

Wild Night 701

Chapter 701 Your Choice

Even though Lucy was curious to see Dawn and Kimberly in person, she didn't follow Tom as he went downstairs since it was their family business and had nothing to do with her.

Instead she busied herself with packing her bag. She was just going to go over to her parent's house to spend the time there and would attend Lawrence's funeral from home.

She was not needed here. She could tell her presence here was causing more trouble than good, and maybe she just wasn't compatible enough with Tom and his family.

They were all misunderstanding each other and Tom's attitude was beginning to make her feel like she was the problem when all she had been trying to do was set healthy boundaries.

She glanced at the door when a knock sounded followed by Sonia's voice, "Lu? Are you in?" Sonia called, and Lucy brushed the tears away from her face as she walked over to the door to meet her.

"What are you up to?" Sonia asked since she had seen Tom going downstairs alone earlier and had figured Lucy was in the bedroom.

She had realized that they were yet to talk about the craziness of the fact that Dawn was Lawrence's child, and they were yet to discuss how absurd Kimberly's request was. She had come for them to do that as the others were busy talking with Kimberly.

"Packing my stuff. I think I should go over to my parents for the time being," Lucy said and Sonia frowned when she noticed that Lucy seemed upset.

"Why? Don't tell me it's because of what happened during breakfast," Sonia asked, and Lucy shook her head as tears stung her eyes.

Lucy's lips wobbled as she spoke, "I think I'm causing too much trouble for everyone..."

"Did Tom say that?" Sonia asked with a frown.

"Not in those exact words. He didn't have to. You saw how upset Evelyn was. Tom was upset too," Lucy said as a tear dropped from her eyes and Sonia shook her head.

"Let's take a stroll," Sonia suggested as she took Lucy's hand and tried to pull her out of the bedroom.

"Let me get my phone," Lucy said as she went to pick up her phone from the bed, and she said nothing else as she followed Sonia quietly.

Sonia led her to the main balcony. After they were both seated, Sonia looked at her as she waited patiently for Lucy to say what was upsetting her.

"I can't believe Tom is blaming me for raising the subject. I admit that I was wrong to have brought it up without discussing it with him first, but how could he accuse me of trying to stir things up?" Lucy asked, feeling genuinely hurt.

"Maybe he was upset because his mom was upset," Sonia said reasonably.

"And he thinks I'm not upset that she was so upset? I wish I didn't say anything. I wish I had just kept mute about the whole thing and let him sweep it under the rug like he wanted to," Lucy said and Sonia shook her head.

"We both know you could never have ignored it even if you tried. Besides, Desmond supports you. Bryan and Jade might not be happy that their mother is upset but they agree that this had to happen. Don't beat yourself too much over it," Sonia said and Lucy shook her head.

"This is the last time I'm ever going to interfere in anything that involves Tom and his family. I'm not going to get involved. If they want to meddle in each other's business, I'm going to let them do that as long as it doesn't affect me in any way," Lucy said and Sonia sighed.

"If you really want to step out of the house, we can both go over to my apartment or go see your parents but we will come back. Leaving now is a bad idea, trust me. You took your leave from work so you will be with Tom. You can't just leave now over a misunderstanding," Sonia said and Lucy drew a deep breath.

"It's not like he stopped me from leaving when I said I wanted to leave. He doesn't want me here. What use is my presence here if I'm causing him trouble?" Lucy asked and Sonia patted her shoulder.

"I'm sure he was only upset. He is going to apologize when he is calm enough..."

"I honestly don't care for his apology..." the rest of her words trailed off when her phone started ringing and she checked to see it was her mother calling.

While she spoke with her mom who had called to check on her and inform her they were on their way to pay the Hanks a visit, Sonia busied with checking for the hot news of the day.

Lucy raised a brow when Sonia's jaw suddenly dropped as she stared at her screen in disbelief, and Sonia turned the screen so that Lucy would see the trending news online.

Away from there, seeing the way the Hank family were gathered in the living room, no outsider would guess what had happened between them during breakfast.

Evelyn looked like her usual self, fully in control and her hand was tucked in Desmond's hands who was seated beside her.

Although Tom was still pretty upset over his misunderstanding with Lucy, he managed to keep a straight face as he waited for his parents and Kimberly to speak, since as far as he was concerned he had no business to discuss with Kimberly.

He pretended not to notice the way Dawn was staring at him with adorable eyes and avoided looking in the kid's direction entirely.

Desmond cleared his throat, "We have all deliberated on your request and we agreed that you have to come clean with your family. Tom won't be taking responsibility for something his grandfather did. You do not care about my father's reputation more than we do," Desmond said without beating around the bush.

"But I think my paren..."

"There are no buts. It's absurd that you would make such a request in the first place. If you knew anything about Lawrence then you would know that he wasn't the type of man to ditch his

responsibilities. He would never have wanted Tom to take the fall for him. You put both yourself and Lawrence in this mess, so you should deal with it. If you need us to speak with your parents, we will. But what you want isn't going to happen," Evelyn said firmly.

Everyone turned to Tom when his phone started ringing and he excused himself when he realized it was Harry. They had both not had the time to speak since the previous day after he left Ludus, and right now he would rather speak to Harry than just sit there.

"It's Harry," Tom said as he excused himself and walked away to receive the call.

"Hey! I'm sorry I haven't been able to call to find out how things are going over there. It's been crazy here," Tom said the moment he received the call, and Harry frowned.

"I guess that's why you haven't seen the news. Or have you seen it? I've been busy myself. Eric only just brought it to my notice a moment ago," Harry asked, and Tom raised a brow.

"What news is it this time?" He asked, tired already of whatever it was.

"Well, I've been doing all I can to get the sites to take it down. It's a rumor about the possibility of a marriage between you and Kimberly, giving details of the closeness between your family and hers, and there are pictures of the kid too. Basically they're saying you both already have a kid together. I'm doing all I can to handle it so you don't have to worry," Harry said and Tom stood still.

"Tom? Are you there?" Harry asked when Tom said nothing.

"I think Kimberly and her parents are behind this," Tom said, feeling his blood boil at being forced into this mess.

"Jade told me about Kimberly and your grandfather. I considered that her parents might be behind it but I didn't want to jump to conclusions yet," Harry said honestly.

"Kimberly is here right now. Let me call you back," Tom said as he hung up the call and returned to the living room.

"Are you behind the news or is this your parents doing?" Tom asked Kimberly harshly and everyone in the living room looked at him

"What news?" Desmond asked the question that was on everyone's mind while Jade quickly went online to find out what was happening.

"It's here. Rumors of marriage between Tom and Kimberly who have a daughter together. There are pictures of the kid here," Jade said without reading through the article.

"Did you know about this? Are you behind it? Did you do it to force Tom's hand?" Evelyn asked, feeling very annoyed.

"It wasn't me. My parents are behind it. I was going to mention it earlier but you didn't let me get a word in. I called them before coming here and they said if Thomas was going to be a coward about taking responsibility for his child, then they would have to do something about it since Lawrence is dead and they can't trust your husband to handle things," Kimberly explained to Evelyn.

"I'm going to sue them for this," Tom said angrily, but his father shook his head.

"Suing them will only escalate things and bring unnecessary attention to you. Right now, it's only a speculation so we can ignore it and handle things internally. Let's straighten things out right now," Desmond said as he looked at Kimberly.

"Give your father a call," Desmond said but Kimberly was hesitant to do that.

Although she was a grown lady, she knew how her parents could be, and she was scared of what their reaction might be the moment they find out Dawn was Lawrence's.

"Is there a reason you're not doing as you've been told? Or do we have to escalate things before you realize that you're not going to have your way?" Evelyn asked impatiently.

"It shouldn't be so hard to tell them the truth. It's not like they're going to disown you and your daughter. The worse they can do is be mad at our grandfather. That's the worse that can happen," Jade said, trying to encourage Kimberly to call her parents.

Kimberly shook her head but didn't say a word. They didn't know her parents like she did. She knew it wouldn't be as easy as they were all thinking it would be.

She glanced down at Dawn, "Can you take her somewhere else? I don't want her to be here when we talk to my parents," Kimberly told Jade, and even though Jade didn't want to miss what was going on, she rose and reached a hand out to Dawn.

"Go with her, darling. Mummy needs privacy," Kimberly told Dawn, and watched as they both walked away.

The moment Kimberly was certain that Dawn was nowhere close, she dialed her father's line and they all waited for the call to connect.

"You can either tell them exactly what they need to know or we will tell them ourselves. I believe it is better they hear it from you," Evelyn said Kimberly rose just as the call connected.

"Hello, Dad!" she greeted in a shaky voice while Tom, Bryan, and their parents continued to look at her.

"Hello, honey! Your mother and I were just talking about you and Lawrence's grandson...."

Kimberly's palms both felt sweaty as she held the phone very tightly against her ear and cut in, "Thomas is really not Dawn's father. Dawn's biological father is Lawrence Hank not Thomas," Kimberly said very quickly before she could lose courage.

"What are you talking about?" Her father asked in a very grave voice.

"I'm sorry. I'm very sorry. I didn't mean to hurt you or to disappoint you. I..." Kimberly stopped talking when she realized her father had hung up and she turned to Desmond with tearfilled eyes.

"He hung up," she informed them, and almost immediately her phone started ringing with a call from her mother.

"Kim? What is this your father is saying? You admitted to having a one night stand with Lawrence's grandson, didn't you? Why are you trying to break our hearts by coming up with such a lie about you and Lawrence? You are only saying this because Thomas is denying you and Dawn, aren't you?" Her mother asked, and Kimberly broke into a sob when she heard the hope in her mother's voice.

"It's the truth, mom. Lawrence is Dawn's biological father..."

"No! There is no way Lawrence could have had any sexual relations with you. You don't know what you're talking about! How can you say a man old enough to be your grandfather is the father of your kid? That is absurd!" Her mother exclaimed in dismay, ignoring Kimberly's tears.

"I'm sorry, mom. I'm sorry. I didn't mean for you to find out this way or for any of this to happen," Kimberly cried, and her father snatched the phone from his wife.

"If what you're saying is the truth, then I don't want to see that kid in my house...."

"DAD! You can't do that. She is still your granddaughter and she...."

"I don't know who that kid is. You've been lying to us this whole time and the only way I can stand you right now is by not seeing the kid. So, you can either leave her behind and come back home at once, or you can go wherever you please with her and don't come back at all! It's your choice!" Her father said before hanging up, and Kimberly broke into a sob.

Chapter 702 I Need Me

After Lucy's phone call with her mom, she and Sonia read through the entire length of the first article talking about Tom and Kimberly.

And they went further to take a look at some of the posts on social media blogs concerning it.

As expected, Lucy's name was mentioned in most of the comments sections. Some speculated that she was the reason Tom had not married Kimberly the whole time and she was causing problems between the couple hence the family had decided to step in.

Others said they knew it would never work out between her and Tom since he was way out of her league and Kimberly was more suited to him than she was.

Some others talked about how Thomas Hank who was had always kept a low profile had become so exposed to the public because he got involved with the likes of Lucy who was beneath him, and if he had stuck with Kimberly all the way he would have been able to maintain his low profile.

Sonia looked up from her phone to Lucy when a fat tear drop fell on her hand and she realized that Lucy was crying.

Lucy shook her head as she rose, "I'm sorry, Sony, but I really think I should leave. I don't want to deal with all this mess," Lucy said as she rose from her seat.

"This is a mess you're going to have to deal with as Tom's girlfriend. Following this news all eyes is going to be on you. You are the confirmation they're all going to need. If you take a step away from Tom, everyone is going to assume it is because it is true. No one is going to care that something else happened behind closed doors. Besides, you are not like the ignorant fools who wrote this article or the idiots commenting on what they know nothing about. You know the truth. You know better..."

"Yes! I know the truth and that is why I want to leave. I want a break because I know better. If I had thought only about myself and had been selfish from the start to leave when this whole Kimberly and Tom thing started out as a prank, I wouldn't have thought about stepping in to cause so much trouble within the family and Tom wouldn't be blaming me either for trying to stir things up...."

Sonia shook her head as she cut in, "No, Lu. All of this is unrelated...."

"Is it? Because I don't think so. It is all Tom drama. Tell me what I'm expected to do right now? Sit around here and do what while I'm being talked about this way by people who know nothing about me? I told you already that I'm not getting involved in Tom's business anymore. I see no reason why I should be here when we are mad at each other," Lucy said and Sonia sighed as she rose and placed both hands on Lucy's arm.

"Tom needs you..."

"I need me! I need myself too, Sony! I'm not happy about any of this. I'm not going to lie to you or pretend otherwise. I'm not happy. As much as I love Tom, there is just too much drama surrounding him, and his attitude right now isn't helping matters. And before you think about reminding me that I had my drama with the scandal and Tom stood by me, I'd like to remind you that I would never have had that scandal in the first place had I not been involved in a relationship with him. Anita would never have picked on me to do what she did. All of that happened because of my relationship with Tom. We've barely been together for two months yet the drama is more than what most people experience in a lifetime of relationship. I have been doing my best, Sony. Heaven knows that I have been trying. And you can attest to the fact that I've been working on myself too. I've come a long way from who I was when I moved to Ludus, and some times I can't even recognize myself. Everyone is always quick to want to point out how good Tom is to me and how he is trying, but you all seem to forget that he chose all of this! I didn't! I didn't want any of this until he showed up and forced himself into my life. Call me selfish, but I was minding my business on my own when he came into my life with all of this drama, and now I'm being made to feel like I'm the bad person who wants to ruin him and tear his family apart. I'm emotionally drained and exhausted! I'm going to step back and let them handle everything their Hank way. I don't think I can keep doing this. Who knows what other drama is going to come up after this or how I'm going to be dragged into it?" Lucy ranted as tears ran down her cheeks, while Sonia teared up.

Jade, who had been searching for Sonia and Lucy because she had gone to the bedrooms to find them so she could leave Dawn with them for a moment but had not seen them, stood away from the balcony with the kid as she listened to Lucy's rant.

"Do you really think leaving now would make you feel better? Will leaving change the public's opinion about you. Do you think you will worry less about Tom and all of this business even after you leave? If you think it will make you feel better, then feel free to leave. But we both know you love him too much for that. And yes, I agree that you've come a long way from the person you were months ago, but you still have a long way to go. We all do actually. Tom is your man, Lucy, and you might both be mad now, but you won't always be mad. Couples have misunderstandings all the time but what matters is how you deal with each other in such times and how you choose to fix it. Talk things through with him again when you're both calm and resolve it. Don't pack up and leave in the middle of a misunderstanding. That's never the best thing to do, unless of course physical violence is involved, which I know that's not the case. I will advise you both should be mad together under the same roof than for you to leave," Sonia said as she brushed off Lucy's tears and embraced her.

Jade sighed as she looked down at the kid who was yet to say a word to her but seemed like she was also listening to what Sonia and Lucy were saying.

"Seems like we are stuck together. Everyone else is busy," Jade told Dawn as she led her to her bedroom instead. She had hoped to leave the kid with Sonia and Lucy so she could go back to

follow up the conversation with the rest of her family, but that was obviously not going to happen now.

Downstairs, the Hanks looked at Kimberly as they waited patiently for her to compose herself and tell them what her parents had said.

Evelyn walked over to the dining and picked up the box of tissues there which she handed to Kimberly to blow her nose.

"He doesn't want me to bring Dawn back home with me," Kimberly explained after blowing out her nose.

"Well, that's an expected initial reaction. Any parent would be angry and disappointed," Desmond said but Kimberly shook her head.

"I know my father. He means it. How can he ask me to choose between them and my daughter?" She asked tearfully.

"You messed up, and naturally your parents will need time to come around," Desmond said sympathetically but neither Tom nor Bryan were feeling the least sympathetic towards her.

"For the time being we have to send your parents the paternity DNA result which Tom conducted in order to clear any doubts they might still be having of Tom being your daughter's father. That way we can ask them to make sure to take down everything they've put out there," Evelyn said and Kimberly nodded as she passed her phone to Evelyn so that they could copy out her father's details.

Tom walked over to them and once he took her father's phone number, he forwarded the link of the DNA result to her father so that he could access it the same way he had accessed it.

After Tom had done that, Desmond waited a couple of minutes before dialing the number on his phone and he excused himself and walked away them to go into his study, but Evelyn and Tom followed him.

The call connected on the fifth ring, "Hello! This is Desmond Hank," Desmond introduced himself politely as he placed the phone on speaker for Evelyn's benefit.

"I believe you received the text from my son, and my call shouldn't come as a surprise to you considering the false information you put out there about my son," Desmond said when Kimberly's father said nothing after he introduced himself.

"You have some nerve calling me to say that considering how your father and son used my daughter..."

"I beg your pardon?" Desmond asked in disbelief.

"You heard me right. How shameless can your family be? Your father violated a girl young enough to be his granddaughter and your son used her as well when she was in a vulnerable state. Unless you are calling to take responsibility for this mess your family has put mine into, I don't want to have any business to do with your family. And for all our sakes I suggest you keep the little girl and release my daughter back to me," Kimberly's father said bitterly before hanging up.

"What does he mean take responsibility for the mess? Why do we have to do anything about this nonsense when it's all his daughter's fault?" Evelyn who had listened to the conversation asked irritably while Desmond looked at his phone in disbelief.

"This is all grandfather's fault! If he had not decided to play such a prank in the first place I wouldn't have had to be drawn into all of this mess," Tom said in annoyance even though he had not heard the whole of the discussion because he hadn't been standing very close to his parents.

"You wouldn't have been dragged into this mess if you zipped up your pants and didn't have anything to do with her in the first place," Desmond said with disapproval.

He really wished his father was alive and here so he could give him a piece of his mind for all of this.

"No, please. Let's not do this. Now is not the time to pass blames. We need to fix this quickly," Evelyn said with a concerned frown.

"How can it be fixed when her father so obviously thinks we are to blame here? Getting all the blogs and news sites to take down the false information is going to be next to impossible because of the influence of the Moore family. The way I see it, I only have two options. It's either I sue them for this or I just ignore it, and I can't just ignore it. My reputation is at stake here, and there is Lucy as well," Tom said, feeling even more upset at the thought of Lucy seeing the news.

It was bad enough that they were upset at each other already. This was going to make things worse. He knew how much she hated drama.

"We should leave it to Kimberly to handle it now that her father is aware you are not the kid's father," Desmond said and Evelyn sighed.

"What about the kid? You heard what her father said," Evelyn reminded Desmond and he sighed while Tom walked out of the study back to face Kimberly.

"I hope you are happy that you're messing up things for everyone. This is all your fault! I still can't believe that you had the guts to even request that I pretend to be your baby's father!" Tom said angrily, not minding that Kimberly was still weeping.

"Tom, you need to calm down," Bryan said with a sigh since he was the only one who had remained in the living room with Kimberly.

"Would you be calm if you were in my shoes? How can I stay calm when my name is all over the internet this way?" Tom asked, facing Bryan angrily.

"I'm sorry. I never knew things would get to this," Kimberly cried.

"I think you should go home to your parents and resolve things with them. You created this mess by not being honest with them from the beginning and only you can fix it," Desmond said as he joined them in the living room again.

"What do I do about Dawn? I have no where to take her. My parents won't see me if I take her with me. I know them well enough to know they won't let me anywhere close to them with Dawn," Kimberly said tearfully and Evelyn looked at Desmond.

"You can leave her here with us for the time being and go back home to your parents. I'm pretty sure your parents would come around soon enough and would ask you to bring her back. She is their granddaughter after all and they're bound to miss her," Evelyn said, and Tom raised a brow as he turned his disbelieving gaze to both his parents.

"Is that what you both agreed on? Do you realize that leaving the kid here and doing nothing about the rumors would make everyone believe she is truly my daughter and that the rumors are true! How is this any different from me claiming to be the father?" Tom asked incredulously.

"This is different. We have to handle things delicately. No one has to know the kid is here with us. She is your grandfather's daughter and we all agreed to take responsibility for her, remember? I will take care of her and after Kimberly resolves things with her parents, we can all decide on whether or not to make an official statement about the child's paternity," Evelyn said reasonably.

"I'm sorry, what do you mean by decide whether or not to make an official statement? This is my reputation we are talking about and I won't be a part of whatever this is. I won't sit around here doing nothing and wait for you all to make such a decision. Since her parents started this madness and do not want to take down the news, I'm going to issue an official statement to refute the rumors and release the DNA result to prove that she is not my child, but grandfather's child. Let's all deal with that scandal together after I clear my name. You can do whatever damage control you want to after that, but it won't be at my expense or that of my relationship," Tom said before walking away to give Harry a call.

703 You Promised.

The moment Tom walked into the bedroom and didn't find Lucy, he panicked thinking she has left as she had threatened to do earlier, but was relieved when his gaze fell on her half-packed bag.

He decided to first give Harry a call and set things in motion before going to find Lucy.

He knew he had not handled things the best way earlier and had allowed his frustration at everything get the best of him to the point that he spoke with Lucy the way he had done.

The moment he dialed Harry's line, the call connected immediately as though Harry had been waiting by his phone for him to call.

"Sup? We are unable to bring down the news. I think whoever put out the information is making sure it is not taken down," Harry said in frustration the moment he picked up.

"It's Kimberly's parents," Tom said and Harry nodded.

"I see. When you telling them the truth then?" Harry asked and Tom quickly told him all that had happened.

"Hmm. The only good side of this is that the rumors are having a positive impact on our stock. I'm sure it's the same for them hence they might not want to put it down yet. Have you made up your mind on what to do?" Harry asked with a sigh.

"Yes. I want to release a statement..."

"Of course, we should. I was actually drafting one already but I wasn't sure how much information you'd want to put out. By the way how is Lucy taking all of this? The comments about her are not flattering at all, and..."

"What comments?" Tom asked with a frown.

"What do you expect? Bad comments of course. Most people are rooting for you and Kimberly since they believe you're most suited for each other. If you want me to read out a couple of the

comments for you, I could, but I would rather not. I find them offensive," Harry said and this made Tom take a deep breath.

Why did all this have to happen now? Why did things have to keep going from bad to worse? Couldn't they catch even a moment's break? Tom mused.

"Let's reveal everything with the DNA test result attached," Tom said and Harry raised a brow.

"Do you also want to reveal that your grandfather is the kid's father?" Harry asked curiously.

"I don't see why not. Why should the truth be covered at my expense? Reveal everything as well as the fact that her parents are behind the false information. Attach receipts and dates to it," Tom said and Harry nodded.

"Alright. Sure. I will handle it and send you a draft of the statement so you can go through it and edit before we send to the public relations team," Harry said and Tom thanked him before hanging up.

As Tom turned to walk out of the room so he could go find Lucy, the door opened and she walked in.

Lucy's heart skipped a beat when she saw him there and her heart ached merely at being in the same room with him so she didn't look his way as she headed for the bed where she had been packing her clothes earlier and Tom watched her as she resumed packing.

"Jewel, I'm sorry," Tom said quietly but Lucy said nothing as she zipped up her bag.

Her silent treatment hurt him more than anything she else she could have said.

"Baby," Tom called softly but Lucy remained silent.

Despite all that Sonia had said, she didn't want to be here. She needed space away from him and his family. She needed space away from all their family drama.

Maybe she would come back later when she was calm, but right now she didn't want to face him or say anything to him.

She carried her bag and headed for the door, but Tom grabbed the bag, "Lucy, please. I'm sorry. I was upset and I know I overreacted. I'm sorry," he said as he held her bag but Lucy still didn't look at him as tears gathered in her eyes.

She let go of the bag and headed for the door, but Tom gently dropped the bag and went to stop her, "Don't leave, please," Tom said as he held her arm.

This time Lucy shook her head, "Why not? What do you want me here for? What am I supposed to do here other than cause trouble for you and your family as you implied?" Lucy asked, her whole body trembling as she tried to hold back from breaking into a sob.

"I didn't mean that. I'm sorry I hurt you. Please, Lucy. I need you here," Tom pleaded and she shook her head.

"I can't. I don't think I can breathe here. I don't want to be here right now..."

"Then if you must leave let's leave together. We can go stay at the hotel together if..."

"No. I don't want to be with you right now! Being with you is too exhausting. I feel drained. I want to be alone," Lucy said still without looking at him as tears dropped from her eyes, and Tom pulled her to himself.

"I was wrong and I'm sorry," Tom said as he held on while Lucy tried to push him away.

"Leave me alone. I don't want to do this," Lucy cried as he patted her back.

"Please don't leave. If you want me to leave the bedroom, I will. But please don't go."

"It doesn't matter. I don't want to be here," Lucy said and Tom stepped away from her so he could look into her face.

"You promised you wouldn't leave me for anything," he reminded her and Lucy shook her head as tears rolled down her cheeks.

"But I can't deal with this. I can handle almost anything but not you turning against me that way and making me feel like I'm causing problems for you," Lucy said as she finally met his gaze, and Tom brushed her tears away.

"That was never my intention. You know me, Lucy. You know I feel guilty enough about dragging you into all of this mess. Everything is messed up and it's getting to me. I didn't mean to take it out on you that way. I'm really sorry," Tom said as he kissed her face and carried her to the bed while Lucy cried softly.

"If you're not comfortable here, we could stay at the hotel. I promise to make sure that what happened today never repeats itself," Tom said after she had calmed a bit.

Lucy shook her head as she pulled away, "You can't leave your family..."

"Yes, I can. And I don't see why not. Especially now that the kid might be here for some time," Tom said and Lucy looked at him with a slight frown.

"What kid? Dawn? She would be here?" Lucy asked in confusion and Tom nodded as he explained all that Kimberly's father had said.

Lucy couldn't help feeling sorry for Dawn. The innocent kid was suffering for the mess the adults had caused.

"Did you see the news already?" Tom asked when Lucy didn't say anything after he was done talking.

Lucy nodded.

"I guess you have seen the comments too?" he asked, and she shrugged.

"I'm sorry you had to see all that," Tom said as he took her hand and she sighed.

"We are going to release an official statement soon. Harry is working on it already and I'm going to see what I can do from my end here. Hopefully the statement would clear up things quickly," Tom promised as he kissed her temple.

Lucy wasn't sure if she was doing the wise thing by staying or if she should leave as she wanted to.

Maybe Sonia was right and she couldn't just walk away because she cared too much and would be too worried about Tom to stay away.

She sighed as she thought about Dawn and she couldn't help but wonder how the kid would cope away from her mother.

Away from there in Jade's bedroom, she sighed as she thought about all she had overheard Sonia and Lucy discussing earlier.

She went online to read the article in detail and see what was going on, and her frowned deepened when she saw all the negative comments about Lucy in the comment section.

Without thinking she started responding to most of the comments angrily in defense of Lucy.

Why did things have to be so complicated? Why was everything such a mess? She wondered as she glanced at Dawn who was busy with her iPad, totally ignorant of the drama her simple existence was causing.

Although Dawn's gaze was on her iPad, her thoughts were far from there since she was too busy trying to understand what was happening as she replayed some of the conversation she had overheard earlier before she was made to leave.

She knew that somehow she was involved in what was happening but she couldn't understand how.

She couldn't understand why her mom had brought her there, or why Tom had seemed so cold the previous night and mad even that morning.

Who were all these people?

Jade rose and went to answer the door when Bryan knocked on it, "What's happening now?" Jade asked and Bryan sighed as he looked past Jade into the room where Dawn was still gazing at her iPad.

"They agreed to let her leave the kid behind so she can go resolve things with her parents. Bring her downstairs so she can say goodbye to her mom," Bryan said and walked away before Jade could ask more questions.

Was it a good idea to leave the kid behind considering how things were right now? Jade mused as after that I will come back for you," Kimberly said and Dawn looked at the faces of the adults gathered 09:50

there.

she took Dawn downstairs.

Immediately Dawn got to where her mom was, Kimberly hugged her and kissed her cheek.

"I'm sorry I have to leave you here for some time, honey. I need to take care of some business and after that I will come back for you," Kimberly said and Dawn looked at the faces of the adults gathered there.

Although she was a kid, but she could tell from their faces that none of them seemed exactly pleased to have her there with them.

"Can't I go with you while you handle your business? I will be a good girl and not bother you," Dawn promised, but Kimberly sniffled as she tried to hold back her tears for daughter's sake.

"No, baby. Not this time. I promise to be quick and come get you before you miss me," Kimberly said and Dawn's face fell.

"How about you take me to grandpa and grandpa?" Dawn asked again, and Kimberly's lips wobbled.

"I want you to stay here, princess. Please don't be stubborn about it. Do this for mummy, okay? I know you're a big girl and can take care of yourself," Kimberly said and seeing the distress on her mother's face Dawn gave her a nod.

"I'm sorry for all the troubles I've caused your family. Please take care of her. I will try to handle things quickly so I can come get her. I will text you her daily schedule..."

"She has a daily schedule?" Jade cut in with a raised brow.

"Yes. If it's okay with you, I can send her governess over..."

"No. We don't want any stranger under our roof. You can send the schedule and we will be sure to follow it," Evelyn assured her.

"Alright. I will. Thanks. You might need to get her some clothes. I will leave her credit card behind," Kimberly said and Evelyn sighed impatiently.

"We don't need her credit card. We can take care of her ourselves and get her all she needs. All you need to do is hurry up and fix things so you can come get her," Desmond said before Evelyn could speak and Kimberly nodded as she straightened up.

"Thanks. When I get back to the hotel I will send her stuff over before leaving," Kimberly said and looked down at Dawn who was holding on tightly unto her hand like she was scared to let go.

"You will be fine sweetheart," Kimberly assured her as she handed her to Evelyn and headed for the door.

Evelyn took Dawn's hand and led her outside so they could watch Kimberly leave, and a tear dropped from Dawn's eyes as she watched her mother get into her rented car and drive off without looking back.

"Are you sure this is a good idea?" Jade asked no one in particular as Evelyn returned into the house.

"Go ask one of the housekeepers to get the guest room set up for her," Evelyn said without answering Jade's question.

Desmond sighed as he walked away to go have some quiet time to himself in his study, while Bryan said nothing as he walked away to return to his bedroom.

No one could say they were entirely sure they were doing the right thing, but Bryan knew for sure that he was in support of Tom's decision.

As Dawn watched everyone walk away, leaving her alone with Evelyn, she knew without a doubt that she wasn't welcome there.

Chapter 704 Tolerance

As Tom busied himself with editing the official statement which Harry had sent him, Lucy sat quietly on the other side of the bed with a slight frown edged between her brows as she kept thinking about everything.

As much as she didn't like what was happening, she couldn't help feeling sorry for Kimberly who had gotten herself into all this mess, and Dawn who had been dragged into the mess of the adults.

As far as she was concerned, Kimberly's parents were irresponsible to have released such an information to the public without caring about the long term effect on both their daughter and granddaughter.

She knew that brows would raise now that Tom was about to release a statement to prove he wasn't the kid's father and that Lawrence Hank was actually the kid's father.

Doing that would pass all sorts of message to the public and they would undoubtedly come to the conclusion that Kimberly had been sexually involved with both grandfather and grandson, and that wouldn't be good for Kimberly's reputation or for Dawn.

It wasn't like any of this was good for Tom's reputation either or hers anyway, considering all that was being said about her on the internet by people who knew nothing about her.

One truth she knew was that everyone was going to do what they could to fix things, but they would all be too busy doing only what worked best and suited them.

She doubted that any of them would really put the kid into consideration. All their actions kept showing that they never put the kid first before making their decisions.

That was was shown in the way neither Lawrence nor Kimberly had given much thought into dragging the kid into their prank, and even the way Kimberly's parents had involved Dawn in the news they had released about Tom and Kimberly.

She doubted that Kimberly had taken her time to explain what was going on to the kid. The kid would be thrown into a state of confusion. How would the kid feel when she grows up and possibly sees all of this?

None of this was fair to the kid.

Or maybe she was just overthinking and over worrying unnecessarily. It wasn't like she cared about the child more than Kimberly or anyone else did. She wasn't even related to the kid in anyway so why was she worrying so much about it? She mused with sigh, drawing the attention of Tom who glanced up from his laptop to look at her, "Are you okay?" He asked and she held his gaze for a moment as though contemplating whether or not to say anything and after some time she gave him a nod.

"Yeah," she said, wanting to stick to her decision of not getting involved in any way.

Tom reached for her hand and kissed the back, "Don't worry, I will do all I can to fix this, okay?" He promised and she nodded.

Lucy reached for her phone when it started ringing and she raised a brow when she noticed it wasn't a number she was familiar with, so she received the call.

"Hello! Lucinda Perry on the line," she said in a formal tone, while Tom watched with interest, wondering who it was.

"Hello! This is Doctor Julia, I hope I didn't catch you at a bad time?" Lucy's therapist asked, and immediately Lucy moved away from Tom making him raise a brow and she raised a finger, asking him to give her a moment.

"No, you didn't," Lucy said as she wondered why Julia was calling her.

"That's great. How are you doing today?" Julia asked and Lucy resisted the urge to sigh.

"Please give me a moment," Lucy said before muting the call and turned to Tom.

"It's the therapist," she explained to Tom and before she could step out of the bedroom, wanting to find somewhere private where she could speak with the therapist in private, Tom rose.

"Don't worry. I will go to the study," Tom assured her as he picked up his laptop and walked out of the room.

"Thanks," Lucy called after him before unmuting the call.

"I'm sorry for the pause, I needed privacy," Lucy explained politely.

"It's fine. I understand," Doctor Julia assured her.

"So, how are you doing?" She asked again since Lucy had not given her a response the first time.

Lucy sighed, "I'm fine, I suppose," Lucy said as she waited to find out why Doctor Julia was calling.

"You suppose?" Julia asked and Lucy sighed.

"Yeah. I'm not letting you trick me into a phone therapy session," Lucy said dryly and Julia laughed softly.

"I had no intention of doing that. As your therapist... You plan to come over for your next session, don't you? I am your therapist, right?" Julia asked since that was part of the reason she had decided to give Lucy a call.

"Yes, you are," Lucy said without hesitation, and Julia smiled.

"But I won't be there tomorrow. I am not in Ludus at the moment," Lucy said before Julia could say anything.

"Well, distance doesn't have to be a barrier. If you can make out the time, we can FaceTime," Julia assured her.

"Really?" Lucy asked with interest.

"Sure. Not all my patients are based in Ludus, you know? So, back to what we were saying, as your therapist, I'd like to know if you're alright or not, and what's going on with you. This is a midweek routine call I make to my patients, or clients as you prefer to be called. It's totally free of charge, I promise," Julia said and Lucy smiled.

"Well, this has nothing to do with what I'm receiving therapy for. I mean it isn't related to my past experience," she said, not sure if Julia would be interested in hearing about how she was having a hard time fitting into Tom's family.

"It's my job to determine what is related or unrelated to your past experience. You never can tell how much influence your past has over your present. So, why not tell me what's going on with you and we can both see how to help you feel better?" Julia suggested and Lucy sighed.

"Are you sure you have the time for that? I mean, you might end up spending a lot of time talking to me when you need to check on your other clients," Lucy said and Julia smiled.

"Do you want to talk about it or not?" Julia asked and Lucy drew in a deep breath.

"I don't know if it's okay to talk about it or if there is anything to talk about in the first place. It's just that I feel sort of out of place with my boyfriend's family. They're great people and I care about them the same way I know they also care about me," Lucy said and Julia raised a brow.

"But?" Julia asked with interest.

"But I'm not used to the way things are done in the family. It's not my character to want to know what is going on in every one's life or to want to interfere, but here everyone seems okay doing it and it not only makes me uncomfortable, it gets on my nerves too. I confronted them about it, but I don't feel relieved. I feel like I'm messing things up and causing problems for everyone," Lucy explained.

"Do they interfere in your personal business?" Julia asked and Lucy considered it for a moment before shaking her head.

"No. Not exactly. But they interfere in our relationship some times," Lucy explained, not wanting to go into details.

"So, it's not like they're directly interfering in your life. It's your partner's life they're interfering in, and you have a problem with that?" Julia asked reasonably.

"Yes."

"And what does your boyfriend think about them interfering in his life?"

"Well, unless things get out of hand I don't really think he minds. "What do you mean?"

"I mean you admitted that it's the way their family operates, but it's I'm not sure it upsets him as much as it upsets me," Lucy admitted.

"It sounds like a YOU problem," Julia pointed out and Lucy frowned.

"What do you mean?"

"I mean you admitted that it's the way their family operates, but it's not your style. What makes you think your way of doing things is the right way and theirs is the wrong way?" Julia asked and Lucy's frown deepened.

"Because it's not normal to want to interfere in other people's life! Even you should know that," Lucy said, not liking that Julia was also sounding like she was wrong to want them to change things.

"Who determines what is normal or what is not? If the reverse was the case and his family was very reserved while you were the one who loved to know everything about everyone and interfere, don't you think you'd still think your way was normal and you'd want them to adjust to suit you?" Julia asked and this time Lucy scowled.

"Did you ask me to share my problem with you just so you can take sides?" Lucy asked irritated by Julia's response.

Julia didn't even know that details of all that happened yet, so how could she be taking sides already? Besides, wasn't she supposed to take her client's side if at all? Lucy mused.

"I'm not taking sides. I'm helping you address the problem from a neutral ground. I haven't said anyone is right or wrong. All I've said is that this is a YOU problem that you need to deal with," Julia explained patiently.

"I don't have any problem! I'm the one minding my business here, don't you get it?" Lucy asked with a frown.

"Are you going to break up with your boyfriend because you can't stand how things are done in his family?" Julia asked patiently.

"No. That's not exactly an option," Lucy said and Julia nodded.

"Good. So, let's say you were going on a trip with a group of people on a bus and they're all noisy and loud, while you on the other hand prefer to sit quietly and maybe read a novel or see a movie during the trip. What do you do when the noise becomes too much?" Julia asked and Lucy shrugged.

"I will simply ask them to keep shut," Lucy said easily.

"They are majority, remember? How can you, a single person ask everyone else to stay a certain way simply because you are not okay? Do you think they would be okay sitting quietly when it's not really their thing? Don't you think asking them to stay quiet would mean inconveniencing them too?" Julia asked reasonably.

"So, what are you saying? That I let them inconvenience me and do nothing?" Lucy asked, wondering where all this was going.

"No. We haven't decided that yet. What other options do you have?" Julia asked and Lucy shrugged.

"I could just get out of the car and get another ride..."

"No, that's not an option. You don't want to get out," Julia said and Lucy sighed.

"Well, if I have my earpiece with me, I could plug it on and listen to music until I sleep off or get to my destination or I could find a way to distract myself," Lucy said with a shrug.

"Good. That's your own form of adaptation, right?" Julia asked, pleased with her response.

"I suppose so."

"Do you know what I would do in such a situation?" Julia asked and Lucy raised a brow.

"What?"

"If I can't beat them, I would join them and wear them out until they're all begging me to take a break," Julia said with a grin and Lucy giggled.

"That's funny."

"Yeah. But that's also another way to adapt. Now imagine that bus as your relationship and the occupants are your boyfriend and his family. Breaking up is not an option the same way getting out of the bus isn't. You have to find ways to adapt so that you wouldn't be stressed out by whatever anyone does around you..."

"I did think of that initially," Lucy admitted.

"Good. You can't just come into his family and expect things to change to suit you. You can't expect everyone to do things as you like things to be done. It doesn't matter whether you are right or wrong. What matters here is how you let what happens around you get to you. You can't decide or determine how others would behave, but you should be in complete control of how you react to it. Things won't always go your way, will you be upset every time it doesn't go your way?" Julia asked and Lucy sighed.

"So, are you asking me not to expect changes or are you advising me to join them if I can't beat them?" Lucy asked curiously.

"I'm simply saying since you have no intention of breaking up with your boyfriend over this, you should find a way to adjust to it whether or not they choose to change. It's called tolerance. When you relate and interact with other people, you will always encounter characters, beliefs, and opinions that are in contrast to yours. When the relationship is important to you, and as long as the behavior of the other person is not detrimental to you in any way, tolerance comes to play. Tolerance requires a conscious effort from you. I'm saying this for your sake, not theirs since it is easier for one person to change than for a group of people to change," Julia said reasonably.

"I will leave you to think about it. We can talk some more about this during your session tomorrow if you are up for it, and then maybe we can both discover how your past is influencing this character in you," Julia said when Lucy said nothing.

Lucy raised a brow, "I told you this has nothing to do with my past."

"And I told you it's my job to determine whether or not it is related. If you're going to be available for the virtual session tomorrow, do well to reach out to my secretary before tomorrow. I have to go now," Julia said before hanging up, and Lucy sighed.

Tolerance. Was that really what she needed to do? To learn how to be more tolerant to Tom's family and their lifestyle? Lucy mused.

Chapter 705 Friends

After Lucy's phone call with Doctor Julia, she picked up her journal and sat on the bed.

She wrote out the word tolerance on her journal and bit her lower lip as she kept pondering on it.

She liked to believe that she was very tolerant of other people's choices as long as their choices didn't interfere with her boundaries.

Was she perhaps not tolerant enough? She mused and glanced at her phone when it vibrated with an Instagram message notification.

She was surprised to see that the message was from Kimberly, so she clicked on it immediately to see what it was.

[I know you must think all sorts of things of me, and I'm sorry to barge in your dm this way again after what I did. But I'm desperately in need of a friend, and you're the only one I can think of. Please, can I talk to you?]

Lucy's eyes teared up as she read the message and without thinking about it she clicked on the call icon.

Kimberly who was on her way to the airport received the call immediately, "Lucy, thanks for calling. I'm sorry to be a bother but I just really needed to talk to someone and you were the only one I could think of," she said in a tearful voice.

"It's alright. You can talk. I will listen," Lucy offered quietly.

"I'm sorry about the prank. I'm really very sorry. All of this mess is my fault. I know I should have said no when Lawrence suggested it, but I just couldn't. I'm so sorry I made a mess of things for everyone. Lawrence died because of my stupidity and I don't think I could ever forgive myself for it," Kimberly's voice broke as she started sobbing, and the driver who was taking her in a cab to the airport looked at her with concern through the rearview mirror.

"You shouldn't beat yourself over his death. It wasn't your fault," Lucy said but Kimberly wasn't listening.

"It's all my fault. Hearing about his daughter must have shocked him so much. He was already feeling terrible over upsetting everyone because of the prank and I added to it. I still can't believe he is gone," Kimberly wept and it occurred to Lucy in that moment that Kimberly was both mourning Lawrence's death and dealing with her family issue at the same time.

She didn't know what to say, so she kept quiet as she listened to Kimberly cry and talk about how she had made a mess of everything and didn't even know how to fix it.

Once Kimberly had calmed down a bit, she cleared her throat, "I'm sorry I called you this way. I know I have no right to," Kimberly said apologetically.

"It's okay. I don't mind."

"Can I ask a favor?" Kimberly asked and Lucy raised a brow.

"What?"

"I know it's selfish of me to want to ask you for anything right now. You can say no if you're not comfortable with it. And I honestly don't expect you to want to help me. But could you help me look after Dawn while you're there. I know she's going to feel lonely and sort of isolated over there but it will help if she has at least one person on her side. I will understand if you say no," Kimberly said and Lucy sighed.

"Is there anything in particular you want me to do for her?" Lucy asked thoughtfully.

"She's smart for her age and thinks deeply about things. I'm sure she is trying to figure out all that is going on right now. I don't want her to think I abandoned her or anything. She might want to keep to herself and stay out of everyone's way. Could you just be with her and help her feel better? I know I'm asking for a lot, but I can't just leave her there and not at least ask someone I can trust to help me take care of her. I would have sent her governess down to be with her, but they don't want a stranger under their roof," Kimberly explained.

"Alright. I will check on her often and make sure she is okay. You do what you need to do and come get her as soon as you can," Lucy said and Kimberly let out a sigh of relief.

"Thank you so much, Lucy. You have no idea how thankful I am."

"It's really not a big deal," Lucy said dismissively.

"It is. And I'm grateful. For what it's worth, Lawrence liked you and really admired you. Although he didn't really appreciate how you threatened him to report himself to his son, he thought you were a good partner for Tom. He said every man needed a no nonsense woman like you by his side," Kimberly said and Lucy smiled ruefully.

Too bad he had died before she could apologize to him.

"Thanks for telling me that," Lucy said and turned to the door when a knock sounded on it.

"I need to go now. I will try to update you on how she's doing as often as I can," Lucy promised before hanging up.

Lucy dropped her phone on the bed as she went to get the door, thinking it was Sonia, but when she opened it, it was Jade.

"Hey! Is Tom inside?" Jade asked and Lucy shook her head.

"No. He went downstairs a short while ago. He should be at the study," Lucy said and Jade sighed.

"I see. Can I speak with you for a moment?" Jade asked, and Lucy shrugged as she stepped aside for Jade to go in.

"Why don't we go to my room instead? That way we won't be interrupted," Jade said and Lucy returned inside to pick up her phone before following Jade to her bedroom.

Lucy was very curious to hear what Jade wanted to talk to her about, and thankfully the moment they were seated, Jade didn't beat around the bush.

"I happened to overhear your conversation with Sonia earlier," Jade confessed and Lucy narrowed her eyes.

"I didn't eavesdrop. I overheard it while trying to find you both," Jade said when she noticed the way Lucy was looking her with suspicion.

"Why were you trying to find us?" Lucy asked curiously.

"I wanted to leave the kid with Sonia so I could be part of the discussions downstairs. I wasn't sure you would be willing to keep watch over her considering everything. And then when I couldn't find Sonia, I figured she was with you and went to Tom's room, but when you weren't there either I had to look around for you both," Jade explained and Lucy drew a deep breath.

"So, where is the kid now?" Lucy asked curiously since she planned to go see the kid the moment she left Jade's room.

"In her room. That's not what I wanted to talk about," Jade said and Lucy raised a brow.

"What do you want to talk about?" Lucy asked and Jade looked at her for a moment.

"I know it's probably not my business, but I couldn't pretend like I didn't hear anything when I did. I hope you don't see this as me meddling or prying in your business," Jade said and Lucy merely looked at her without saying a word.

"I can't say I know how you feel. I do not know about your family, but we have always been this way in our family. By this way, I mean getting involved in everyone's business and giving unsolicited advise. Even if you want us to butt out of your business, I can't assure you that will happen overnight. It's going to be a gradual process for us all. Especially our mom. And there are

times when we might forget and unconsciously slip back into the habit, so, maybe you could try to be more patient with us and Tom too. The last thing any of us would want is for you to end things with Tom because of us. And none of us thinks you want to ruin Tom or tear our family apart either. We have just never had this sort of tension in the home before and everything is getting to everyone," Jade said and Lucy pursed her lips, as she thought about what to say.

"Be honest with me, Jade. Do you think I'm doing too much? Maybe I'm overreacting and demanding too much?" Lucy asked and Jade held her gaze for a moment.

"I believe it wouldn't have gotten to the point where you had to speak to the whole family about it, had things not gotten out of hand. The situation of things prompted your reaction, and anyone would have reacted. So, I can't say you're overreacting or demanding too much," Jade said and Lucy sighed.

"I didn't mean to hurt your mom's feelings."

"I didn't mean to hurt your mom's feelings."

"We all know that. We wish things didn't have to be this way, but it can't exactly be helped right now," Jade said and to Lucy's surprise Jade took her hand.

"You know, I sort of expected that we would become friends and get along easily simply because you were Tom's girlfriend, but I was wrong. And I've always sort of had this notion that you were too uptight and tightlipped. I'm getting to understand you better now. I hope we can be friends and get along. Not because of Tom. But because I admire you," Jade said and Lucy smiled.

"Sure. Thanks. I'd like us to be friends too."

"You must have heard the kid is going to be here for a while, right?" Jade asked and Lucy gave her a nod.

"I'm pretty sure you feel uncomfortable," Jade said and Lucy shook her head.

"No, I don't. If anyone would feel uncomfortable in this situation, it would be Dawn. I know enough about the situation of things to understand why she is here, but she doesn't. Can you imagine how she must feel being in the midst of strangers?" Lucy asked and Jade's brows pulled together.

"Well, she's a kid. Even if it was explained to her she wouldn't understand. And I'm pretty sure she would miss her mom for a while but once she would adjust soon enough," Jade said easily.

"You said she is in her bedroom?" Lucy asked and Jade nodded.

"Yes. She seemed sleepy earlier."

"Which of the bedrooms?" Lucy asked curiously, since she really wanted to see the kid.

"The last bedroom down the hall. It's just after your room. Why do you ask?" Jade asked as Lucy rose.

"I'd like to check in on her. I'm yet to see her," Lucy said and Jade nodded.

"Alright. I should go see Tom," Jade said as she rose and they both walked out of the room together.

Lucy headed down the hall for the visitor's bedroom and when she got there she knocked lightly on the door.

She waited to get a response, and when she didn't, she turned the knob.

Her heart broke the moment she stepped into the room and the first sight that greeted her was of Dawn curled in a fetal position as she wept silently.

Without saying a word, Lucy shut the door behind her and went straight to the bed. She sat on the edge of the bed and pulled Dawn close to her.

"Why are you crying, dearie?" Lucy asked as she patted Dawn's back and brushed the tears from her face but Dawn said nothing as she kept sobbing quietly.

"Don't worry, Dawn. Everything will be alright, and mummy will come get you soon," Lucy assured her softly.

Dawn looked up at her with teary eyes, and for the second time Lucy fell in love with the child.

"Are you Lucy?" Dawn asked with a snuffle momentarily distracted, and Lucy looked at her in surprise.

"Yes. How do you know that?" Lucy asked and Dawn pointed at her iPad.

"My mom said you will be my friend," Dawn said and Lucy smiled.

"That's right. I'm going to be your friend so you don't have to be worried or feel lonely. I will watch over you until your mom comes to get you, so you don't have to cry anymore. Can you promise me you won't cry and whenever you feel like crying you will come find me?" Lucy asked, and Dawn looked at her for a moment before giving her a nod.

"I won't cry."

"Good girl. So we are friends now, right?" Lucy asked as she extended a hand to Dawn.

"Yes, we are friends," Dawn said with a nod as she shook Lucy's hand.

Chapter 706 One Week

Two days after Andy's last encounter with Cassidy, she still had not been able to make up her mind on what to make of him.

Was he good or bad? Should she forgive him or not? Should she call him Alex or Cassidy? Should she keep finding a way to leave or just relax and trust him to let her go when the time was right?

Although, since they got to the Island, she had seen a different part of him. There was no denying that the man on the Island was completely different from the drug lord who had forced himself on her. But that did not make it any easier to forgive him or understand him.

It was true that hurting people hurt people, but that did not make what he did right. And no matter how much he apologized she doubted that she could ever truly forgive him for doing that to her.

What she couldn't understand now was the reason he had brought her to the Island. He could easily have let her go and pretended to be dead, and no one would bother about her, so why did he bring her here? Although he had said it was because he wanted her to take care of his daughter, but she highly doubted that was it.

Andy looked at her door when a knock sounded on it, and she smiled when it opened a crack and Maribel's head appeared.

"Can I come in?" She asked hopefully.

"Sure you can, doll," Andy said as she sat up and patted the side of her bed for Maribel to join her. walk further into the room and get on the bed.

"I think you were right. Daddy said I look more beautiful," Maribel After her conversation with Susan the other day, they had both agreed that she would look after Maribel under Susan's supervision, while Susan continued to take care of the home.

"How was your beauty sleep?" Andy asked as she watched Maribel walk further into the room and get on the bed.

"I think you were right. Daddy said I look more beautiful," Maribel said and Andy giggled.

Because Maribel always struggled with sleeping whenever it was time for her nap, Andy had told her it was called beauty sleep not nap, and that if she wanted to look more beautiful like Cinderella and sleeping beauty, she needed to sleep more during the day as that was when the beauty fairy moved around to make little girls more beautiful.

"When did he say that?" Andy asked with interest.

"Just now," Maribel said and Andy raised a brow.

"Your father is back?" Andy asked and Maribel bobbed her head.

She hardly ever saw Cassidy or crossed paths with him during the day, and from his routine, she already knew that the only thing she could see him if she wanted to speak with him was at night. And that was only if she decided to stay up and wait in the living room.

It almost seemed like he was avoiding her. But that would be ridiculous, right? Why would he bring her here and then stay away from his own home just so he could avoid her?

She couldn't help wondering why he was home at this time of the day. Perhaps he wanted to take a nap like he had done the other day.

"Are you listening?" Maribel asked to get Andy's attention.

"I'm sorry, doll. I got distracted for a moment. What did you say?" Andy asked as she focused her attention on the little girl.

"I said I want you to spend the night with me in my room or I could sleep here if you let me," Maribel repeated.

"Oh, why?" Andy asked with an amused smile.

"Because it feels nice being next to you. And when the night beauty fairy comes to visit you, she can see me too," Maribel said with a grin as she pushed her glasses up her nose bridge and Andy laughed out loud.

They both looked at the door and a knock sounded on it, and seeing as the door didn't open, Andy could tell it was Cassidy and not Susan.

Susan usually poked her head in after knocking once whenever Maribel was in the room with her.

"Give me a moment, doll," Andy said as she rose from the bed and went to answer the door.

"Hi!" Cassidy said once the door opened and he stood face to face with her.

"Hi! You want Maribel?" Andy asked, curious to know if he had come because he wanted to see her or his daughter.

Cassidy cleared his throat and shifted on his feet, feeling slightly uncomfortable, "No. I wanted to find out if you'd like to step out. Maybe take a stroll. I know you haven't been out of the house and you must want to take a look around," Cassidy said and Andy raised a brow.

"You're no longer scared I might try to escape?" She asked and he shrugged.

"I already explained the situation of things to you. You're not my prisoner. If you decide to leave without my knowledge, that's up to you. But I'd rather you give me time to sort things out, and I will get you back home safely to your sister and nephew," Cassidy said, and although Andy wanted to argue, Maribel was now standing between them.

"Alright. Let's go," Andy said, but Cassidy's gaze ran over her and he shook his head.

"Do you mind changing what you're wearing? And maybe putting on something suitable under?" He asked not wanting to expressly ask her to wear a bra since Maribel was standing there.

Andy rolled her eyes, "Alright," She said and Cassidy took Maribel's hand and led her away to give Andy privacy.

After Andy had changed into a more suitable outfit, she went out to join Cassidy in the living room and raised a brow when she didn't see Maribel with him.

"Where is Maribel? Isn't she coming with us?" Andy asked and he shook his head as he rose.

"No. She stepped out with Susan to get some groceries," he said and Andy raised a brow.

"So, we are taking a stroll together alone?" She asked and he looked at her with a blank expression.

"Does that bother you?"

"No. Just asking. Why did you suddenly offer to show me around?" She asked curiously.

"It wasn't a sudden offer. I was going to get around to it but I've been too busy taking care of stuff since we arrived and I didn't want to ask you to go alone," Cassidy said easily.

"Why? Because you are scared I might escape?" She asked and Cassidy sighed in exasperation.

"Because you don't know your way around and could easily lose your way around here. It would be dangerous," he said and Andy scoffed.

"If that was the case you could have asked Susan and Maribel to show me around," she said, and this time Cassidy scowled.

"Why can't you just be thankful when I left all I had to do just to show you around?" He asked and she raised a brow as she crossed both arms in front of her.

"Thankful?" She asked in disbelief.

"Yes. Thankful. Why do you like to get on my nerves by arguing with me over everything and finding faults with all that I do?" Cassidy asked, and Andy's face contorted with anger.

"I can't believe you are expecting me to be thankful. Thankful for what exactly? That you took me away from my family and brought me here? Or that you are showing me around the prison where you've kept me?" She asked and Cassidy sighed.

"I thought we were over this already? I already explained why I had to bring you here and I told you this isn't a prison. Why are you bringing it up again? Why do you keep making us go around in circles?" He asked in a slightly raised voice, feeling frustrated.

"You have no right to lose your temper. If anyone is supposed to be mad here, it is I. So, don't you dare raise your voice at me!" Andy snapped at him angrily, and Cassidy drew a deep breath to calm himself.

He was thankful that they were alone in the house and weren't having this conversation outside either.

"Alright. I'm sorry for losing my temper. I don't know what you want from me..."

"I don't want anything from you, Cassidy! I never asked you for anything. All I want is to be free from you. I don't want to see you..."

"Do you think I don't know that already? Do you think I don't see the look of disgust on your face every time our paths cross? Why do you think I stay away from my own home and do my best to stay out of your way?" Cassidy asked and Andy raised a brow.

So, that was the reason she never saw him around? He was deliberately staying away from her path?

"You tell me. I don't know," she said and Cassidy took a deep breath as he rubbed his eyes.

"What can I do, Andy? How can I earn your forgiveness? What do you expect me to do? I'm doing my best to make up for what I did to you. If there is something you need me to do, anything at all that I can do to make you less angry, please, I'm asking you to tell me," Cassidy said calmly.

"You are doing your best to make up for what you did? What exactly is the best that you have done? And which of your crimes are you trying to make up for? Raping me? Or kidnapping me? Or was kidnapping me your way of making up for raping me?" Andy asked and Cassidy looked at her for a moment.

"I don't know how to make up for forcing myself on you. If you want me to compensate you financially, I will. I don't mind giving you every dime I have in my account. I have no excuse for doing what I did, and I will always be sorry for that. I was wrong to have brought you here regardless of my reasons. I will arrange for you to be taken somewhere else far away from me. You can stay there and return to your family when it's safe enough. I promise to stay out of your sight until I've put everything in place for you to leave, and after that, you don't have to ever see me again," Cassidy said quietly and he dipped his hands into his pockets as he headed for the door.

"How long would that take?" Andy asked calmly before he could open the door.

"What?"

"How long would it take for you to put everything in place for me to leave?" She asked, and Cassidy thought about it for a moment.

"A week or less. I will do my best to make it as soon as possible," he assured her.

"Alright. Let's go then," she said jerking her head to the door for him to lead the way.

Cassidy couldn't help wondering why she had suddenly become calm and not baring her teeth anymore.

He raised a brow when he saw her heading for the door, "Go where?"

"You were going to take me on a stroll around the island, weren't you? Since I'm going to leave soon I should as well take a look around the prison where I was held captive for some time, shouldn't I?" she asked, but Cassidy said nothing as he held the door open for her.

As they both walked out together, Cassidy couldn't help the feeling of sadness that overwhelmed him.

All his plans to show her this side of him so he could earn her forgiveness and possibly her love had proved futile. Now she was going to leave him and Maribel too.

Thinking about it now, it was stupid to have abducted her the way he had done and expect forgiveness and love in return. The last thing he wanted was for her to develop Stockholm syndrome thinking it was love.

It was best to let her go. Some things couldn't be forced, and among those things were forgiveness and love.

"Cassidy?" Andy called, and he turned to look at her.

"Do you really think avoiding me is the best way to earn my forgiveness? I don't care about you staying away from your home for my sake. I wish I could easily forgive you and forget what happened between us, but I can't. So, if you truly want my forgiveness then you should do your best to earn it. I can't tell you how to earn it, it's up to you to figure out how. And I hope you keep your word about letting me go in a week. I will do my best to get along with you until then. We should at least path on good terms," Andy said quietly.

"Thanks. I will do my best to earn your forgiveness. And I will put everything in place so you can leave in a week," he promised and she nodded.

"Then I will take your word for it, Alex."

Chapter 707 Birthday Gifts

Although it was past midday already, Candace lay on her bed staring up at the ceiling and feeling unmotivated to do anything else.

She had gotten out of bed earlier to cater to Jamal and to prepare breakfast for her dad, but the moment she finished she had returned to her bedroom.

She just wanted to be alone. She had been feeling a persistent dull ache in her heart since her fight with Matt on Monday night.

At first she had wanted to simply ignore it all and move on as she had done the last time they had fallen apart after he found out she lied to him, but she couldn't understand why she was feeling so heartbroken.

What was the difference between now and the last time she had pushed him away? Why was she feeling so sad and scared at the thought of losing Matt? Was it just because of the great sex they had in the last couple of days?

She had kept hoping that he would call or text to check on her and tell her how he was doing but with each passing hour she realized that he meant all he had said and was probably waiting for her to call him after making up her mind on what she wanted.

Now she tried to go over their conversation again in her head so she could see what she could have said to hurt his feelings or get him so upset.

She replayed their conversation at Tom's dining in her head and she had to admit that she had been sort of harsh and curt with him. She had acted like a brat and he had every right to be upset. She would have felt and reacted almost the same way had she been in his shoes.

She pursed when it occurred to her that she did not apologize to him despite talking to him the way she had done. She also remembered exactly what he had said. He had not asked that they end anything. All he had said was that he wanted her to acknowledge his love and feelings for her when they were alone together.

That wasn't too much, was it? So, why was she here wasting time and waiting for him to give her a call when she could easily call him and apologize first? She mused.

She quickly picked up her phone and dialed his line. It rang for some time but there was no response. She called two more times and her brows pulled together in a concerned frown when it didn't connect.

Was he too upset that he didn't want to take her call, or was he just busy? She wondered and decided to send him a text.

There was no way he would ignore her text even if he was ignoring her call, and if he was busy, she was sure seeing her missed calls and text would let him know how serious she was and he would give her a call.

[I'm sorry for being such a bitch. I never should have spoken to you in that manner or showed up in your bedroom and acted like a spoilt brat after upsetting you. Give me a call as soon as you can talk.]

Candace reread the text a couple of times before clicking on the send button.

Just as she dropped her phone, a knock sounded on the door, and she sat up, "You can come in," she said, knowing it was her father.

The door opened and Aaron walked in, looking at her with interest, "Are you okay?" He asked with concern, since he had noticed she had seemed upset since she got back from Tom's place the previous day.

He had no doubt that her mood had more to do with Matt than it had to do with Lawrence Hank's death.

Harry had told him on Monday night that Matt was also spending the night at Tom's place, so he knew that Candace and Matt has been together.

He had expected her to come back home in a cheerful mood, but she since her return she had been usually quiet and withdrawn.

"Yeah. Sure," she said, and watched as Aaron sat on the edge of her bed.

"So, what's happening?" Aaron asked and Candace looked at him in confusion.

"What's happening with what?"

"With you. You've not been yourself since you got back yesterday. Want to tell me what is on your mind?" He asked and she shook her head.

"There is nothing to worry about. I'm just not feeling too well. I will be fine," she said, but Aaron did not budge.

"What's wrong? I could go get you drugs," Aaron offered even though he doubted whatever was wrong with her was related to her health.

"I don't need drugs. Don't worry about me," she assured him.

"How would you feel if Jamal was unusually quiet and moody?" He asked and Candace raised a brow.

"How am I supposed to feel? I will do all I can to find out what's wrong and try to make sure he's fine, of course," she said matter of factly.

"Good. That's what I'm doing. In the same manner Jamal is your little boy and you can't stand to see him upset and moody, that's the same way I feel about you being this way. I'm your father and you can't ask me to not worry about you. You might be all grown up, but to me you're my little girl. So, you can either tell me what's wrong right now or I can just stay right here with you until you decide to tell me what the problem is," Aaron said, and as though to prove the point he lay down on the bed, and Candace's lips twitched in amusement as she watched him adjust the pillow.

"I should go and keep an eye on Jamal," Candace said as she started to rise but Aaron turned to her.

"He's in my bedroom having his nap," Aaron said and Candace sat down again.

"What if I don't want to say anything?" She asked when Aaron shut his eyes.

"You will, eventually, when you get tired of having me in your face," Aaron said without opening his eyes.

Candace said nothing as she stared at him for a while and then she lay down beside him, and Aaron reached for her and pulled her close so that her head was resting on his chest.

Candace sighed as she snuggled closer to him, and Aaron patted her back but said nothing as they lay there in comfortable silence.

After some minutes Candace let out a sigh, "You are really bent on staying here until I tell you what's wrong?" She asked as she sat up so she could look into his face.

"That's right," Aaron said as he sat up as well and faced her, "So, are you ready to talk now?" He asked and she smiled.

"It's nothing serious, I assure you," Candace said and Aaron nodded.

"Alright. So, how is Matt doing?" Aaron asked casually and Candace raised a brow.

"Why are you suddenly asking me that?"

"I just randomly thought about him. Why don't we invite him over for dinner tonight?" Aaron suggested and Candace scowled.

"He's no longer in Ludus. He left yesterday," she said and Aaron chuckled.

"Ah! I see," he said with a nod.

"Why would you say that? I didn't even know the man personally apart from the fact that he was one time president," Candace said "You see what?" Candace asked and Aaron grinned.

"That explains why you've been moody and why you haven't gone out as usual," Aaron said and she rolled her eyes.

"That has nothing to do with my mood," she said and Aaron raised a brow.

"Then I suppose you are mourning Lawrence Hank? You must have loved him a whole lot. What a great president he was," Aaron said dryly and Candace giggled unexpectedly.

"Why would you say that? I didn't even know the man personally apart from the fact that he was one time president," Candace said and Aaron shrugged.

"I've been thinking about it. It's got to be one or the other. You were fine when you left on Monday evening, and then you came back moody yesterday. I know Matt spent the night at Tom's as well, don't even think of denying it," Aaron said and Candace rose a brow.

"How did you know.... Harry! That loudmouth!" She hissed and Aaron chuckled.

"Well, if you must know, we got into an argument," Candace said with a shrug.

"Want to tell your old man about it?" Aaron asked and she sighed.

"All you need to know is that I was sort of rude to him and it upset him. He left without saying a word to me," Candace explained and he nodded, relieved that it wasn't a very serious issue.

"So, you admit you were rude? Have you apologized to him then? Is he refusing to forgive you?" He asked and she shook her head.

"I sent him an apology text shortly before you came in. I guess he's too busy to call back or respond," Candace said and Aaron nodded again.

"Good. As long as you know you were wrong and you're willing to apologize and make amends, I think everything will be okay. Is that all that is bothering you then?" He asked and she gave him a pointed look.

"Telling you this doesn't mean you can tease me or pester me with talks of Matt going forward. He's just a great friend that I don't want to lose and..."

"I'm not interested. If that's all that was bothering you, and you're done sulking come with me, I have something for you," Aaron said as he rose and Candace scowled.

"I knew it was a bad idea telling you about it..."

"Blah blah blah," Aaron said and Candace's lips twitched in amusement as she rose to follow him.

She paused when her phone started ringing and her heart skipped a beat when she saw it was Matt, "I will join you shortly. It's Matt," she informed Aaron, and he gave her a nod as he walked away and shut the door behind him.

"Hey!" She said awkwardly without sitting down.

"Hey, you!" Matt said easily as he waited for her to speak.

Candace cleared her throat, "So, how are you?"

"I'm good. You?"

"I'm okay. I guess you were busy earlier? You got my text?"

"Yeah. I saw it. I was in the middle of something when you called," Matt said and Candace drew in a shaky breath.

"Can you talk now?" She asked and Matt's lips curved in a smile when he heard the uncertainty in her tone.

"Sure. Go on," he urged her, curious to hear what she had to say.

"I'm sorry for speaking to you in that manner," she said and Matt nodded.

"So, you said in your text."

Candace took a deep breath, "I admit that I haven't been fair to you. I'm going to try to do better if you let me," Candace said and Matt raised a brow.

"Are you saying that you want me in your life and you will give me a chance to love you?" Matt asked and Candace's lips twitched.

"Do I have to spell it out?"

"Yes. I want you to spell it out."

Candace bit her lower lip, "I want you in my life. I will do my best to not shy away from your love going forward," she promised.

"Alright. I guess we are good then," Matt said and Candace raised a brow.

"We are?"

"Yes. Do you mind if I call you later so we can talk some more? I'm still busy at the moment," Matt said and once Candace agreed, they hung up.

Why hadn't she thought of apologizing to him instead of waiting for his call since the previous day? Candace mused with a wide smile as she walked out of her bedroom.

Once she got to the living room, she raised a brow when she saw a large brown box on the floor beside the table.

"What's that?" Candace asked as she joined Aaron who was watching the television.

"That's for you," Aaron said and Candace looked at him uncertainly.

"For me? From who?"

"From me," Aaron said and Candace immediately went to open the box.

The first thing she saw inside was a large red teddy bear wearing a white 'Daddy loves you' T-shirt.

"What's this?" Candace asked as she picked up the teddy bear.

"That is a teddy bear."

"I know what it is. Why are you giving me this?" She asked as she looked from the teddy bear to her father.

"I never got to get you any dolls, and since you're too grown up to play dollhouse now, I figured a teddy bear wouldn't be a bad idea," he said and Candace looked at him in surprise.

"Go on. Check out the rest stuff," Aaron urged her, and Candace looked into the box.

Next she took a personalized diary and then a makeup set.

"I showed them your picture and they assured me this product was very good and it would be suitable for your skin tone," Aaron said as Candace continued to check the box.

Candace's eyes began to tear up as she took out a cosmetic set and then a perfume set, and then a jewelry box.

She looked up at Aaron, "What are all these for?" She asked as heartfelt tears rolled down her cheeks.

"Some gifts for your birthdays which I missed. I couldn't exactly fit in twenty eight years into such a little box, but I wanted to start from somewhere. I didn't want to wait until we returned to Sogal," Aaron said with a small smile.

Candace stared at him speechlessly, unable to bring herself to say anything.

"Every chance I get I'm going to keep making it up to you, Candace," Aaron promised as he went to where she stood and brushed the tears from her cheeks.

"When did you get all these?" She asked and Aaron smiled.

"Jamal and I went out yesterday, and they had it delivered today because they needed to customize some of the items," Aaron said and Candace hugged him.

"You really didn't have to get me anything," she said quietly.

"I needed to, Candace. I want to give you everything. I know I will never be able to make up for all the lost time, but I'm willing to do my best to catch up with it," Aaron said as he patted her back.

Chapter 708 Fake Will

Sara had a frown of displeasure on her face as she walked through the lobby of the law firm, heading for Amos's office.

The phone calls from him were becoming increasingly irritating and she was beginning to seriously consider getting rid of him.

He knew far too much about everything and she had no plans of letting a coward like him become a weak link for her.

Why was he suddenly becoming so cowardly and fearful? Sara mused as she got out of the elevator, and a moment later she was standing in Amos' office.

"I'm glad you're here," Amos said as he rose to greet her.

"You disappoint me, Amos. I'm not impressed by your conduct lately," Sara said in a scolding tone as she sat down without waiting for him to offer her a seat.

"You don't seem to understand the situation of things right now, Sara. I feel as though everything I've worked for is about to go down the drain. My blood pressure is over the roof, and I'm always

looking over my back now. Do you know Rebekah Miller?" He asked and Sara resisted the urge to roll her eyes.

"Is she someone I'm supposed to know?"

"Yes. I believe you met her a couple of times in the past during your interactions with the Petersons. She is related to them," Amos said and Sara nodded thoughtfully.

"What about her? Can you be quick and tell me where this is getting to? I have a flight to catch out of the country, and I don't intend to miss it because of you," Sara said impatiently.

Amos picked up his phone and turned it to Sara as he played a video of the live show and then he switched to another video as of Rebekah being surrounded by reporters who kept throwing questions at her while Rebekah kept yelling, "I'm innocent! Thomas Hank is behind this! He set me up!"

Sara arched a brow, "So? What has this got to do with me?" Sara asked and Amos shook his head incredulously.

"Didn't you hear her? Thomas Hank is involved. First it was Wilson, and now it is Rebekah. Who do you think is next? Her cousin, Emilia, who is Wilson Peterson's wife reached out to me to have my lawyers represent her since no one is willing to take up her case in Ludus because the chief judge is involved. I had to find a way to reach Rebekah and I spoke with her over the phone so I could better understand the nature of the case and our chances before sending any lawyers over there. Guess what she said? She said Jade Hank, my former employee and her brother was behind it all. She said they did that because of a simple misunderstanding...."

"You still haven't told me what this has got to do with me. I have no business with the Hanks," Sara cut in impatiently.

"I'm trying to tell you that they will be coming for us! Thomas Hank and your son Harry, I have no doubt that they will come for us next," Amos said as he rose.

"You're just being paranoid, Amos. No one is coming for anybody. I saw Harry the other day, and he completely ignored me. Do you think he would do that if he knew anything or had any plans of doing anything to me?" Sara asked and Amos shook his head.

"This has nothing to do with being paranoid. Jade Hank told me for sure before she left my office that they will stop at nothing to ruin you. Seeing how she was involved in bringing down Rebekah Miller, I don't think that was an idle threat. They are dealing with everyone one after the other. First it was Wilson Peterson, next it was Rebekah Miller, and now it might just be your turn. Don't you think they might do worse to you when they find out everything? How much longer do you think we have before they put all the pieces together?" Amos pleaded, wanting Sara to understand the severity of the situation.

Although Sara had been worried about all of this initially, but after giving it a lot of thought she had come to the conclusion that she had nothing to fear as long as she played her cards right.

"Calm down, Amos. They can't do anything to me. First they have no proof about anything. If Aaron and Harry decides to come out to tell the world I was married and had a kid, I will simply defend myself by saying Aaron was abusive and I had to flee for my life. I lost the other twin during

childbirth and no one can prove otherwise. I will shed a couple of tears and win the sympathy of the public.," Sara said with a shrug.

"I've been thinking about it, and they have no evidence against me. Besides, even if they were planning to come at me, the Hank family will be too busy mourning their grandfather right now. By the time they are done with that, I should have done away with the girl. They have nothing on me, Amos. Absolutely nothing," Sara said confidently.

"But they know the girl is alive. Jade Hank knows that. You told me your sister's daughter is also aware," Amos reminded her, and she shrugged.

"Do they have any evidence to prove that? I could easily deny it and you could too. We will make Thomas Hank out to be a vengeful man, and say he is trying to destroy me simply because I abandoned his best friend. How else will you explain why the two people who claim to know the other twin is alive are his sister and girlfriend? Trust me, Amos. I've given this a lot of thought. As long as I have the girl with me and I'm going to get rid of her, there will be no evidence against me. Trust me when I say I have everything under control," Sara assured him calmly.

Although Amos wasn't convinced, he gave her a nod as he returned to his seat. He knew better to argue with her when she was being so irritatingly arrogant.

He had already made up his mind on what to do and was working on it already. He was just going to pack up and disappear with his family. He wasn't going to wait to go down with such a foolish person. No he wasn't.

"So, have you fixed the stuff with Wilson? Have you found someone to play the role?" Sara asked, changing the subject.

"Not yet. I'm still on it," he said and she nodded.

"Let me know when you do. For the meantime I need you to do something for me," she said and he looked at her with a raised a brow as he wondered what it was she wanted this time.

"What could that be?"

"I need you to draft out a fake will and testament," she said and he raised a brow.

"What for?"

"I need the girl to stumble upon it. She is going to be more willing to cooperate with me if she believes I'm giving her all I have," Sara said and Amos raised a brow.

"Why would she want to cooperate to keep you alive if she believes she stands to gain more from your death?" Amos asked, wondering if she had a fish brain.

"Because I'm her mother. Despite knowing I was wealthy she didn't accept me so easily when I told her I was her mother. She demanded a DNA test. What does that tell you? Sometimes money isn't everything to some people. Go on and draft it out," Sara urged him and Amos shook his head.

What was it to him if she decided to do something that foolish? He was just going to teach her a lesson before disappearing. He was going to make sure the Will wasn't a fake, and if possible he would find a way to alert the innocent girl of it.

Away from there, Bernice stood by Adam's hospital bed with both their boys standing beside the bed.

As she watched his unconscious form, her mind went back to the details of her visit to his parents the previous day after the live "You have a lot of nerve showing up in this place after that disgraceful stunt you and your shameless family pulled in front of show.

She had gotten involved in a serious row with her in-laws during her visit to them.

"You have a lot of nerve showing up in this place after that disgraceful stunt you and your shameless family pulled in front of everyone," Adam's mother had said the moment she set eyes on her.

"I'm not here to fight or argue with you. I want to see Adam," Bernice had said without flinching.

"How could you utter such words about Adam without thinking about his reputation? Couldn't you have at least considered our family and the kids?" Adam's mother had asked as though Bernice had not spoken a word.

"His reputation? How is protecting his reputation my responsibility? Why didn't he think about that before getting involved with my mother?" Bernice had asked disdainfully.

"What are you doing here?" The chief judge had asked in a gruff voice as he walked into the house and saw his wife and Bernice.

"I want to see Adam," Bernice had said as she turned away from the woman to face her husband.

"What for? You definitely don't think we are going to let you stay married to him after all you did today, do you? You embarrassed our family and..."

"And who told you I want to remain married to your stupid abusive son or be a part of your corrupt family?" Bernice had cut in with a snap, surprising them.

"What?" Adam's mother had asked in disbelief.

"You heard me right. I want a divorce. As a matter of fact, I'm demanding it. You should be ashamed of yourself as a mother and a woman. This whole time you knew your son was hitting me and you did nothing about it. Good thing I have all the evidence I need to prove it. And don't you dare think of threatening to take my kids away from me or letting me go without compensating me. If you try it, I'm going to make sure your son's sex video is the most searched video on the internet. You have no idea how low I can go just to bring you all down to my level," Bernice had said as she glared at them both.

"I blame Adam for this. He should never have married you..."

"Finally we agree on something. He should never have done that considering being my mother's lover!" Bernice had said cutting off the chief judge once again before he could finish.

"I'm not surprised that instead of focusing on your son's immorality you're more interested in protecting your stinky reputation. And just so you know, I have evidence of most of the corruption going on in the law firm. If you doubt it, don't let me have my way, and we will see how much longer you both can hold your heads up in society. I expect you to text me the location of wherever Adam is being kept," Bernice had said, and without another word she walked out of the house.

She had never felt more proud of herself as she did standing up to her in-laws who had treated her like trash from the very moment Adam had stated his intention to marry her.

Looking down at Adam now, she smirked. She had wanted to see him because she wanted to see his state and confirm for herself that he was truly alive.

It was a good thing he did not die. She liked that he would be alive to not only feel the pain of being betrayed by his lover who had almost killed him, but he was also going to see her walk out of their marriage with full custody of their kids and half of all he owned.

Now that she was sure of it, she could go ahead with her plans to file for divorce.

She took her phone out of her handbag when it rang, and she received the call when she saw that it was from Tiffany.

"Hey! Are you with Adam now? Is he truly alive?" Tiffany asked as she sat in her car after moving her stuff out of Jackson's house.

She had discussed with Jackson the previous day and he had agreed to a peaceful divorce. He had offered that she take the house but she had turned him down saying she wanted a fresh start.

He had offered to give her any amount of money she asked for and had promised to look into all that his father had stolen from her father and pay back every penny to her and her sisters.

"Yes. He is still unconscious," Bernice said and Tiffany sighed.

"What's your plan? I'm on my way to speak with the divorce lawyer. Want to come along?" Tiffany asked and Bernice smiled.

"Sure. But I need to drop the kids off at Lisa's first, and then I will meet up with you," Bernice said and Tiffany nodded.

Lisa had agreed to take care of Bernice's kids so she could take a break from everything and travel with Tiffany.

"Alright. I will be expecting you. I'm turning off my phone now," Tiffany said before hanging up.

Despite the heavy backlash following the live show, the sisters were finally on their way to becoming happy.

At first they had all been sad about Rebekah's spiteful revelation concerning their paternity, but they had all agreed to not think about it or talk about Rebekah.

The only thing that bothered them now was Anita's silence. Despite all that was happening, they were yet to hear from her or know how she was doing.

Chapter 709 Stubborn

As Jade approached the Study, the door opened and Tom stepped out, "I was just coming to find you," she said and he looked at her with a questioning expression.

"Is something wrong?"

"No. I just wanted to find out how you were doing and you know, chat with you," she said with a shrug and he sighed.

"I'm okay. I have just sent Harry what I need him to put out there. I'm not going to let this affect me or my reputation," Tom said as he headed for the patio and Jade nodded as she followed him.

"The comments online about Lucy were very unpleasant. I had to respond to a couple of them," Jade said and Tom scowled.

"Maybe I need to find just one person who I would make an example of to serve as a deterrent to all others not to speak ill of Lucy," Tom said in annoyance.

"If you want me to, I could find the most insulting comment on the comment thread and I could file a case against them," Jade offered but Tom shook his head.

"Thanks. Lucy wouldn't want us to do that. Besides, we already have enough going on," Tom said and Jade nodded as they both sat on the swings.

"I'm glad you didn't agree to take responsibility for the child. Knowing you, if Lucy wasn't in your life, you probably would have done that," Jade said and Tom raised a brow.

"Why do you say that?"

could argue.

"Because some times you don't know when to draw the line. The same way you weren't going to do anything about all of this had Lucy not stepped up," Jade said and she raised a finger before Tom could argue.

"That's not to say you are incapable of doing anything. It's just that you seem to have a weakness when it comes to mom and you'd rather do nothing than hurt her feeling. It's only changing right now because of Lucy. If Lucy wasn't here and mom had asked you to claim the kid, you most likely would have done that just to make her happy," Jade said and this time Tom said nothing until he thought about it.

"If you've always thought this way, why did you have to wait until Lucy spoke up before speaking yourself?" Tom asked and Jade shrugged.

"I never really gave it much thought until today. And even if I had, I probably wouldn't have thought it was a big deal as long as you were doing you. I guess I thought about it from Lucy's point of view today," she said with a shrug.

"I see."

"So, what happens if her parents refuse to accept the child and she has to remain here?" Jade asked, switching back to Dawn and Kimberly.

Tom shrugged, "That has nothing to do with me. That's left for dad and mom to handle. As soon as the funeral is over, I'm returning to my life in Ludus," Tom said and Jade nodded.

Although Jade was feeling very tempted to ask Tom what had transpired between him and Lucy earlier that triggered her outburst, and to tell him what she had overheard Lucy say, she refrained from doing so.

Instead, she reached out a hand and squeezed his shoulder, "Everything will be alright. Hang in there and try not to be mad at Lucy..."

"Why would I be mad at Lucy?" He asked with a raised brow and she shrugged.

"I don't know. I'm just speaking generally. I figured you might be upset that she raised the subject that way during breakfast," Jade said casually.

"I'm not mad at her," Tom said firmly and Jade nodded as she rose.

"That's fine then. I should get back inside to check on the kid and see if Lucy is with her," Jade said and Tom raised a brow.

"Why would Lucy be with her?" He asked as he rose.

"She said she wanted to check in on her since she was yet to see her," Jade explained and Tom frowned.

"Why didn't you tell me earlier? Where is the kid?" He asked and immediately Jade told him, he hurried away to go see what Lucy was up to.

"What is the rush? The kid won't bite her," Jade called after Tom but he had disappeared already.

As Tom headed for the steps he stopped when he saw Lucy's parents seated in the living room with his parents.

"Tom, how are you doing?" Andrew asked as Tom went over to greet them and Jade joined them.

"I'm alright. I didn't realize you were here," he said wondering if they had also seen the news.

"We only just got here. Accept our condolences," Janet said as she embraced him.

Tom gave them a nod, "Thanks. I will go get Lucy and we will join you shortly..."

"I already sent for her. She should be down soon," Evelyn said and they all looked up at the staircase when they heard footsteps followed by a childish giggle.

They were all surprised to see Lucy coming down with Dawn's hand tucked in hers as the kid laughed at something Lucy was saying.

The moment Dawn realized they had an audience, she stopped laughing and looked down immediately as she tried to get behind Lucy.

Seeing this, Jade raised a brow, wondering why the kid seemed so friendly with Lucy but had been silent the whole time when she was with her.

"Hello, dad! Mom!" Lucy greeted as she placed a protective hand around Dawn's shoulder and urged her on so they could join the others.

"How are you doing, sweetie?" Janet asked as she looked away from the kid to her daughter.

"I'm alright, mom," Lucy said as she embraced her mom and then kissed her dad's cheek before looking at Tom who had a frown between his brows as he watched her as though he was trying to figure out what was going on.

She flashed him a smile as she sat down, beside her parents and pulled Dawn down to sit beside her with her arm still around Dawn's little shoulder.

"I thought she was sleeping," Evelyn asked as her eyes remained on the kid.

"No, she wasn't. She was uncomfortable so she stayed back in the room to cry," Lucy responded honestly, wanting them to understand how their behaviour was affecting the child.

Evelyn's brows pulled together as she looked at Dawn, and then she looked at Desmond who looked totally clueless for the first time in a long time. He didn't seem to know how to handle the kid.

"She is such a pretty little one, isn't she?" Janet asked with pleasant smile when she sensed the tension in the room.

"Yes, she is," Andrew said with a nod.

"She should be hungry by now. Why don't I take her to the kitchen to find some snacks for her? Do you want cookies?" Jade asked wanting to take Dawn away so she could give them room to talk, but Dawn tightened her hold on Lucy's finger as she shook her head.

Lucy looked down at Dawn, "I'm pretty sure you are hungry, and I'm hungry myself. Let's go get something to eat," Lucy suggested and to their amazement Dawn gave her a nod and let Lucy lead her away while Jade followed with a scowl.

"Did you ask Lucy to do that?" Desmond asked Tom who had a confused frown on his face as he watched Lucy and the kid leave, while wondering when they became such close pals.

"I didn't. Did you?" Tom asked his mother and she shook her head.

"I didn't. I'm just as confused as you are," Evelyn said since the last thing she had expected was that Lucy would get close to the kid considering how mad she had been about the prank.

"Lucy has always had a soft spot for kids, and kids are naturally drawn to her. She has always been that way since she was young so "I should go check on her," Tom said as he excused himself and
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I don't think this kid is an exception," Janet said with a small smile.

"I should go check on her," Tom said as he excused himself and went to the kitchen to meet them.

"Let's speak privately," Tom said, and Lucy looked down at Dawn.

"Why don't you stay here for a moment while I step out briefly? I will be right back," Lucy said, and although Dawn was hesitant to let go of her hand, she did and watched as Lucy walked away with Tom while Jade checked in the refrigerator for something they could eat.

"What's going on?" Tom asked Lucy the moment they were alone.

"What do you mean?" Lucy asked in confusion.

"One minute I leave you alone in the bedroom to receive a phone call, and the next you're best friends with the kid? What is going on?" Tom asked again, and Lucy shrugged.

"Nothing. Like you just said, she is a kid and none of all this mess is her fault. There is no reason for her be left to feel alone and confused," Lucy said and Tom looked at her for a moment.

"Are you sure that call earlier was from your therapist or was it from Kimberly?" He asked suspiciously.

"It was my therapist calling to know if I would be available for tomorrow's session," Lucy said, not wanting to tell him she had also heard from Kimberly.

There was no point in doing so when she knew it would only annoy him and make him want her to stay away from Dawn.

"You shouldn't get too close to the kid. I don't like it and I don't want it," Tom said and Lucy raised a brow.

"Why not?"

"Because it makes me uncomfortable. You should feel so too," Tom said and Lucy raised a brow once again.

"Why? Because she is not your kid? If she was, would you want me to stay away from her?" Lucy asked and Tom frowned, wondering what had gotten into her.

"We both know that is completely different. Why are you being stubborn over this?" Tom asked in confusion and Lucy went closer to him and placed both hands on his shoulders.

"I'm not being stubborn, Tom. I'm just trying to say you all need to cut the kid some slack. None of this is her fault and she is having a hard enough time already being here in the midst of strangers without her mom. She didn't plan for any of this to happen, so why can't you just treat her as you would treat any other normal visiting kid her age?" Lucy asked softly and Tom shook his head.

"I don't trust the kid...."

"C'mon, Tom! How can you not trust her? What did she do to you?"

"You heard me. I can't trust her. She was in on the prank with her mom and my grandfather. She even called me dad, and let me take a sample for DNA without batting an eye. How do I know Kimberly didn't put her up to this to make you love her and..."

"And then ask you to adopt her?" Lucy cut in.

"Yes. I don't know what you're thinking," Tom said and Lucy smiled.

"Calm down, Tom. I will never make such a request. I understand that you have every reason to feel the way you do, but you can't blame the kid for that. She must have done whatever she did because her mom asked her to. It's a shame on Kimberly for using her daughter that way. We can't let that affect how we treat the innocent child. We are better than that," Lucy said as she took Tom's hand and beseeched him with her eyes.

Tom sighed, "I don't like this, Lucy," he said and she hugged him.

"All I'm asking is that we treat her as the kid she is and not ignore her simply because she is Kimberly's daughter," Lucy said softly as she patted his back.

"So, what? You want me to be best friends with her too?" Tom asked and Lucy smiled as she pulled away from him.

"I believe the others would feel more comfortable and be more accepting of her if you take the lead. They are all probably holding back because of you," Lucy suggested, and Tom sighed.

"I'm still not sure this is a good idea," Tom said and Lucy raised his hand to her lips as he usually did to her.

"What harm could come from being kind to such a pretty little girl?" She asked and he shrugged.

"Alright. If that will make you happy. Let's go back to her then," Tom suggested, and Lucy beamed a smile at him as she stood on her toes to kiss him.

"Thanks. I love you," she said and before she could pull away he pulled her close and kissed her again.

"I love you more."

As they both returned to join them, Dawn who was already seated at the dining with Jade but waiting for Lucy's return before she would eat, looked from Tom to Lucy, and then back again, and Tom flashed her a smile when Lucy nudged his side.

Hello Everyone!

I welcomed my Babygirl on the 29th of September hence the break. We are both taking our time to recuperate. I can't say I'm fully back but I can assure you that I will write whenever and as much as I can.

Dearest privilege readers, you don't have to purchase privilege chapters as I don't want you to not get your money's worth and I don't want to have to feel guilty about you being cheated. I'm sorry if you've purchased some already as I've noticed some of you have done.

I will do my best to release a minimum of two chapters weekly. It could be more. But won't be less than two. Thanks for your understanding and patience. Much love from my baby and I.

Chapter 710 Match Made In Heaven

Later that evening after they had all had dinner together, Lucy saw her parents off to their car, leaving Dawn with Tom and the rest of the family.

"How are you coping with everything?" Andrew asked referring to the rumors which had been circulating all over the internet.

"I'm okay. It has been taken care of already, remember?" Lucy said, since they had all followed the news and seen the public statement from I-Global addressing the rumors of Tom's relationship with Kimberly.

They had issued a warning asking all sites and blogs who had posted the news to take it down immediately or be ready to face legal actions, and just like that, every news site had done so, since they didn't want to have problems with I-Global, especially as Tom had brought out evidence.

Although the comment section of the sites and blogs which had carried the news of the I-Global's public statement was still filled with speculations about the relationship between Kimberly, Tom, and his grandfather, nobody was talking about Lucy anymore.

"It must not be easy dealing with all of this. By the way you mentioned going home with us when we spoke over the phone earlier. I assumed it was because of the rumors. Or did something else happen that we are not aware of?" Janet asked curiously.

"Nothing serious. I sort of got Evelyn and everyone else upset earlier and thought I should leave, but everything is fine now," Lucy said and Andrew raised a brow.

"What did you do?" he asked, since Lucy wasn't the type to cause trouble for others.

"I asked them all to butt out of Tom's personal affairs," Lucy said without bothering to go into details and her parents frowned.

"Why would you do something like that?" Janet asked with a disapproving frown unable to imagine Lucas' girlfriend or wife telling her something like that.

Lucy shrugged, "I felt like they were meddling too much. You know how I like to keep my nose out of other people's business and I like my business to be private. Over here everyone loves to be involved," she explained and Andrew shook his head.

"I don't see how that is wrong. And even if it was, I don't think it was your place to do so," Janet said before her husband could speak.

"Yeah. I regret doing it already," Lucy said and her dad looked at her.

"Every parent has their own parenting style. Before your mom and I had you and Lucas, we agreed to only guide and not to impose or interfere in your decisions. We wanted you both to be yourselves wholly. Has it ever occurred to you that if we had not done that and had meddled in your business as much as we should have as your parents, none of what happened would have happened?" he asked, and Lucy's brows pulled together.

"You didn't have to bring that up, Drew," Janet said with displeasure.

"Yes, I had to. We can't keep skirting around what happened. We should be able to talk about it. It's time she knows that minding her business the way she does isn't always the best, and she shouldn't expect everyone else to be like her," Andrew said before facing Lucy.

"As much as your mom and I blame ourselves for not noticing all that was going on with you until it got to the point where you were abducted, it would have helped had you also been more open and come to us when you needed us. If only we had meddled enough in both your life and Lucas' you both wouldn't have had to deal with that psychopath and Rachel," Andrew said and Janet sighed.

"I have often wished I was more like Evelyn. I don't think you would have experienced any of that had I been like her. Evelyn is a good mother," Janet said and this time Lucy sighed.

"All I'm saying is, Evelyn and Desmond did such a great job raising their kids, hence they turned out the way they did. You shouldn't make them feel like they are terrible parents simply because their style is different from ours," Andrew said softly and Lucy nodded.

"I've heard you. Have you been hearing from Lucas?" she asked, wanting to change the subject. She was tired of it already and was now regretting bringing it up again.

"Yes. He is doing well thanks to Tyler. I can't wait for him to come back. I miss having him around already," Janet said and Lucy nodded.

"Me too. He should be back in six months after his program," Lucy said and her father looked at her with interest.

"How is your therapy going? You've started right?" He asked, and she nodded.

"Yeah. It's going much better than I thought. I like my therapist," she said and her parents smiled in relief.

"That's good to know," her father said as he placed an arm around her shoulder.

"By the way, have you seen the news about Rachel's dad lately?" Janet asked and Lucy gave her a nod.

"Tom is behind it, isn't he? He doesn't plan to reveal Candace's identity, does he?" Janet asked with concern.

"That's not up to Tom. It's up to Candace," Lucy said and they spent some time talking about it before her parents finally got into their car and drove off, and once they left, Lucy sighed as she returned inside the house.

Away from there, as Harry walked into his apartment after work that evening, he felt all the stress of the day drain off him as he was greeted by the delicious smell of dinner and laughter coming from the kitchen.

The thought that in a couple of days he would start returning to an empty apartment once again, made him feel unexpectedly sad. He had not imagined that he had gotten used to having them all in his apartment at such a short time.

He would definitely miss them all when they returned to Sogal. The sadness which had enveloped him disappeared when Jamal sighted him at the dining and ran out of the kitchen to welcome him.

"Uncle Harry!" he screamed excitedly as he jumped on him as though they had not seen each other that morning.

"If you keep welcoming this way, I might not let you go back with your mom and grandpa when it's time to leave," Harry said as he picked Jamal up and spun him around, making Jamal chortle.

"Is that your way of saying you don't want me to leave, so you plan to hold Jamal hostage to keep me?" Candace asked sweetly as her and Aaron stepped out of the kitchen to meet Harry and he scoffed as he set Jamal whose eyes were spinning on one of the dining chairs.

"What you need is a wife and your own kids to welcome you home, not your nephew," Aaron said and Harry shook his head.

"I've had a long day. I don't have the energy to banter with either of you tonight," Harry said as he looked from Candace to their father.

"So, how was your day?" Harry asked Jamal as he took off his suit jacket and tie.

"Great! Grandpa got mummy lots of gifts. He got some for me too," Jamal announced.

"I don't suppose you thought of getting any for me?" Harry asked his father and Candace shook her head.

"I guess he forgot about you. Don't worry, you're welcome to share my makeup and perfume set," Candace offered and Harry chuckled.

"We saw the news about Tom. You must have had a busy day," Aaron observed.

"I did. And I'm glad the day is almost over. I can't wait for weekend to come," Harry said and Candace raised a brow.

"Why? You can't wait for us to leave?" she asked and Harry chuckled.

"Yeah. I can't wait for you to leave," Harry said with a nod and before Candace could respond, Aaron stepped in.

"Why don't you go and freshen up and come back for dinner? The table should be set before you are done," Aaron suggested, knowing that if he didn't interrupt them now they were going to continue going at each other.

"Sure. I will join you shortly," Harry said as he walked away to his bedroom.

Just as he walked into his bedroom he received a call from Jade and smiled as he took it, "Hey, baby!" he greeted and Jade grinned.

"Not esquire?" she asked and Harry smiled.

"I can call you whatever at any given time. Right now I'm just so happy to hear from my baby," he said and Jade felt her grin widen even more.

"Are you home now?" she asked hopefully.

"Yeah. I just got in a while ago," Harry said with a yawn.

"You must have had a really long day," Jade said sympathetically.

"Yes, I did. But let's not talk about me. I would rather talk about you. How have you been? How did you spend your day?" he asked as he connected his phone to his airpod so he could take off his clothes without having to hang up.

Jade shrugged, "As you already know, things have been crazy around here. So, there was nothing fun about my day. Not that I expected to have fun since we are here because of my grandpa. Still, it's like we are not even mourning him and are too busy with trying to fix this mess he left us. Everyone else has someone to talk to, but I'm alone," Jade said with a sigh.

"Is that your way of saying you're missing me?" Harry asked so she would smile, and she did.

"No, that's not my way of saying it. There is no reason to be subtle about telling my boyfriend that I miss him. I miss you, Jonas. Very much. I wish you were here with me, or I was there with you," Jade said and Harry couldn't help feeling bad at the loneliness which he could hear clearly in her voice.

Perhaps he could sort out all he needed to do at the office and move his trip up so he could be with her tomorrow?

Sure, he could push all his meetings for Friday to Thursday, but there was no way he could leave his family behind when they were leaving by weekend.

He had to at least stay with them and see them off to the airport when it was time to leave, Harry thought with a sigh.

"I miss you too, and I wish I could leave everything behind to come be with you. I'm sorry I'm not there for you the way you need me to right now," Harry said apologetically.

"You don't have to be sorry. It's not deliberate after all. Besides, it's enough that I'm able to call you and speak with you this way," Jade assured him.

"How about we switch to video call?" she asked and Harry chuckled when he looked down at his naked body.

"I'd rather not. I'm not properly covered," Harry said and Jade's eyes lit up.

"Really? Are you just not wearing a shirt or are you naked?" she asked and Harry shook his head in amusement when he heard spoke to you, I was naked," she said with a giggle.

"Really? I wasn't dressed either " Harry said with a grin the excitement in her voice.

"I'm naked, naked. Why? You want me to send you my nudes and have phone sex with you?" he asked dryly and Jade giggled.

"That would be wonderful," she said and Harry chuckled.

"You know what I just remembered?" Jade asked and Harry raised a brow.

"What?"

"The first time you called me, I was undressing. The entire time I spoke to you, I was naked," she said with a giggle.

"Really? I wasn't dressed either " Harry said with a grin and Jade giggled more.

"For real?" she asked, her eyes gleaming excitedly at that piece of information.

"Yeah. I just got out of the shower and when I saw the missed calls I decided to call back," Harry explained.

"You see? We are a match made in heaven," Jade said and Harry chuckled.

"So, why don't we repeat history? I could just undress now and we can switch to video call. That way you don't have to be embarrassed that you're the only one who is undressed," Jade drawled suggestively and Harry laughed.

"God, I love you so much," he said, and Jade grinned.

"Are you telling me that just to distract me from my request?" She asked, and Harry chuckled.

"No, I'm telling you that because talking to you makes me very happy."

"Good. Show me how happy I make you by switching to video call. I'm your girlfriend after all and you don't have to be shy about letting me see your body. Soon it will be all mine and I have a right to see and make sure that everything is in order," Jade said and Harry chuckled.

"As you said, soon it will be all yours. So, why not exercise patience? And you don't have to worry, everything is in order," Harry assured her.

"Talk is cheap, Jonas," Jade said and Harry laughed again.

"You're not going to goad me into doing anything, esquire," Harry said and Jade grinned.

"You can't blame a girl for trying. I love you. I know you're exhausted so I will let you go freshen up and spend some time with your family. Call me before you go to bed, okay?" Jade said, and even though Harry was reluctant to hang up the call, he knew he had to since they were waiting for him to join them for dinner.

"Sure. And I love you more. Talk to you later," Harry said before hanging up.

Once he hung up he chuckled as he dropped his phone on the bed and walked into the bathroom.

He was really looking forward to the day he would make love to her.