away with Harry.

Away from there, at the dining, Sonia had a concerned frown on her face as she joined Lucy and Candace.

"Did something happen between Evelyn and you?" Sonia asked curiously.

"Something like what?" Lucy asked before taking a sip from her glass of water.

"On our way down here, Tom was yelling. I deduced he was on the phone with Evelyn and he said something about not putting the blame on you or making it about you. Bryan went in to find out what was wrong," Sonia said and Lucy frowned.

"I don't know what that was about. If he was yelling that means he must be upset. I should go find out what is wrong?" Lucy said as she excused herself and went to the Den.

She was surprised to find just Bryan seated inside, "Where is Tom?" She asked, and Bryan raised his head to look at her.

"He went upstairs to cool off. Can I have a moment with you?" Bryan asked hopefully.

"Sure," Lucy said as she went to sit close to him.

"Harry told us about the DNA stuff. What he didn't say is why my mom thinks you are to blame for something. What is that about?" Bryan asked and Lucy took a deep breath before going on to narrate what had transpired between her and their grandfather as well as her last phone call with Evelyn.

"When we spoke a short while ago she wasn't mad at me, so I don't understand why she might be mad enough to blame me for anything now," Lucy said feeling exhausted.

Unless Evelyn was upset because she she felt justified that Lawrence Hank had done what he did with Kimberly because of Lucy's refusal to get married.

"I asked your grandfather to report himself to your parents and the rest of the family else I would do so myself," Lucy said after a short pause.

"You did?" Bryan asked, surprised that Lucy had given their grandfather such a task.

"Yes, I did. He crossed a line by doing what he did, and that has to be corrected. Tom was very affected by this whole drama and I won't let anyone get away with messing with him, whether or not they are his family. If Evelyn is upset because of my actions, I can't say I'm sorry about that. She can look out for Tom how she deems fit as his mother, and I would do the same how I deem fit as his girlfriend. If you don't mind, I need to go find Tom," Lucy said as she rose and walked away, leaving Bryan who did not know whether to admire Lucy or be worried about the friction in the family.

Lucy was right. His grandfather had gone too far pranking Tom the way he did and Tom had every right to be upset.

"What is going on?" Sonia asked as she walked into the Den to join Bryan.

Candace had decided to go upstairs and change into more comfortable sleeping clothes, and since she didn't want to stay alone at the dining when she was burning with curiosity she had decided to come find out what was going on.

"Are you done with dinner already?" Bryan asked as he rose when she sat beside him.

"It's hard to have dinner when everyone seems upset. And I didn't want to eat alone," Sonia said and Bryan rose to lead her to the dining.

"Sorry about that. Let's go have dinner now. We can't keep our Ryso starving," Bryan said as he took her hand.

"Why was Tom upset? Where is Lucy?" Sonia asked as they returned to the dining.

"She went to find Tom. He is very upset. Grandpa played a prank on Tom..."

"That is putting it mildly. That was no prank," Sonia hissed, and Bryan paused to look at her.

"You knew about it?" He asked, and Sonia realized her slip.

She shrugged, "Yeah. Lucy told me about the stuff on Saturday and called to inform me of the DNA test result," she said, seeing no need to keep it a secret anymore.

"Why didn't you tell me?" Bryan asked with a frown.

"Your brother didn't tell you about it why should I tell you something I heard from Lucy?" Sonia asked matter of factly.

Bryan opened his mouth to argue but Sonia raised a finger and shook her head, "Don't you dare try to pick a fight with me over this. You kept Tom's secret too when he was pretending to be someone else to Lucy. And what did you tell me? You are not Tom and I'm not Lucy..."

"How is that even the same thing?" Bryan asked with a scowl.

"So, what do you want right now? You would rather us to fight over this? Like we haven't had enough fights already? Do you want more conflict?" Sonia asked, and Bryan glared at her.

"You shouldn't have kept it from me," Bryan insisted.

"You know this is probably one of the problems that comes with two best friends being involved with brothers. I see no reason why I should tell you something my best friend told me in confidence simply because he is your brother. I'm not arguing about this anymore with you. We can either discuss the situation logically or forget about it," Sonia said before walking ahead of him to go sit at the dining leaving a sulky Bryan to follow her.

Chapter 678 Family Conflict (2)

Outside the house, Jade was drilling Harry in the same manner Bryan had been questioning Sonia.

"How could you keep something as important as that from me?" Jade asked Harry, not happy that she had been in the dark about that.

"I told you already. It is Tom's business not yours. If he wanted you to know about it, I'm sure he would have told you himself," Harry said and she frowned.

"I don't keep stuff about Candace from you," she pointed out.

"That is your choice, esquire. That doesn't mean I have to return the favor. I'm exhausted and want to go home now. So let's talk tomorrow," Harry said as he unlocked his car and Jade stood aside, watching him in annoyance.

Harry leaned over and planted a kiss on her lips which she didn't respond to, before getting into his car, "I will call you when I get home. I love you," Harry called out to her before driving away.

As he drove out, Matt who was coming in flashed his light at him in greeting and Harry flashed back his light as he continued on his way home.

Jade was about going inside when she saw Matt's car coming so she waited for him to park and get out so they could go in together.

"Hey, Jadey!" Matt greeted as he walked up to her and placed his arm around her shoulder.

"Why the forlorn look on your face? Are you missing your boyfriend already?" Matt asked and she scowled.

"This is not a forlorn look. I'm just upset. Let's go in. Did you decide to come over knowing Candace would be here?" She asked as they walked into the house, and Matt pulled on his best surprised look.

"Candace is here? I thought she had moved to Harry's place?" Matt asked, and Jade eyed him suspiciously but said nothing.

"Why are you upset? Did Harry do something to make you angry? That guy annoys me too. He can be so full of himself," Matt said, and Jade slapped his arm.

"Don't talk about my boyfriend that way. I'm the only one permitted to be mad at him. And he is not full of himself," Jade said, and Matt grinned.

"I guess you are not mad enough then. Where is Bryan?" Matt asked, even though Candace was the person he was most curious to see.

"I left him at the Den," Jade said and they both headed to the Den.

When they didn't find him there, but heard the sound of cutlery coming from the dining, they both headed for the dining instead.

"You do realize that your annoyance does not make sense, right?" Sonia was asking Bryan as they joined them.

"Why is everyone annoyed tonight?" Matt asked as he joined them.

"What is annoying you too?" Jade asked as Bryan glanced at them.

"Do you believe that Sonia was aware of what grandpa did but didn't say anything to me about it?" Bryan asked in disbelief.

"Exactly like Harry. You lot are so annoying. How can you keep such important things from people you call your partners when you know it's a family issue?" Jade asked Sonia in annoyance.

"If Tom had told me something upsetting about Lucy and I kept it away from you just because Lucy hasn't told you about it yet, would you be happy with me?" Bryan asked Sonia.

"What is going on?" Matt asked, curious to know what the problem was.

"Tom had a problem which Lucy told me about. Bryan found out about it today and is mad at me for not telling him about it. Does that make any sense? I have a right to keep my best friend's secret whether or not it is about your brother!" Sonia said incredulously.

"Unless the secret was about something harmful, I don't get why this is an issue. Or was there something you could have done about it to help the situation had she told you earlier?" Matt asked Bryan who scowled.

"Why are you taking her side? You are my best friend and should be taking my side seeing how she is defending what she did for her best friend's sake," Bryan said, and Sonia rolled her eyes.

"You both would reconcile soon and then I will be on Sonia's bad book. I would rather be on your bad book than that of your fiancée. Besides, you didn't take my side when I needed you the other night either. You said she was scary, right?" Matt asked with a pleasant smile and Bryan scowled.

"Matt? What are you doing here?" Candace asked in surprise when she returned to see him at the table.

"Bryan invited me to come over and spend the night," Matt lied, shooting Bryan a warning look to not say otherwise.

Bryan smiled, "I didn't. He called and asked if he could spend the night," Bryan said as he set down his cutlery and rose.

"You bastard!" Matt cursed.

"That's what you get for wanting to be on my bad book," Bryan said as he walked away from the dining and Jade eyed Sonia with disapproval as she followed Bryan before turning to Candace who was glaring at Matt.

"Did you also know about the prank?" She asked, wanting to know if it was just her and Bryan who had been left in the dark or if either Lucy or Harry had told Candace about it.

"What prank?" Candace asked in confusion, and Jade nodded with approval, seeing that Candace did not know anything about it.

"Let's go upstairs to my bedroom and I will tell you about it since it's not a secret anymore," Jade suggested.

"I will join you after having a word with Matt," Candace said, and Jade excused them.

"What are you doing here?" Candace asked Matt and he shrugged.

"Visiting."

"Visiting? Because I told you I would be here?" She hissed under her breath.

"What is it with everyone having misunderstanding with their partners under this roof tonight? Perhaps I shouldn't have come..."

"Yes, you shouldn't have come! What we have is supposed to be private but..."

"How can it be private when everyone already knows what is going on? And do I need to remind you that you were the one who set the privacy rule yet the same person who exposed what was going on to the others," Matt said and she scowled.

"They wouldn't have found out if you didn't keep wanting to see me every day!" She hissed at him, trying to keep her voice down.

"I never forced you to come. You came each time I requested because you also wanted to see me. And not once did you complain about the frequency of our meetings when we were making love," Matt pointed out.

"And today that I chose not to see you, what did you do? Did you stay put? No! Instead you chose to come over here," Candace countered, and Matt sighed.

"Candace..."

"I guess it's a good thing that I'm returning to Sogal by weekend. I intend to see how you can make such impulsive moves when you have your job to attend to," Candace said irritably.

"You are returning by weekend?" Matt asked with a frown.

"Yes! For christ's sake, I told you I would see you tomorrow. Why didn't you just wait? Why did you come here?"

"I just wanted to see you, alright? What's so wrong with a man wanting to seize every opportunity he has to see the woman he loves?" Matt asked and she glared at him.

"Don't you dare talk to me about love! We agreed that this was a purely sexual relationship..."

"I'm sorry if hearing that I love you makes you feel so uncomfortable, but that doesn't change how I feel about you. You can use me for sex all you want, but what I feel is entirely up to me," Matt said and Candace glared at him in annoyance before walking away without another word.

Matt sighed as he sat down. The woman was a lot of work. After now he would just give her some space and let her come to him on her own when she was ready.

Upstairs, in Bryan's bedroom, Sonia got on the bed and rolled over to lie on Bryan who had turned his back to her.

"Leave me alone," he said grudgingly.

"But Ryso wants to stay close to you," Sonia said, and Bryan scowled as he sat up.

"Don't lie against the baby," he said, and Sonia sighed.

"I honestly don't think we should be fighting over this. What your grandfather did was wrong. And I'm disappointed in Kimberly for using her daughter for such a thing. I'm going to unfollow her," Sonia said, stylishly changing the subject.

"Kimberly? You know the lady in question?" Bryan asked, his curiosity piqued.

"Yeah. Shouldn't you know her since she seems to be close to your grandfather?" Sonia asked as she picked up her phone to open Kimberly's page so he would see the lady in question.

"Kimberly Moore. My grandfather used to talk about a certain Kim a lot. The little girl does look like Tom in a way. Hold on. Why would Tom believe the kid is his if he hasn't been with her?"

Bryan asked when it suddenly struck him.

"He was with her a long time ago. It was a one night stand and he didn't know she was connected to your grandfather," Sonia explained.

"Are you sure the result came back negative?" Bryan asked doubtfully as he eyed the picture.

"Even if it didn't, it has been confirmed that it was a prank. Why is your mother mad at Lucy?" Sonia asked now that she sensed that they had gotten past Bryan's annoyance.

"Lucy asked my grandfather to report himself to my parents and the rest of the family. I don't see why that should make her mad though," Bryan said and Sonia nodded.

"If anyone is supposed to be mad, it is Tom and Lucy. I remember how mad I was by that stupid prank Jeff and you pulled, talk more about a prank involving a child. It is very annoying and your mother should be apologizing not provoking them further," Sonia said and Bryan raised a brow.

"Are you saying that because Lucy is your best friend?" He asked and she smirked.

"No, I'm saying that because it is the truth, and if you think otherwise then I'm going to have a problem with you. Don't even think about supporting your mom or grandfather," Sonia warned sternly as she got off the bed and Bryan frowned.

"What! Now you are mad at me for simply asking a question?" Bryan asked incredulously.

"I'm not mad yet. But I will be if you don't act right. Give your mother a call and find out what the problem is," Sonia urged him as she pointed at his phone.

"Why?"

"Before this escalates further, you should step in. You were so mad that I kept it a secret from you but now that you know about it you don't even want to do anything to help the situation? What difference does your knowledge of the situation make then?" Sonia asked, and Bryan sighed as he did as she requested.

"Bryan, I was just about to give you a call. I was speaking with Tom and he hung up and now I can't reach him again...."

"Speaker," Sonia said, and Bryan placed the call on speaker so she could listen in on the conversation.

"What did you say to him?" Bryan cut in.

"I only scolded him letting Lucy handle a situation he could have handled himself. Your grandfather played an expensive prank on Tom and in as much as I'm not in support of it, letting Lucy step in that way was wrong. Your father is mad at me and I overheard him yelling at your grandfather over the phone and asking him to stay away from his family. You know how things are between them. Lucy just made it worse," Evelyn said, and Sonia shook her head in disapproval as she tried to keep herself from saying anything.

"What exactly happened?" Bryan asked calmly, wanting to understand things from his mother's end as well.

Evelyn tried to calm herself as she explained everything to Bryan and by the time she was done Bryan shook his head, "I can't take your side on this one, mom. Both dad and Tom are right to be mad at you. I would be too if I were in their shoes. Instead of trying to blame Lucy for something

you and grandfather caused, you should accept that you were wrong and ask for forgiveness and stop telling Tom how you think he should have handled the mess you created."

"I never said I was right neither did I say I was not sorry. I wouldn't have gone to your grandfather had I realized what the issue with Tom was earlier. That's why I'm saying Lucy had no right doing what she did especially since she is partially responsible for this. If she was not so set on not getting married to Tom, your grandfather wouldn't have had to do what he did in the first place! We did what we did because we were looking out for Tom!"

"Lucy doesn't want to get married to Tom?" Bryan asked in confusion as he glanced at Sonia who looked very pissed now.

Because she was feeling very tempted to snatch the phone from Bryan and yell at Evelyn for making this about Lucy when it was actually all her fault, Sonia walked out of the bedroom angrily leaving Bryan to finish his conversation with Evelyn alone.

Chapter 679 Family Conflict (3)

At the balcony of Tom's bedroom, Lucy embraced Tom from behind as he silently stared into the night.

She had walked into the bedroom to see him standing out there just like that, and even when she touched him, he did not turn to look at her.

Neither of them said a word. Lucy could tell Tom was upset and didn't want to talk, and Tom could tell that Lucy understood his need for the silence even though her presence was welcome.

"Why aren't you asking me what happened?" Tom asked after some time, when he was sure he was calm enough to speak.

"I suppose I'm more interested in making sure you are fine than in satisfying my curiosity," Lucy said, and Tom sighed as he turned around to face her.

He smiled wearily as he looked into her face which was etched with worry line, "I guess I should have handled things myself instead of dragging you into it. I don't like you being blamed for any of this," Tom said, and Lucy smiled.

"Don't worry about me. I will handle it. Although I don't like confrontations, but I don't think I would mind this one very much if it comes to it," Lucy assured him.

"I don't want you having any problems with my mom..."

"I don't think it is avoidable at this point. I love and respect her, but she wants to have too much control over your life and your relationship and I am not willing to let that happen as long as I'm in your life. So we will have to deal with it woman to woman. So, why don't you relax and tell me what she said, and then I will give her a call and resolve things," Lucy suggested.

"I don't want you to talk to her. She is upset right now. Especially as my father is mad at her. She might say something to you I won't be able to forgive her for. So just let it be," Tom said calmly.

"Do you trust me?" Lucy asked, and Tom held her gaze for a moment before giving her a nod.

"Sure."

"Then let me handle this. I don't like to see you so worried," Lucy said as she took his hand and led him to the seats at the balcony and they both sat down.

"Tell me everything she said," Lucy said and Tom told her exactly what Evelyn had said.

"I guess she feels this way because I'm your girlfriend and not married to you? If I were your wife she would consider me family and wouldn't think I was wrong want to punish your grandfather," Lucy said, and Tom shook his head.

"I don't think so. I know for a fact that she considers you part of the family and thinks of you as her daughter in-law. She just wants to put the blame on you so she wouldn't feel too bad about her role in all of this," Tom said confidently.

He knew his mother well enough to know she was being all defensive and passing blames because she knew everyone was mad.

"Unfortunately for her, your grandfather isn't the only person I was trying to punish. I had her in mind when I decided that I wanted your grandfather to report himself to them. I will wait it out till morning. If she doesn't call me to express her displeasure before then, I will call her to express mine," Lucy said, and Tom sighed.

"I didn't expect you to be so calm about this," Tom said, and Lucy smiled.

"Don't worry your head over this. I have to go and join the girls. We still have to talk about the wedding plans since Candace came over for it," Lucy said as she rose from her seat.

"I will wait up for you," he said as she kissed him lightly on the lips.

"Alright. I will try to make things snappy so I don't keep you waiting," Lucy said before walking out of the bedroom.

The moment she shut the door behind her, she saw Sonia and Bryan standing by the hallway and paused when she heard Bryan's question to Sonia.

"Are you aware that Lucy doesn't want to get married to Tom?" Bryan, who had just finished speaking with his mother and had come out to find Sonia, asked.

Sonia who caught the movement of the door some feet away from them looked up to see Lucy, and she met her gaze.

"Where did you hear that?" Lucy asked as she approached them, not wanting to put Sonia in a situation where she had to lie to Bryan.

Bryan turned to Lucy, "Is it true?" He asked just as Jade and Candace who had heard their voices stepped out of Jade's room to find out what was happening.

"Is what true?" Jade asked curiously.

"Mom just told me Lucy doesn't want to marry Tom," Bryan said, and both Jade and Candace looked at Lucy in surprise.

"Why would you not want to marry Tom?" Jade asked in confusion.

"I don't think it's any of our business. It's between her and Tom..."

Jade eyed Sonia with annoyance, "What makes you think it is okay for you to interfere in other people's business but clam up when it comes to Lucy? And how can you say this is not our business? Tom is our brother and we have every right to know..."

"No, you don't. Unless Tom wants you to know you have no business knowing about my personal business with your brother. You don't see me prying into your private lives, do I? Why does my decision have to be a subject for your entire family to debate on?" Lucy asked, feeling really annoyed now.

"Lucy," Sonia called softly, not wanting Lucy to fight with Bryan and Jade. The whole issue had escalated really quickly thanks to Evelyn's phone calls.

"What is going on here?" Tom asked as he also stepped out of his bedroom.

"We asked if it was true that Lucy doesn't want to marry you and she got offended," Jade explained and Tom glanced at Lucy, wondering where they had heard that.

"Did you hear it directly from her that she doesn't want to marry me?" Tom asked, and Bryan stepped sighed.

"That was what mom told me. She said grandfather was trying to force your hand about settling down and having a family of your own before they realized it was Lucy who was refusing to get married and not you," Bryan said, and Tom frowned.

"Is that supposed to justify their action? I have done my best to understand the way things are done in this family, but I am not going to put up with the meddling any longer. My relationship with Tom is our personal business and going forward I will appreciate it if neither of you questions me about any part of it. I doubt you will put up with your attitude if you were in my shoes, so why do you expect me to put up with it? The only person I owe any explanation in this family, is Tom, and that is exactly how it is going to remain," Lucy said in a slightly raised voice before returning to the bedroom leaving the rest of them standing there.

"Why is she overreacting when we only asked a question?" Jade asked with a frown.

"I don't think she is overreacting. And even if she is, what she said is on point. You need to know when to stop meddling. I guess there will be no wedding planning tonight. I will be in my bedroom if you need me," Candace said before walking away.

"You both should come with me," Tom said to Bryan and Jade, and they followed him, while Sonia decided to go talk to Lucy.

Tom led them to the bar, and they all sat down, "I didn't mean to upset her. I was surprised to hear that from mom so I had to ask. And I wasn't even asking her. I was asking Sonia before she showed up," Bryan said defensively.

"Why do you keep things away from us? Aren't you supposed to talk to us if you are having a problem? Why would you rather talk to Lucy and Harry and leave us out? Do you think they care about you more than we do?" Jade asked, feeling very annoyed by all that was happening.

"Are you alright?" Bryan asked when Tom remained silent for some time.

Tom sighed, "I'm not sure what I want to say to you both, but if either of you decides to take mom's side on this, I will be very pissed and won't take it lightly with you. The decision whether or not Lucy and I are going to get married is solely ours. It shouldn't affect any one of you..."

"But...."

"No buts Jade. When your boyfriend died you didn't want us to ask you any questions or pry and I respected that. Now I'm saying I need you to respect my relationship with Lucy and not pry or meddle. We don't need any more dramas." Having said that, Tom rose and walked away, leaving Bryan and Jade.

"Why do they make it sound like we've been meddling in their relationship this whole time? I have never shown any interest in it until tonight," Jade said irritably and Bryan sighed.

"It doesn't matter. Let's just listen to them and keep our nose out of their business. And I agree with him. Mother was wrong. I can't side with her on this..."

"What exactly happened? What did mother tell you?" Jade asked and Bryan explained the whole situation to her, also telling her how upset their father was.

"I don't support what grandfather did either. But that doesn't mean we shouldn't do anything to help the situation," Jade said reasonably.

"What can we do?"

"We can start by letting mother know that she was wrong. If she sees that we are all mad at her, she will realize how much she screwed up and she will apologize rather than try to pass the blame," Jade suggested.

"I already told her that much. So I guess you have to give her a call yourself and give her a piece of your mind," Bryan said and Jade nodded.

"I will do just that."

"You are not mad at Sonia, are you?" Bryan asked, and she scowled.

"I'm not. It just annoys me how she doesn't mind prying into other people's business but when it comes to Lucy she acts like her moral compass is so high," Jade said and Bryan sighed.

"That is only because it is Lucy's business. I'm sure she wouldn't mind you prying into her business. Since Lucy isn't the type to meddle in other people's business unless she is involved, Sonia is just trying to have Lucy's back," Bryan said defensively and Jade eyed him.

"Why are you defending her when you were mad at her earlier?" Jade asked and he smiled.

"I'm not that mad at her. I understand why she did what she did. I just like to see her beg and try to make peace," Bryan said and Jade shook her head.

"Where is Matt anyway?" She asked and Bryan chuckled.

"I completely forgot he is here. I should probably go find him and show him to his bedroom," Bryan said as they both rose.

"Why would Lucy not want to marry Tom?" Jade asked, and Bryan gave her a pointed look.

"I don't know. I'm sure she has her reasons and I'm sure Tom has his reasons for sticking with her. So, stay out of it," Bryan warned before walking away.

Jade sighed as she looked around her for her phone so she would give her mother a call and then check if Harry had gotten home, but she realized that she had left it in her bedroom.

As she returned upstairs she couldn't help but wonder what Lucy's reason was for not wanting to marry Tom. It was weird.

Did Harry know about it? She mused, and then remembered something about Harry asking her not to brag about her and Bryan getting married before Tom.

Was that why he had said that? That had to be it. Of course, Harry must know everything that had to do with Tom and Lucy. She was just going to ask him about it. Not because she was prying or wanting to meddle but because she just wanted to satisfy her curiosity.

She decided that once she was done with the phone calls, she would apologize to Lucy and get the girls together so they could discuss the wedding preparations as planned.

Chapter 680 What Egg?

Sonia, who had followed Lucy into Tom's bedroom, was torn between wanting to vent with Lucy and calming her down since she knew that Lucy had every right to be upset.

She wasn't even Lucy, yet she was blowing very hot herself after listening to what Evelyn had to say.

If she didn't want her husband getting upset at her, she should've not meddled in the first place. Even though Lucy had not asked Lawrence to report himself, she was pretty sure Desmond would have found out about it and would have still gotten upset, so why put the blame on Lucy?

How could Evelyn, who was supposed to be a mother that would pull the family closer together, be the one acting in a way that was causing so much unnecessary drama all because she was too proud to accept that she was wrong and apologize?

"You can vent if you want to," Sonia told Lucy since she seemed too calm.

"I think I've said all I need to say for tonight. I'm sorry you got dragged into it because of me," Lucy said, and Sonia waved it off.

"Don't be. You have no idea how much I had to hold back myself from snatching the phone from Bryan and scolding Evelyn myself. I can't believe Evelyn is trying to blame you for the result of her actions. How could she keep saying all the wrong things when all she had to do was apologize?" Sonia said, sounding more pissed than she intended to, so she rose up and began to pace to work off the steam.

Lucy smiled. This was probably one of the best things about the both of them dating two brothers. She felt much better knowing her best friend was on her side. Sonia's loyalty was unquestionable.

"I'm glad you didn't do that. The last thing I want is for you to have any problems with her on my account. Especially now that you are getting married to Bryan soon. We don't want you to be on her bad books too," Lucy said, and Sonia, who had been pacing around the room, stopped to scowl at Lucy.

"Who cares about being on her good book? In case you haven't gotten the memo yet, she just got herself on my bad book for pulling this shit tonight! And I told Bryan we are both going to have a problem if he dares to take his mother's side! You are my best friend, and whoever is against you is against me!" Sonia said in annoyance, making Lucy giggle.

"Is it the pregnancy hormone? You look more pissed than I am. Quit overreacting," Lucy said, wanting to make light of the situation so that Sonia wouldn't be so upset in her state.

"I am pissed! I expect you to be too!" Sonia hissed, and Lucy giggled.

"Did you come in here to get me riled up, or are you here to calm me down? Besides, it's your first time in the master's suite," Lucy reminded Sonia, knowing the best way to distract her from her annoyance was to arouse her interest in something else.

Unlike the other bedrooms in the house, Tom's was designed as a suite, and even though you could see the bedroom from the little living room immediately you walked into the bedroom, you needed to go into the bedroom to see all of it and the balcony.

"Yeah. I know. But I'm too annoyed to care about that for now. I'm certain there will be other opportunities for me to see it. I'm just so disappointed in Evelyn for causing all this mess. All she had to do was apologize. But she is too proud to do so and..."

"Evelyn isn't proud," Lucy cut in, and Sonia scowled.

"The very first time we met, she apologized to me for something I had no idea she even did. She isn't proud. I think she is very upset over her misunderstanding with Desmond, and it is making her illogical. I don't think they usually have serious issues like this," Lucy said with understanding.

"Really? So, you're not mad at her?" Sonia asked in disbelief, and Lucy sighed.

"I thought I was earlier, but seeing you mad at her made me try to reevaluate the situation so I could calm you. And I think I can understand why everyone is acting the way they are acting right now. Mind you; I'm not saying it is alright for them to do any of this. I'm just saying I can understand where they are all coming from. So, can you please stop being so mad? We don't want a baby with anger issues," Lucy joked, and Sonia's hand moved to her abdomen, and she sighed.

"And you don't care that because of her, your private business is now public knowledge. I still can't believe that Bryan and Jade are gullible enough not to see what their mother is doing and how she has successfully turned the issue from what it is and made it about you not wanting to get married," Sonia said, getting back to the subject.

Lucy had been surprised to hear Bryan ask her about her decision not to marry Tom. She couldn't say her feelings had been hurt when she found out Evelyn had been the one to tell Bryan about it. It was no news that the Hank family had a problem with keeping secrets, the only exceptions for her being Tom and his dad.

"You can't blame them. I think they were just too shocked by the news to care about anything else. It doesn't mean they have been distracted from the main issue," Lucy said in their defense, and Sonia scowled.

"Why are you defending them? I thought we were both supposed to be mad at them?" Sonia asked, and Lucy grinned.

"I'm not defending them. It is what it is. I'm just trying to rationalize things, so I understand why they asked the question. And I'm not mad at them. I just needed to seize that opportunity to draw the line and make it clear I wouldn't tolerate any more meddling from any of them," Lucy said, and Sonia sighed as she sat down on the couch beside Lucy.

"I can see why you are her favorite daughter-in-law to be. She is going to be so ashamed of herself and regret this action when she finds out you are more open now to the idea of marriage to Tom," Sonia said, and Lucy smiled.

"I don't plan to say a word of it to Tom anytime soon until I'm done with my therapy, so it has to stay between us until then," Lucy said, and Sonia nodded.

"Sure. I understand. God, Lu! Your self-control needs to be studied in college. I thought I was coming in here to calm you, but you calmed me instead. Heaven knows if I were in your shoes, I wouldn't be sitting here so calmly rationalizing shit. I'd have called her out for this nonsense she pulled. If her kids are not sensible enough to do..."

The rest of her words trailed off when Tom opened the door, and Lucy bit back a giggle when Sonia flushed in embarrassment, wondering whether Tom had heard what she had just said.

Sonia knowing that they needed privacy to talk, quickly rose, "Talk to you later," Sonia said to Lucy as she quickly left the bedroom.

Tom walked further into the room, looking at Lucy without saying anything as he went to sit beside her on the spot Sonia had vacated.

He felt really sorry that his family was making things hard for her, and he blamed himself for it. If only he had handled the situation like he should have, then his mother wouldn't have made this about Lucy.

"I'm sorry. I'm sorry things had to go this way because I failed to handle it properly," He said as he took Lucy's hand in his.

"You don't have to apologize, love. It's not your fault that things turned out this way. I don't blame you, Tom, and I don't blame them either. I understand that they are your family and are only looking out for you in the best way they can. I just want them to be able to respect our relationship and not interfere unless either of us asks them to," Lucy said softly.

"Aren't you mad?" He asked, and Lucy shrugged.

"Maybe earlier, I was mad a little, but I'm not mad anymore. I'm kind of glad this is all happening," She said, and Tom raised a brow.

"Why?"

"Well, seeing how your mom is reacting to it because your dad is mad at her, I don't think she would want to interfere in our business again and risk having problems with him. And I got my chance to confront Bryan and Jade. Now everyone would know that your girlfriend is not easy to mess with," She said, and Tom smiled.

"Thank you, Jewel," Tom said as he drew Lucy closer for a kiss.

"I should be thanking you for letting me do this my way and not trying to protect them," She said after they broke the kiss.

"I'm sorry my mom told them about your decision," Tom said, and Lucy shrugged.

It didn't matter that much to her now. Especially as she was reevaluating her choices.

"That is not important right now. They were bound to find out about it sooner or later. Besides, it gave me the opportunity I needed to vent," Lucy said, and Tom gazed at her silently for a moment.

"You are indeed my priceless Jewel," Tom said, and she smiled.

"How did you handle it with them anyway?" Lucy asked with interest.

"I only told them not to interfere. And I made it clear I will be mad if they side with her on this," Tom said, and Lucy sighed.

"This wasn't the evening we bargained for, was it?" She asked, and Tom shook his head.

"It wasn't what I bargained for. I thought I was finally going to be having a good night's sleep after being unable to sleep for the last couple of nights," Tom said, and Lucy scowled.

"Too bad. That wasn't what I bargained for myself," She said, and Tom raised a brow.

"Now I'm curious to know what you bargained for," Tom said with a small smile, and Lucy grinned.

"Well, I planned to do something crazy with you tonight to celebrate the DNA result being negative," Lucy said, and he narrowed his eyes.

"Crazy? How crazy?" Tom asked when he saw the mischief in her eyes.

"I don't think I should tell you that anymore since you made it clear you would rather sleep," Lucy said with a coy smile as she rose, and Tom grabbed her hand as he rose up too.

"C'mon!" He said excitedly, and she giggled.

"You should go to bed..."

"How do you expect me to sleep easy when you just told me you had other plans? Besides, I thought you had plans with the girls," Tom said, and she raised a brow.

"When has my plans with the girls ever stopped my plans with you? Besides, that was supposed to make it even crazier and more interesting," She said with a smirk.

"Just what were you planning, Jewel?" Tom asked in amusement.

"You really want to know?" Lucy asked, and Tom rolled his eyes.

"Of course! I won't be asking if I didn't want to know, would I?" He asked, and she grinned.

"Alright. Kiss my forehead, and I will tell you," She said, and Tom kissed her forehead, amused by the show she was putting up.

Lucy pointed to her left cheek for him to do the same, and he did. And then she pointed to her right cheek, the tip of her nose, her chin, her neck, and then her lips.

Tom could tell she was doing all this to make sure he was okay, and he showed his appreciation for the gesture by playing along.

As he kissed her lips, he deepened the kiss, and his hands reached to grab her boob and her ass, making her laugh as she quickly pulled away.

"Okay. Alright. You're doing far more than I asked for," She said with a giggle, and Tom smiled as he watched her.

"You know I can't resist you. So, are you going to tell me now?" He asked, and she nodded.

"Well, I wanted us to do this earlier, after dinner, before the mood got ruined. Remember that egg?" She asked, and Tom frowned.

"What egg?" He asked, and she looked at him, wriggling her brows suggestively as she waited for him to figure out what she was talking about.

"C'mon Lu. I have a lot in my head right now and can't play guessing games..."

"Really? I guess you're not interested enough, then. One would think you'd easily guess the egg I'm talking about since it's the only one in this room," Lucy said with a pout, and Tom looked at her for a moment before his eyes widened in disbelief.

"The vibrator?" He asked, and she grinned as she bobbed her head, surprising him even more.

"But you said you didn't want to put any inanimate thing inside you when I asked you to do it " He reminded her.

"Well, that was then. I want to give it a try now. I want us to try something new," She said with a grin, and Tom watched her in disbelief.

"Jewel..."

"You didn't discard it, did you?" She asked, and he shook his head.

"Good. We can always try it some other time. The evening is ruined already. I mean, you are upset, and I don't think you're up for any of this, so I should probably let you sleep..." She let the rest of her words trail off with a pout as she batted her lashes at him.

"No fucking way!" Tom exclaimed, making Lucy giggle.

"Where are you learning all this from?" Tom asked in amusement.

"I suppose it comes naturally to me. Tell me, how do you feel now?" Lucy asked, and Tom smiled.

"It's hard to remain upset when you are like this," He said, and she smiled, pleased that he was okay.

"Good. I'm glad that you feel better now. I'm going to be Sonia's maid of honor, you know? And it is my duty to make sure everything goes smoothly. Candace informed me they would be leaving for Sogal by weekend, and since she came over tonight so we can all plan the wedding, I need to make sure we all stick to the plan so that her leaving Jamal tonight wouldn't be in vain," Lucy said, and Tom nodded.

"Alright. I will wait up for you as promised earlier," He said, and she smiled.

"I think we need to relieve the tension since everyone is sort of upset. So, why don't you come downstairs as well? I will gather everyone together," She suggested, and Tom raised a brow.

"And the egg?" He asked, and she grinned.

"That's the fun part. I'm going to put it on, and you can operate the remote controller while we are out there. I'd love to see how much self-control I have," Lucy said, and Tom chuckled.

"I would love to see that, too," He said with a grin.

"Alright. Go get it, and I will put it on before going out to gather the others. I also think you should give your dad a call before you come downstairs. Only you can calm him right now," Lucy said, and Tom merely smiled as he looked at her, letting his gaze convey his thoughts.

He felt like he had run out of compliments to give to her. She was amazing in every way possible.

A couple of minutes later, Tom watched as Lucy inserted the egg inside her, and immediately after she was done adjusting her clothes, he pressed the power button as he had always wanted to do, and Lucy gasped when she felt the vibration, making them both laugh.

"How does it feel inside you? Does it feel like me?" He asked, and she shook her head.

"No. It feels weird walking around with this, but I'm sure I will adjust soon enough," She said as she headed for the door.

"I'm going out now. Be careful with that, and don't let the others see it," She warned, and he grinned.

"Sure," He promised as he watched her leave.

Once she shut the door behind her, Tom sat on the bed and sighed as he thought about what he had overheard her and Sonia say earlier before he could walk into the bedroom.

So, he had not been wrong, and she was becoming more open to the idea of getting married to him? What changed? Was it because of Kimberly and Dawn? He mused.

Hearing that had contributed most to the uplifting of his mood, and even though he had really wanted to ask her about it earlier, he had decided not to since she had made it clear to Sonia that she wanted to wait until after her therapy before discussing it with him.

He was going to patiently wait for her until she was ready to talk to him about it. And while waiting, he was going to be the best and most supportive boyfriend he could possibly be to her and give her even more reasons to want to marry him, Tom decided happily.