

Wild Night 741

Chapter 741 Stay Out Of It!

"Why is Dawn's governess coming and not Kimberly?" Lucy asked Sonia after they had left Dawn's bedroom.

She had been hoping that Kimberly would come so that she could see her physically for the first time and also give her a piece of her mind.

"Desmond asked but Kimberly's mom didn't respond. Kimberly is probably grounded," Sonia said uninterestedly and Lucy shook her head.

"I can't believe an adult like her can act so irresponsibly when it comes to her own kid. How can she not go against her parents and protect her daughter? The kid is three for crying out loud," Lucy said with a shake of her head.

"Lucy, I love you but I really don't care about that subject. I'd rather hear all about your date. How did it go?" Sonia asked and Lucy smiled.

"It was nice. Do you have a moment to spare?" Lucy asked hopefully and Sonia looked at her incredulously.

"Of course I always have a moment to spare for you. Why do you think I left the others in the Den to come up here to meet you?" Sonia asked and Lucy grinned.

"Let's go talk at the balcony. That way we won't be interrupted by Tom," Lucy suggested, and Sonia eagerly followed her.

"What do you want to talk about? I hope this isn't about Kimberly and Dawn again," Sonia said as they headed for the balcony.

Lucy sighed, "No, it's not. Although I'm curious about that, I will take it up with Tom and Desmond later. Let's talk first," Lucy said and Sonia raised a brow.

"Curious about what? I suggest you stay out of it. Tom told you Kimberly was being the scandal, right? I wish I could scratch out her eyes for trying to fool you. Lucy, Kimberly is bad news. I understand your feelings for the kid, but don't get yourself involved any further," Sonia said and Lucy smiled.

"That's not what I want us to talk about," Lucy said, changing the subject as they both sat down.

"What do you want to talk about?" Sonia asked curiously when she noticed the smile on Lucy's face.

"Guess," Lucy said and Sonia narrowed her eyes.

"You are pregnant?" Sonia asked and Lucy rolled her eyes.

"Why would you think that?" She asked with a frown.

Sonia shrugged, "Well, seeing how much you've been changing your mind on the subject lately, I wouldn't be surprised if you decide to surprise Tom with a baby," Sonia said and Lucy giggled.

"Well, you are right in a way...."

"You're pregnant for real?" Sonia cut in excitedly.

Lucy sighed loudly, "No! That's now what I mean! I mean you're right in a way because it's about Tom."

"What about him then? Did he propose to you?" Sonia asked impatiently and then she gasped when something hit her.

"No, wait! He wouldn't propose unless you told him about your change of mind," Sonia said before Lucy could speak.

"You told him, right?" Sonia asked and Lucy giggled.

"No. I didn't," Lucy said and Sonia sighed.

"You know what? I'm done guessing. Just go on and tell me," Sonia said as she relaxed on her seat with her curious eyes on Lucy.

"After you and Jade left last night, I had a long talk with Candace."

"And?" Sonia asked impatiently when it seemed like Lucy was taking too long to speak.

"I don't think I need to wait until my therapy ends to make up my mind. I'm going to get married to Tom and have kids together," Lucy said with a grin.

"Lucy!" Sonia exclaimed happily as she rose from her seat to embrace Lucy who was now giggling.

Although Lucy had told her she was reconsidering her decision to not get married, marriage, she was still very excited to hear that her best friend and soul sister was finally ready to get married and have kids with the love of her life.

It felt like everything was finally falling in place with Lucy and she was really now getting over her trauma and living normally now.

Thinking about Lucy and Tom, Sonia couldn't help feeling very happy on behalf of Tom since she knew just how much Tom wanted this. She was so happy that finally, a good man like Tom was now going to get what he wanted and deserved.

"I'm so happy for you, Lucy. You deserve all the happiness in life. And now I won't have to be the only Mrs. Hank between us," Sonia said, and Lucy giggled.

"Tom is going to be so so happy. Have you told him yet? Was that why you took him out today?" Sonia asked, and Lucy shook her head.

"No."

"No? Why not? What are you waiting for? I guess you want to tell him in a grand and surprising way," Sonia asked with a raised brow, and Lucy nodded.

"Okay. So, what's the plan? I guess you have a plan in mind already?" Sonia asked, and Lucy smiled.

"We are hosting a Christmas party at his house. I plan to propose to him at the party," Lucy said, and Sonia giggled.

"I can't believe my Lucy is now hosting parties and proposing to men," Sonia said with a teasing smile.

"Not men. Tom," Lucy corrected with a giggle and Sonia paused when something else came to mind.

"Wait. Didn't we all agree to go on a Christmas vacation? How are you going to host a party then?" Sonia asked, and Lucy frowned.

"That's true. I totally forgot about that. Do you think it will be possible to convince them to postpone the vacation? It's sort of my Christmas gift to Tom," Lucy said, and Sonia sighed.

"I don't think the vacation changes anything apart from the Christmas party you want to host. You can easily propose to him anywhere you are," Sonia pointed out reasonably.

Lucy sighed, "But the party is also for him. It's like a party to celebrate him coming out to society," Lucy said with a frown.

"How do you plan to convince the whole family to change their plans? Especially Evelyn? This is going to be like you as challenging her, and we can't have that. Maybe you can tell her about the plan. That will make things easier," Sonia suggested thoughtfully.

"No. I also want to surprise her as well. She has been so worried about Tom not getting married and it caused all these issues for us. It will be my gift to her as well," Lucy said and both her and Sonia smiled.

"That's sweet. So, how are you going to get them to drop the vacation plans? Should I tell them I won't be able to travel by then because I would be in my third trimester by then? And so we should just have a Christmas party?" Sonia asked and Lucy shook her head.

"No, thanks. The party is just one day. I will want us to still go on a vacation. I will discuss it with Tom first, since I guess he must have forgotten about the vacation as well. If he is okay with it, I will then talk to Evelyn. I will tell her I want to host a Christmas party for Tom and his major shareholders and also future investors. Our families will all be present, and we can all go on a vacation after the party. I'm sure she won't mind. A Christmas party and a New Year's vacation," Lucy said, and Sonia beamed a happy smile.

"I think that is perfect! I can't wait to write about it," Sonia said, and Lucy laughed.

"Wait, what about Harry and Jade? I thought she said Harry plans to propose to her in six months time? Does that mean you and Harry would be proposing at the same time?" Sonia asked and Lucy shook her head.

"I don't know about that. Besides, he told her that weeks ago. So, it can't be exactly six months from now," Lucy said.

"That's true. So, how can I help? And who else are you telling about this? Harry I suppose? Since you would need his help as Tom's best friend," Sonia said but Lucy shook her head.

"No. It's going to be just you and Candace."

"What about Harry? Are you scared he might slip to Tom?" Sonia asked, and Lucy shook her head.

"No. I trust him to keep it to himself even if I told him, but I just want to be extra careful. I don't want Tom suspecting anything," Lucy explained, and Sonia nodded.

They both turned to the door when they heard voices and approaching footsteps, and they both smiled when they saw that it was Tom and Bryan.

"I checked Dawn's bedroom and ours, and when I didn't see you, I decided to come check here just to be sure you've not been abducted. I didn't want to freshen up without you," Tom said and Lucy giggled.

"Sorry. I thought you'd still be busy with Harry," Lucy said apologetically as she rose.

"It's time for my babies to go to bed. You need to rest after such a busy day," Bryan said as he approached Sonia and she giggled when he swept her off her feet and carried her in a princess style.

"Good night, Lucy, Tom," Sonia called as Bryan carried her away while Tom and Lucy watched them leave with a smile on their faces.

"I don't know about you, but I'm ready to call it a night," Tom said and Lucy looked at him curiously.

"Sonia said Dawn is leaving tomorrow," Lucy said and Tom shrugged.

"Really? That's nice," Tom said and Lucy sighed.

"Can you believe that they are sending her governess to come get her?" Lucy asked with a frown.

"Yes, I can believe it. At least they sent someone. That's good. Now you don't have to worry about her traveling alone anymore Tom said and Lucy's frown deepened.

"Don't you think they sent a governess because maybe Kimberly is grounded or something?" Lucy asked and Tom sighed.

"Do I look like I care? Kimberly can be locked up in a dungeon for all I care. As long as they come get the kid, I'm cool," Tom said and Lucy bit her lower lip.

"But I care. It won't be nice if Dawn leaves here only to go face hostility at home," Lucy said and Tom closed his eyes as he prayed for patience.

"That is not our business, Lucy. They are her family. Kimberly is her mom. If she believes sending a governess down to get her child is what is best for the kid, then so be it. We are not getting involved or convening ourselves with their business. I don't want to talk about Dawn or Kimberly," Tom said and Lucy nodded before walking away.

"Where are you going?" Tom asked with a frown as he watched her.

"It's fine if you don't want to talk. But I want to, so I will take it up with someone who would be willing to talk to me and listen," Lucy said without turning back and Tom hurried after her.

"You said you won't talk to Kimberly," Tom reminded her.

"I'm going to talk to your parents not Kimberly. You can freshen up without me. I will join you soon," Lucy said as she kept walking.

"For Christ's sake, Lucy! Lucy, we had a nice day. Let's not ruin it by fighting over this," Tom yelled in frustration but Lucy didn't stop.

He had never known Lucy to be so stubborn until it came to dealing with Dawn. It seemed like she was always willing to fight him as long as it had to do with caring for the kid.

Sonia and Bryan who had just gone into their bedroom stepped out when they heard Tom's voice, and seeing that he was going downstairs again, they followed suit, wanting to find out what the issue was.

"Slow down, babe," Bryan called with a frown as Sonia ran ahead of him wanting to stop Lucy before she would do or say something she would need to apologize for later since they had only just moved on from the last drama.

Tom quickly caught up with Lucy at the foot of the stairs and grabbed her arm, "Lucy, stop!"

"I only want to understand what is going on that's all," Lucy said and Tom shook his head.

"It's not your business..."

"Dawn is my friend..."

"That still doesn't make it your business. Stay out of it!"

"What is the problem?" Desmond asked as he and the others who were retiring to bed joined them.

Chapter 742 Meddling

Lucy looked at Desmond, glad that he was here now, while Desmond and the others looked from Lucy to Tom, wondering what the problem was this time.

"It's nothing..."

"I wanted to..."

Tom and Lucy spoke at the same time, and Tom glared at Lucy, "It's nothing," he insisted.

"I really don't get why you're making a big deal out of this. I just want to ask a simple question," Lucy said, and Tom shook his head.

"And I know you well enough to know it won't end there," Tom insisted.

"What question?" Evelyn asked since they were all now curious to know the big question that was causing the two uniformed lovebirds to argue.

"It's just that I wanted to know if you found out why they are sending Dawn's governess to get her. Why is Kimberly not coming to get Dawn herself?" Lucy asked, ignoring Sonia, who was shaking her head for her to stop, and Tom shook his head in disapproval.

He didn't like that Lucy didn't listen to him when he told her to stop concerning herself with Kimberly's issue. Why was she so concerned about their affairs anyway?

Wasn't she the type that didn't like to concern herself with other people's business? Why was she so interested in Dawn and how Kimberly was handling things? What was so special about Dawn that Lucy would go against even her own principles this way?

Since she didn't want to listen to him and stay away from it as he had asked her, she should go ahead and ask all she wanted to know and even call Kimberly if she wanted. He wasn't going to concern himself with it. He was just going to make sure to stay out of it, he decided as he walked away, leaving them all to talk about it.

"Let's go to bed," Jade said as she pulled Harry with her, uninterested in whatever drama Lucy was about to start.

"You can go in. I will join you," Harry said, not wanting to leave Lucy now since Tom had left.

Seeing that Harry was not willing to leave, Jade sighed as she decided to stay put.

"I asked, but Kimberly's mother didn't give me any information, so I can't say. But from all indications, I don't think they have agreed to let her go home, or rather, I don't think Kimberly's father is ready to set eyes on Dawn yet since it was his wife who called," Desmond said, and Lucy's brows pulled together thoughtfully.

What were Kimberly and her mom planning to do with Dawn when she got there? Was Kimberly going to risk being disowned for her child's safety? She doubted that. If that was the case, she would have been the one to pick Dawn up or wouldn't have left her here in the first place.

"Since you are aware of that, are you going to just let her go back home to them?" Lucy asked, and everyone frowned.

What was Kimberly planning to do? Had Kimberly probably tried reaching her to explain things to her but couldn't because she had blocked her? Lucy mused.

"What do you mean?" Evelyn asked, trying not to sound annoyed.

Perhaps she should call Kimberly to ask what the plan was for Dawn just to be sure that she was going back to somewhere safe.

"Maybe I should call Kimberly and ask her what is going on and what she plans to do when Dawn gets there....."

"No, you will not call her. What are you thinking?" Sonia asked, cutting Lucy off irritably. As much as she loved Lucy and Lucy was her best friend, she couldn't allow her to act so foolishly.

What Lucy was saying was wrong, and she had to stop her before anyone else did. She wouldn't just stand there and watch Lucy fight with everyone because of Dawn or Kimberly.

"What? You want to call her?" Evelyn asked while everyone else watched Lucy.

"Why would you call her after everything that she has done? Didn't you hear that she was behind the scandal?" Jade asked with displeasure.

"I thought you said you wouldn't reach her again," Candace asked with a frown, and Lucy sighed.

"I wouldn't if it were not important, and this is important. Dawn is my friend...."

"And so what? You are her friend, not her mother! If her mom and grandparents want her, she will go home to them. I advise that you don't call her and you should stay out of it. Whatever they plan to do with her after she arrives, there isn't your business," Evelyn said, but Lucy shook her head.

"I promised to always look out for her," Lucy countered.

"Since when did you begin to meddle in other people's business?" Desmond asked with disapproval.

Lucy shook her head. "I'm not meddling. I'm just trying to look out for Dawn, seeing how her mom and grandparents are behaving. She is just a kid, and I'm concerned about her. Shouldn't you all be too?" Lucy asked, looking at Evelyn.

"And what do you think they are going to do to her when she gets there? Murder her? Throw her out of the house? No matter how angry they are, she is their family, and they have known and loved her

for much longer than you. You don't care about the kid more than they do, so I don't think your concern is necessary," Evelyn said firmly.

"I agree with her. You shouldn't concern yourself with Kimberly anymore," Harry said, and Lucy looked at him with a slight frown.

"I can understand how worried and concerned you are about the kid's wellbeing, but calling Kimberly and asking her what she plans to do with her own child is really not what you should do," Candace said, and Lucy sighed.

"Let's assume that you call and Kimberly tells you that Dawn is not welcome home, but she is hoping her father will change her mind when he sees Dawn. What will you do?" Desmond asked, and Lucy frowned.

"I don't know. I guess it will be up to you. I will have to plead with you to let her stay a bit longer with you until her grandfather is willing to have her," Lucy said, and Sonia shook her head.

"Lucy, this is not your business. What happens when we all go back after the funeral, and she has to stay here alone with Desmond and Evelyn? Or do you think Tom would let you bring her along to Ludus when he doesn't even want to talk about her? Do you think Dawn would not rather tiptoe around the grandparents she knows than stay here?" Sonia asked angrily.

"It's not like I'm interested in this because I am being nosy or just want to interfere in their business. I just want to be sure that Dawn will be fine," Lucy said, making Evelyn laugh dryly, and everyone turned to her with a frown, wondering what she was finding amusing about the situation.

"Do you remember what you said about me interfering in Tom's life and in your relationship?" Evelyn asked, and Lucy frowned, wondering why Evelyn was bringing that up and what was its connection to the issue at hand.

"What did I say? And what does it have to do with this?" Lucy asked with a frown.

"You asked me not to interfere if my opinion was not sought, didn't you?" Evelyn said, and Lucy nodded.

"Yes. But this is entirely different, and that doesn't have anything to do with this...."

"It has everything to do with it. Kimberly didn't call you to tell you about this...."

"She could have been trying to reach me but haven't been able to because I blocked her. That is why I want to call her," Lucy cut in.

"Let's assume that you are right. What business do you have with her and Dawn? You know them only because of their association with Tom and us. And if we have all said you shouldn't get involved, what right do you have to keep wanting to interfere in this when it isn't your business? Isn't this what you call meddling?" Evelyn pointed out, and Lucy sighed, beginning to see reasons with what everyone was saying.

"But Dawn is only a kid," Lucy said weakly.

"Tom is my son, yet you asked me not to interfere in his life. Now, we are all asking you to stay out of this. There is no reason for you to have problems with Tom for something that isn't really your business," Evelyn said, giving her a pointed look.

"I guess you're right. I will just let it be and not bother about it anymore," Lucy said, and Evelyn flashed her a smile as she patted her shoulder.

"It's fine. I'm glad we understand each other better," Evelyn said, and everyone nodded.

Evelyn was right. She was going too far with her concern for Dawn. She wasn't even related to her. What was she thinking? That she cared more for Dawn than Kimberly, who is her mother?

Because Tom had left even before the conversation started, she knew he wasn't happy with her. She would have to apologize to him for not listening to him and promise him that she wouldn't concern herself with Dawn anymore.

"I'm sorry for fussing over it and keeping you all here," Lucy said, looking at everyone.

"It's Tom you should be apologizing to, not us. Since we are done here, good night," Desmond said before heading to his room, and everyone else did the same except for Sonia, who remained there with Lucy and Bryan.

"Babe? You should head to the bedroom. I'll join you soon," Sonia said, and Bryan nodded as he excused them.

Chapter 743 Everyone Needs A Friend

Standing there alone with Sonia, Lucy could tell that Sonia was really pissed, "Before you say anything, I know you are pissed...."

"I'm mad at you, not just pissed. You messed up, Lu. And I'm not pleased with you," Sonia said the moment Bryan left, and Lucy sighed.

"I know. I was just really worried about Dawn. I'm sorry," Lucy said apologetically.

"And you weren't worried about Tom? I suppose Dawn is more important to you than Tom. He asked you to let it go, yet you chose not to listen to him, especially in the presence of everyone. I hope Tom doesn't let you off easily."

"You know Tom is more important to me than that. I admit that I was wrong. I should have listened to him. I'm not sure how to face him. I was just too worried about Dawn to even see reason with him."

"And you think he was saying that for himself and not your sake? Isn't he refusing to let you contact or concern yourself with Kimberly because he is worried about you? He was trying to protect you from having everyone in his family talk to you harshly, yet you ignored him that way! How can you not learn? Was Anita's episode not enough to teach you? If Tom ignored you the way you just did to him, would you be pleased? Quit embarrassing him in front of his family! What is wrong with you?" Sonia asked in a slightly raised voice, letting Lucy know that she was really pissed.

"What do you mean quit embarrassing him? When have I ever embarrassed him? Today was an error," Lucy said with a frown.

"The other day at breakfast, when you raised the issue there, I was mad that Tom didn't take your side, but later, I realized you brought the subject up without first discussing it with him. This is his family. You should do better!"

"I will apologize to him. I probably should do so now," Lucy said, and Sonia scowled.

"Yes, you should. I will forgive you only after Tom does," Sonia said before walking away, leaving Lucy with no option but to go face Tom.

Lucy walked into the bedroom just as Tom was heading to bed after his shower, and Lucy sighed, grateful that he was yet to go to bed.

Not minding that he was naked, she made her way to him and hugged him from behind just before he could get on the bed.

"It's over five minutes already," Lucy said, and Tom raised a brow.

"Five minutes?" He asked, and she nodded.

"Remember, we can't stay mad for longer than that," Lucy said, and Tom nodded.

"Yeah. You always conveniently bring that up when you do something wrong. And who said I was mad at you? You asked me to come freshen up without you, and that is exactly what I did," Tom said as he removed her hands, which were wrapped around him.

Even though he was acting so calmly, she knew he was mad at her. "I'm sorry. I'm sorry I didn't listen to you. I was wrong. I shouldn't have argued with you about it that way, and I shouldn't have ignored you in the presence of everyone," Lucy said, and Tom sighed as he turned to look at her.

"I'm exhausted, and I need to go to bed...."

"Let's resolve it, please...."

"I'm tired, Lucy. We had a beautiful day. Everything was going so perfectly well, but you just had to ruin it. Why? Why do we both always have to have something to apologize for? It's either I'm the one apologizing for something, or it's you. Isn't it exhausting? This was supposed to be a perfectly normal day for us. I was trying my best to prevent this from happening tonight, but you didn't listen...."

"And I'm sorry," Lucy pleaded.

"Sorry? Don't you think you are sorry only because things didn't go your way? I'm sure my parents didn't respond the way you expected them to, else you wouldn't be here apologizing to me. You promised me you would stay out of it just this morning, but what did you do? The exact opposite," Tom said, and Lucy nodded as tears gathered in her eyes.

"You are right, and maybe I needed to hear it from them all to get my head straight. I was just so worried about Dawn..."

"That is what I don't understand! Why are you always so stubborn when it comes to issues that concern Dawn? Why do you keep fighting with me over her?" Tom asked in a controlled voice.

"I'm sorry. I really am. I promise we won't fight over Dawn or Kimberly ever again," Lucy promised, and Tom sighed.

"That was what you promised me the other time. I can't even trust you to keep to your words anymore," Tom said with a shake of his head, and then he took a deep breath as he held her shoulders and looked into her eyes.

"Please, Lucy, you really should stop concerning yourself so much with this. You really have to stop. I don't like any of this," Tom pleaded, and she nodded.

"I will stop. As a matter of fact, I have stopped. She is leaving tomorrow after all...."

"You're not going to try to stop the governess or ask her questions, are you?" Tom asked, and she shook her head.

"I won't. It's their family business. I shouldn't interfere or meddle," Lucy said, and Tom looked at her for some time, wondering whether or not he should believe her.

"C'mon! I'm serious. I won't interfere anymore," Lucy said, and Tom sighed.x

"Alright."

"That doesn't mean I can't keep being friends with Dawn anymore, right?" Lucy asked, and Tom groaned.

"It's a harmless friendship. Everyone needs a friend," Lucy said, and Tom sighed.

"I need you to understand that I'm not doing this for myself or because I want to control you...."

"I know. I know," Lucy assured him.

"If you know, then please listen to me. After Dawn leaves tomorrow, you shouldn't call Kimberly or try to reach her," Tom said, and Lucy nodded.

"Alright. That's fine, but that doesn't mean if Dawn tries to reach me, I won't speak with her," Lucy said, and Tom sighed.

"Why do you care about her so damn much?" Tom asked, and Lucy smiled.

"Maybe it's because she looks so much like you and reminds me of you, I don't know. Or maybe it's because I started caring about her from the moment I thought she was yours. But she is a really sweet kid, and I love her," Lucy said, and Tom scoffed.

"She isn't all that sweet. Jamal is sweet. She isn't," Tom said, and Lucy nodded.

"That's because of how she was brought up. It's not on her. That is more reason I'm worried about her," Lucy said, and Tom sighed.

"I'm tired. You should go have your bath and join me on the bed," Tom said, and Lucy looked at him hopefully.

"Does that mean you've forgiven me?" Lucy asked, and he shrugged.

"Have I ever stayed mad at you for long? You're the one who stays mad for long," Tom said, and Lucy embraced him and kissed both his cheeks and lips.

"Thank you. So, why don't we shower together and wash away the bad tension?" Lucy asked suggestively, and Tom grinned as he followed her back into the shower.

"Now I'm ready to call it a night," Tom said with satisfaction some minutes later after they stepped out of the shower, and Lucy nodded.

"Me too," She said as they got on the bed. Lucy snuggled closer to Tom, and he wrapped his hands around her waist.

"Tom?" Lucy called after some time, and Tom, who had been about to doze off, opened his eyes.

"Yes?"

"About the Christmas party, I told you about earlier today."

"What about it? Have you perhaps changed your mind?" Tom asked with a yawn.

"No. I remembered that your mom talked about a family vacation for Christmas. Do you think it's okay if I suggest to her that the family go on a vacation during New Year instead so that we can host the Christmas party?" She asked, and Tom nodded.

"I think everyone would like the idea of hosting a party for Christmas and a vacation by New Year," Tom said, and Lucy raised her head to look at him.

"You think so?"

"Yes. How about we tell them about it tomorrow? I'm sure no one would object if I raise the subject," Tom suggested, and Lucy beamed a smile at him.

"That's so sweet of you. Thanks," Lucy said, and Tom smiled.

"Anything for my Queen," Tom said with a yawn.

"We can sleep now," Lucy said before adjusting to give Tom a kiss on his forehead.

"I love you," She said, and Tom kissed her forehead as well.

"I love you more, my Jewel. Goodnight," Tom said as he cuddled her, and Lucy smiled as she slowly drifted off to sleep.

Chapter 744 Criminals!

Amy walked around Miley's hotel room restlessly as she silently prayed that Miley would recover from this quickly and explain everything to her parents.

She wished there was a way she could at least find out how Miley was doing and if she had regained consciousness, but there was no one she could call.

She was with Miley's phone, and it wasn't like Miley's parents would be willing to take her call or give her any information. Not when she had withheld important information from them.

Perhaps she should sneak over to the hospital and have one of the nurses help her check on Miley and tell her how Miley was doing. Amy mused and drew in a deep breath as she headed for the living room of the suite.

As she walked into the living room, a memory hit her, and she shut her eyes as she remembered sitting right there in the living room with Lucas, who advised her not to indulge Miley.

If only she had listened to Lucas and talked Miley into receiving treatment.

She didn't regret offering to be Miley's surrogate. What she really regretted was not pushing Miley to inform her family and forcing her to receive treatment even if she didn't want to inform her family.

If she had known that Miley's health was fast deteriorating, she wouldn't have let Miley carry on the way she did.

Amy sighed as she glanced at her phone, which was on top of the center table. She had switched off her phone because she knew her mother would try to call her and find out what was happening since

she was very sure that Miley's parents must have informed her mother about everything that was happening by now.

She was not ready to face her mother yet. She had not considered the fact that her action would put her mother in a difficult position with people who considered them as family.

Amy turned to the door when someone knocked on it, and her heart skipped a beat, thinking it was probably Miley's parents coming to throw her out of their daughter's hotel apartment.

She fearfully opened the door, and she frowned when she saw Malone standing there, "What are you doing here?" Amy asked since she expected him to have left, seeing as the plan had changed following Miley's condition.

"What do you mean by that?" Malone asked as he walked past her into the apartment.

Amy frowned as she shut the door and turned to face him, "Miley is not here...."

"But you are here," he said, cutting her off.

"Sit down, let's talk," he said, pointing to a couch as he sat down.

What did he want to talk about? She hoped he was not going to cause any trouble, considering the present situation of things.

"What do you want to talk about?" Amy asked as she reluctantly sat down opposite him.

"Why was your phone off? I've been trying to reach you all day," Malone said, and Amy shrugged but didn't respond.

"Have you been able to resolve your misunderstanding with Miley's parents? Do you have any idea how Miley is doing?" Malone asked, and Amy shook her head.

"No. I'm hoping that Miley will clear the air when she regains consciousness," Amy said with a sigh.

"And how are you going to know when she regains consciousness if you leave your phone off? Or do you expect her to show up here and tell you she is awake?" Malone asked, eyeing Amy like he thought she was stupid.

Knowing that he had a point, Amy didn't respond to that. Instead, she cleared her throat, "You should probably leave for now. Miley's health condition is critical, and I can assure you that even though Miley wakes up and insists on going ahead with the marriage, her parents would never agree to it," Amy said honestly, and Malone looked at her like she had lost her mind.

Malone rose from his seat, and Amy did the same since she didn't like the idea of him towering above her.

"Leave? What do you mean leave? What about my money? How do I get my mo...."

"What money? Didn't Miley pay you even before all these?" Amy reminded him, and he raised a brow at her.

"What do you mean paid me? Was that the whole amount she promised to pay me at the end of the arrangement?" Malone asked with a slightly raised voice, and Amy looked at him incredulously.

"You just said it yourself. At the END of the arrangement! She has already paid you more than enough even though your services might not be needed anymore. I'd even ask for a refund...."

"A refund? You must be out of your fucking mind," Malone cut in angrily as they faced each other.

Amy took a deep breath, "Why are you being unreasonable? Can't you see that she is in a critical condition now and..."

"Do I look like I care? We had an agreement, and I upheld my end of the deal. I did my part! If the arrangement did not pull through, it's your fault, not mine, so there is no reason I shouldn't get my money in full," Malone said, and Amy massaged her temple.

She had always known that Malone was scum, no matter how decent he seemed outwardly. After seeing how Lucas had reacted so angrily to the idea and had cut them off for even suggesting he do such a thing, she had begun to think that any guy who would accept such a deal wasn't a decent guy. And this just proved it now.

"Malone, listen...."

"No, you listen! I don't know how you're going to do it, and I honestly don't care, but I want my money in full. I not only gave my sperm...."

"You were paid for doing that! You were paid way more than even sperm banks pay donors!" Amy cut in.

"I never went to a sperm bank to donate my precious sperm, did I? I sold it to you sickos! I have wasted my precious time on that dying girl! And I deserve to..." The rest of his words were lost when Amy slapped him hard across the face.

"How dare you...." Before Amy could finish speaking, Malone returned the slap.

Amy staggered back on her feet, and before she could regain her balance, Malone shoved her onto the couch and raised his hand, which was balled in a fist, ready to hit her.

When Amy saw this, she instinctively raised both her hands to cover her face as a form of protection from the blow, but Malone dropped his hand as he stepped away from her.

"I don't think I should waste my time talking to you after all. I will go to the hospital and see how she is doing for myself and get her parents to pay me what she owes if I have to," Malone said, and Amy shook her head quickly.

"No! You can't do that. You can't tell them about that. Please. Everything will become even worse if they find out you were paid to act as her lover," Amy pleaded.

"How does that affect me? All I care about is my money," Malone said before heading for the bedroom to pick up his bag.

Amy followed him, "You can't...."

"Try to stop me," Malone said as he walked out of the apartment with his backpack.

Tears ran down Amy's face as she watched Malone leave. Even though she had always known Malone had only been playing nice because of the amount of money he was offered, she never knew he could be that heartless. How could he be so unbothered about Miley, who was in a critical condition?

She picked up her phone and turned it on so that she could try to talk to Miley's parents about Malone before he got to the hospital.

She hesitated when she wanted to dial their number since she wasn't sure how to go about telling them that. What if Malone changed his mind, and she let it out already? Won't Miley's parents think the worst of her if she told them about this and that she had allowed Miley to do such a stupid thing? Amy sighed as she dropped the phone.

Just as she dropped the phone, it started ringing, and she picked it up, hoping it would be either of Miley's parents, but her heart skipped a beat when she saw that it was her mother.

She couldn't avoid her mother forever, Amy thought as she received the call, "Mo..."

"Where are you?" Her mother asked in a stern tone, and Amy reluctantly told her where she was.

"Stay put. I will meet you there in the morning," Amy's mother said before hanging up.

Away from there, Malone arrived at the hospital and went straight to Miley's father, who was just outside her ward making a phone call while her mom was inside the room.

"Hello, sir," Malone greeted, grateful that he didn't have to look for him.

Miley's father turned to see who was greeting him, and he frowned when he recognized him.

It was the young man who had said he was Miley's fiancé. What was he doing here? Didn't he make it clear enough that he did not want to see neither him nor Amy around the hospital premises? He mused as he quickly hung up his call to face Malone.

"Why are you here? Did we not make it clear enough that you are not welcome here? We won't let you marry our daughter," Miley's father said, and Malone nodded.

At least he wasn't there to convince them to marry Miley, "I'm not here to convince you to let me marry her. To be honest with you, I don't want to marry her either," Malone said, and Miley's father frowned.

"What do you mean? Why are you here?"

"I'm here to get my money. Your daughter owes me, and Amy can testify to that," Malone said easily.

"I beg your pardon?"

Without saying a word, Malone opened his backpack and took out his copy of their signed contract, and handed it to Miley's father.

"That is our agreement. Miley promised to pay me if I donated my sperm and get married to her. I've donated my sperm as they requested, and I would have gotten married to her, but since you are the one calling things off, you should pay me for breaching the contract," Malone said reasonably, and Miley's father frowned as he looked down at the document in disbelief.

"Are you crazy?" Miley's father asked angrily just as his wife came out to check on him.

"What is going on here? What is this man doing here?" She asked her husband, who was glaring at Malone.

"I was just telling your husband that your family owes me," Malone said and explained the situation to her, including the fact that Amy was Miley's surrogate.

"What? You even have the guts to show your face here and tell us how you connived with Amy to dupe our daughter? How dare you?" Miley's mother asked as she raised her hand to hit him, but her husband stopped her.

"Get out of here before I get you arrested," Miley's father said angrily, and Malone sneered at them.

"I didn't commit any crime. I only helped your daughter, and this document proves it. I'm not looking for any trouble. All I want is the money that was promised," Malone said, and Miley's father shook his head.

"You are a criminal, and you won't get a dime from us!"

"If you don't give me my money, I will go to the press," Malone threatened.

"Now the criminal wants to resort to blackmail?" Miley's father said to his wife.

"Go ahead and do just that. Go to the press, but let this be the last time you show your face here, or else we will have you arrested," Miley's mother threatened, and Malone stormed off angrily.

"A contract marriage and a surrogate? Can you imagine the nonsense? Criminals!" Miley's father said as they returned inside Miley's ward.

"I still can't believe Amy could do this to us despite all we have done for her and her mother. This must be the reason she didn't bother to tell us about Miley's condition," Miley's mother said, and they both hurried to Miley's side when they saw a slight movement.

"We won't let her have her way. I don't care whether or not Miley made such arrangements with them. We will have nothing to do with them and their contract," Miley's father said, and his wife nodded in agreement.

Chapter 745 Once A Thief....

"I can't believe that despite knowing what Kimberly did, Lucy is still so concerned about Dawn. I just can't understand her. Poor Tom," Jade said as they both lay on the bed after they had showered.

"Dawn is not Kimberly. There is nothing wrong with Lucy's concern for the kid. It's just her approach that is wrong," Harry pointed out, and Jade eyed him.

"Of course, you would always support her. If I was the one who did that, you'd be nagging about how I don't mind my business," Jade said, and Harry chuckled.

"What is amusing you?" Jade asked with a scowl.

"I did say her approach was wrong, didn't I? I guess she is beginning to get influenced by you, Hanks. Now that she is starting to meddle this way, I wonder how long it would take before I start meddling, too," Harry said, and Jade scoffed.

"Like that is ever going to happen. You've been a part of us for years, yet you are still this way," Jade said, and Harry chuckled.

"So, you do admit that your family meddles," Harry said with a grin, and Jade slapped his arm when she realized what he had done.

"You are so annoying!"

"I know. And as to what you said, no. I've not really been a part of your family. Not this way. I've known you all over the years, but our relationship is different now. A lot of things have changed," Harry said, and Jade smiled.

"Really? What has changed? Tell me," she asked, and he shrugged.

"The last time I was here, I slept in the guest bedroom, which Dawn is occupying right now," Harry said with a grin, knowing that wasn't what Jade wanted to hear, and she hissed at him.

"You are so annoying," she said, and he grinned.

"It won't be the first time you've said that this evening. Lest I forget, I need to give your former boss a call. And Crystal, too," Harry said, and Jade raised a brow.

"What for?" She asked, and Harry explained the new plan to her, and she nodded.

"It makes sense. I'm sure Amos would be willing to do your bidding, seeing that you have him by the balls now. So, should I give Amos a call, or would you rather call him yourself?" Jade asked, and Harry shook his head.

"I don't want him to have my call line. You should call him," Harry said, and Jade did as she was told and then handed Harry the phone.

"Jade?" Amos asked anxiously the moment he received the call.

He had been anxious all day since his earlier phone call with Harry and had been ignoring Sara's call all day since he didn't know what to say to her, and he didn't want them to keep associating him with Sara.

"This is Harry Jonas. I trust that you have reunited with your family, right?" Harry asked, even though he was aware of that already.

"Yes, sir. Thank you for bringing them to me in one piece," Amos said, swallowing past the lodge in his throat as he wondered what they had in store for him now.

"Good. Now I'm going to give you a chance to save yourself. Are you ready to do as I say, or would you rather go down with Sara?" Harry asked, and Amos nodded eagerly even though Harry could not see him.

"I'm willing to do anything you say. Anything at all," Amos promised.

"Good. Now, I want you to speak with Sara. I want to know what she is thinking and planning to do," Harry said, and Amos frowned.

That sounded just too simple. Why would Harry pardon him for doing such a simple task? Was this some sort of trick?

"You will pardon me if I do just that?" Amos asked tentatively, and Harry raised a brow.

"Why do you ask?"

"That doesn't seem like a good enough reason for you to spare me," Amos said reasonably, and the corners of Harry's lips pulled in a smirk.

"True. It's good to know you know that. That is not the only task I have for you," Harry said, and Amos nodded.

"What else should I do?"

"The Will you gave to Crystal, I want you to annul it..."

"What? But why? She is your sister, and she..."

"Annul it!" Harry cut him off harshly.

"Yes, sir! I will do so immediately," Amos rushed to say, scared that if he continued asking questions, he might provoke Harry and make him change his mind.

"I'm going to inform Crystal that you work for me and the Will you handed her, and all you told her was a prank. You have to play along," Harry said, and Amos nodded.

"I will do exactly that," Amos assured him.

"Finally, I want a video of you confessing to all the crimes Sara has committed and is planning to commit. You have to include the venue of where the transplant is to be done as well as the time...."

"But that would implicate me...."

"You know all about the law, so tell me, would you rather confess yourself or have me expose you in my own way?" Harry asked, and Amos sighed.

"I don't know the venue or time for the transplant," he said, and Harry nodded.

"I will text you the details," Harry said, and Amos narrowed his eyes, wondering how Harry knew so much.

"I will do it. I will do all you have said," Amos said, and Harry nodded.

"Good...."

"Can I make a request?" Amos asked, and Harry raised a brow.

"What?" He asked, even though he had no desire to grant Amos any favor.

"I understand that regardless of what I do, I will have to pay for my crimes. I'm willing to do that. But I don't want my family to be here to see that. Can you please let my family leave? I will stay back and face all I have to face. But let them leave so that they can start afresh somewhere else, please," Amos pleaded.

"They can leave after you've done as I asked you to. So, get started," Harry said before hanging up.

"You are so sexy when you sound that way," Jade said with a grin, and Harry raised a brow.

"When I sound what way?" Harry asked in amusement.

"In charge. Authoritative and cool," Jade said, and Harry shook his head.

"First, you have a thing for evil geniuses, and now you have a thing for authoritative and cool. Tell me, esquire, are you into masochism?" Harry asked, wriggling his brows suggestively, and Jade frowned.

"What's that?" Jade asked, and Harry shrugged.

"If you don't know what it means, then forget about it," Harry said as he picked up his phone to give Crystal a call while Jade quickly picked up her phone to check for the meaning of the word.

Away from there, Crystal was seated on her bed, still contemplating the best way to get rid of Sara, when her phone started ringing.

Crystal raised a brow when she saw the caller's ID. Why was Harry calling her so late in the evening? She usually did the calling, so why was he calling? She mused as she received the call.

"Hello, sir!" Crystal greeted politely as she tried to come up with something to report since the last thing she wanted was for Harry to find out about the Will or her plans.

"How are you? And how is our plan coming up?" Harry asked, wanting to see if she would mention the Will.

"I'm fine, and everything is going perfectly according to plan. She almost freaked out earlier when her name was mentioned on the television," Crystal said in amusement, remembering how alarmed Sara had been when she showed her the clip.

Although Sara had not bothered to explain her relationship with Wilson to her, and even though Harry had not told her anything about Wilson Peterson, she had figured out what was going on.

After watching the news earlier, she had concluded that Candace was one very lucky bitch, and it wouldn't hurt anyone if she kept Sara's wealth for herself, seeing as Candace still stood a chance to get all she inherited from her adoptive parents, and she was also with her brother and father who were very wealthy.

Yes, she had tried to get some information on who Harry was and had found out that apart from being a billionaire co-CEO at I-Global, his father was also the owner of HAJ studios. That meant that they really didn't need Sara's money.

"I see. Is that all you have to report to me?" Harry asked, and Crystal nodded.

"Yes. Nothing much has been happening here apart from Sara trying to get to know me and win my trust. And oh, I forgot to mention that she told me about her illness today," Crystal said chattily.

"Is that all that happened today?" Harry asked again, and this time Crystal frowned.

Why did it sound like Harry knew about the Will? She mused, "What do you mean?" Crystal asked, and Harry shook his head.

"Is there a reason you do not want to tell me about Sara's Will?" Harry asked, and Crystal's heart skipped a beat.

Harry knew about the Will? How?

"You can't find your voice anymore?" Harry asked when Crystal remained silent, and she cleared her throat.

"Oh! Yes! The Will. That totally skipped my mind. I was going to tell you about it..."

"Did you really forget? Or did you plan to double-cross me?" Harry asked, and Crystal swallowed nervously.

"No, sir. I could never think of that," Crystal rushed to say.

"Really? Why do I not believe you? You had all day to tell me about it, yet you didn't. I imagine you must have been too busy thinking of how to get rid of Sara so you can take over all she owns. Tell me, am I wrong?" Harry asked, and Crystal shut her eyes in consternation.

"You failed a simple test. The Will isn't even real. I had my doubts about you but wanted to test you, so I sent Amos to you. Now I know it's true what they say, once a thief, always a thief," Harry said, and Crystal looked down at her hand.

"I'm sorry. I got carried away. It won't happen again," Crystal said since she didn't know what else to say.

"I do not care for your apology. It will be in your best interest to stick to the plan. If you give me any reason to doubt you one more time, I will make sure you disappear without a trace," Harry promised in a cool voice.

Something about the calm in Harry's tone terrified her and sent chills down her spine, "I promise it won't happen again."

"I believe I've made myself clear," Harry said, and without waiting for her to say another word, he hung up on a very flustered Crystal.

While that was going on in Crystal's room, down the hall from there, Sara was also on the phone with Amos.

"Why have you been ignoring my calls all day? Did you see the news? Are you behind it?" Sara asked the moment she received his call.

"Behind what? I just saw the news, hence I'm calling. What are you talking about?" Amos asked, wondering why Sara was so stupid that she couldn't read the handwriting on the wall despite all his warnings.

"You told them about Crystal, didn't you? You are the only one who knows the connection between me and the Petersons. Only you could have done this!" Sara snapped.

"Why would I do such a thing when I'm also involved in this? And why would I return your call now if I were behind it?" Amos asked irritably, and Sara frowned.

If Amos wasn't behind it, then who could it be? Was it perhaps the Hanks and Harry? She shook her head. If it were Harry and the Hanks, they would have come for Crystal by now. There was no way Aaron would let her be with his daughter if he knew where she was.

"If you are not behind it, then who could it be? How could anyone else have made the connection?" Sara asked with a confused frown as she paced around the room, still not wanting to believe that Harry had made the connection.

Oh, now she wanted his opinion? Too bad he wasn't giving it anymore. "I don't know. I called to find out what your plan is. What do you plan to do about it now? We need to take care of this as soon as possible. That is more important at the moment," Amos said, and Sara sighed.

He was right. It didn't matter who it was. What mattered was taking care of things quickly and getting rid of Crystal as soon as possible before things became messy.

"I already talked to the doctor, and he has agreed to have the transplant done on Monday. I have to get it done and get rid of the girl quickly before they come looking for her, else all our efforts would have been for nothing," Sara said, and Amos nodded.

"I think that is a good idea...."

"Of course it is! By the way, where are you spending your vacation?" Sara asked when she remembered that he had said he was traveling earlier.

"I couldn't leave as planned. Something came up, and I had to take care of it. Perhaps I will leave after your issue has been resolved," Amos said, and Sara raised a brow.

"My issue?"

"Yes. I mean when everything has settled. I can't travel right now until I'm sure you are okay," Amos said, and Sara smiled.

"That's right. You should stay put. Let's celebrate after this is over," Sara said before hanging up the call.

After the phone call, Amos forwarded their conversation to Harry, and when he saw that Harry had sent him the location and time for the transplant, he sighed.

Seeing how Harry had all the details of the transplant, he figured that Sara's transplant wouldn't take place, and she would most likely be exposed publicly on Monday, just like they had done to Rebekah and Wilson.

He knew that if Sara went down, so would he, so he had made up his mind to go report himself at the police station first thing in the morning. Hopefully, that would reduce his sentence, and he would save himself and his family any further embarrassment.

Amos went on to make the video as instructed by Harry, giving detailed information on all of Sara's crimes, right from when she sold her daughter to how she had set the hospital on fire to get rid of the birth record as well as her plans to harvest Crystal's liver. He ended the video by mentioning the venue, date, and time for the transplant.

After making the video, he sent it to Harry and prayed that Harry would keep his end of the bargain. He was exhausted already and wanted it all to end.

746 Forex Market

Jade's eyes widened when she saw the meaning of masochism, and she looked at Harry with a perplexed expression.

"How did you know about stuff like this?" She asked, and Harry, who had just ended his call with Crystal, raised a brow.

"Stuff like what?" He asked, completely lost as to what she was talking about.

"Masochism?" Jade asked, reminding him of what they had been talking about before his phone call to Crystal.

"How do people know about anything? You read up on it, watch movies on it, or hear it from someone," Harry said with a shrug.

"How did YOU know about it?" Jade asked curiously.

"I have read up almost everything about sex. There is little or nothing sexual that I haven't read on. I may not have practical experience, but I have plenty of theoretical experience," Harry said, and Jade nodded thoughtfully.

"So, it's not because you're interested in it. You have only just read up on it," Jade said, sounding relieved.

"Why do you sound so relieved? What if I say I'm interested in it?" Harry asked, and Jade frowned.

"Are you?"

"What if I am? What would you do?" Harry asked, watching her with interest as her frown deepened.

"Why would you be interested in something so weird and uncomfortable?" She asked, and Harry shrugged.

"Judging by the way you keep avoiding the question, I take it you won't be willing to do it with me," Harry said as he watched her.

Jade looked at him silently for a moment as she contemplated it, and then she sighed, "I suppose if you're into it, I could give it a try. I might have to read up on it, though," Jade said, and Harry resisted the urge to grin.

"Really? Why would you change your mind?" Harry asked with interest.

"So, you don't eventually go get it elsewhere," Jade said, and he scowled.

"Why would you think me capable of such a thing?" He asked with displeasure, and she shrugged.

"It's not like I think you are capable of that. But then again, you might not know what you're capable of until you've experienced the pleasures of sex...."

"Please stop," Harry said before she could finish.

"I'm only being logical," Jade said as she looked away from him.

"Seeing me in your room and on your bed right now, you must be confusing me with your ex. My name is Harry, not Todd. And I feel offended that you could indirectly suggest that I am capable of being a cheat," Harry said, and Jade sighed.

"I'm not confusing you with anyone. I was only stating a fact, and you didn't have to bring him into this. It's a natural tendency for men to go outside their relationship to get what they are lacking in their partners," Jade said, and Harry raised a brow.

"I suppose that was what you used to reassure yourself after you heard that he was cheating?" Harry asked in a mild tone this time, sensing that even though she seemed okay, a part of her was still scared of being cheated on.

Before Jade could respond, he took her hand and brought it to his lips, "I've told you before, esquire, you are the only one for me. My heart and body are completely yours. Why would I want someone else when I have everything in you?" Harry asked as he kissed her palm.

"You're more than enough for me, esquire. And don't associate me with your undisciplined ex next time. I don't appreciate it. I'm Harry Jonas, and I know what I want," Harry said, and Jade smiled.

"And what do you want?"

"You. Every part of you," Harry said, holding her gaze.

"Shall I take off my clothes then?" She asked with a suggestive smile, and Harry chuckled.

"You know I didn't mean that in a sexual way. We agreed that since I conceded to you last night and this morning, you will concede to me, too," he reminded her, and she nodded.

"Alright. Until then, I will go read up more on the whole BDSM shit. And just so you know, I'm going to be the one inflicting the pain since I don't derive pleasure from receiving pain. Who knows? Maybe by the time I'm done with you, you will swear off such desires for life," Jade joked, and Harry chuckled.

"You don't have to worry. I'm not into it. I was only kidding," Harry assured her as he lay down to sleep, and Jade snuggled up to him.

"Thank goodness!" Jade said, and Harry grinned as he cuddled her.

They both were silent for a moment, and just when Harry was beginning to think that Jade had gone to bed, she spoke again.

"Harry? Are you still awake?"

"Yes."

"What is in your head?" She asked, and Harry's lips twitched.

"My brain and some bones, I suppose," he joked, and she pinched his arm.

"You know that wasn't what I was asking," she hissed, and Harry grinned.

"You've got to be specific with your questions, esquire," Harry said, and Jade giggled.

"What are you thinking about?" Jade asked again.

"Forex market," Harry said simply, and Jade scowled as she sat up to look at him.

"Seriously? You are in bed with your beautiful girlfriend, and that is what you are thinking about? You couldn't even lie and claim you were thinking about me?" She asked, and Harry raised a brow.

"Would you prefer I lie to you? You know it won't stop here, right? Once I begin lying about little unnecessary things as these, before you know it, I will start lying about bigger things, and that could cause a problem for us. What's wrong with thinking about Forex anyway?" Harry asked, and Jade shook her head as she lay down again.

"Never mind. Think about forex all you like. I will just think about something else other than you, too. Goodnight," Jade said, and Harry grinned as he kissed her temple.

"Goodnight, sugar. I love you," Harry said and, but Jade said nothing as she slept off.

Harry sighed, feeling guilty that he had actually lied to her. He had been thinking about his meeting with Cassidy the next day and what to expect.

He wasn't sure what to expect, but he decided to tell Tom about it before leaving for the hotel.

Thinking about Tom, his lips curved when he remembered how excited Tom had been earlier, talking about how he believed that Lucy might be changing her mind.

He decided to let Lucy in on his surprise engagement plan for Jade and see if she would tell him anything.

Not that he was planning to tell Tom whatever she would tell him. He couldn't betray her confidence. And he wouldn't tell her either that Tom was suspicious.

He just wanted to be certain that Tom wasn't getting his hopes up for nothing.

If it were true that her mind was changing, he would support and encourage her to talk to Tom about it, and if it was false he would try his best to make Tom stop getting his hope up.

He glanced at his phone when it vibrated, and the light came on, and he reached for it slowly so as not to rouse Jade, who was cuddled against him.

He nodded in approval when he saw that the message was from Amos and he had sent all he asked him to.

Harry smiled at the thought that Sara would be punished soon enough, and there would be balance in his world once again.

The smile remained on Harry's face as he drifted off to sleep.

The next morning, as they freshened up and got ready to go downstairs for breakfast, Harry remembered that he was yet to tell Jade that he was going out, so he looked at her.

"Jade?" He called, and she raised a brow.

"Yes, Harry?"

"I will be stepping out later in the day. There's a business I need to see to..."

"I thought you handled all your business before coming. Didn't you say you came here for me," Jade cut in with a pout before he could finish, and he chuckled.

"Yes, I came here for you. And this business wasn't exactly planned. My attention is needed at the hotel," Harry said, and she shrugged.

"Then I will come with you," she said, but he shook his head.

"No, you can't come with me," he said, and Jade frowned.

"Why not?"

"Because I have to go alone," Harry said, knowing that she wouldn't like that.

"And why do you have to go alone? It's not like you're being blackmailed or someone was abducted, and you're taking a ransom there. I could just go with you to the hotel and wait in the suite until you're done," Jade said, and Harry regretted telling her anything about the Hotel.

Now, he could picture a clear scenario of Jade stubbornly going to the hotel after he had left only to be stopped from going into the suite by the hotel management because Mr Jonas was in there with someone.

He could very well imagine how tough it would be to convince her otherwise that he had been meeting with Cassidy in the suite and not a lady as she would think. She had enough trust issues already.

"No, esquire. You can't come with me. I promise I won't be gone for too long. When I come back, we can do whatever you want us to do," Harry said, wanting to distract her, and luckily, it worked.

"Whatever I want?" She asked with a raised brow.

Harry raised a brow at the mischief he could clearly see in her blue eyes, "Anything that isn't sexual, that is," he corrected as he waited for her to say whatever she was planning.

"What do you take me for? Sex is not the only thing I want from you," she said with a scowl.

"Yeah. Sure. So, what would you want us to do when I get back?" Harry asked, and she smiled.

"Let's go out on a date," Jade said, and Harry nodded.

"That works fine for me."

"We will get matching outfits like Tom and Lucy did yesterday," Jade said with a sweet smile, and Harry chuckled.

Jade never ceased to amuse him. "I didn't know you liked wearing matching outfits. Perhaps you intentionally dressed in the same outfits as me the other time," Harry said, and Jade rolled her.

"How was I supposed to know you would be wearing the same colors as me? That was purely coincidental. Come to think of it, I guess it was the universe telling us we were meant to be, but I guess we were just too blind to see it," Jade said, and Harry raised a brow.

"I wasn't. You were the blind one. I guess that's why you tried to hook me up with someone even when I insisted I wasn't inte..." The rest of Harry's words were cut off when Jade kicked his leg.

"I'm going downstairs," she hissed at him as she headed for the door, but Harry quickly held her back.

"We can wear matching outfits if you want, but why not come up with an original idea for us instead of copying them so soon?" Harry said, and Jade nodded.

"I agree. Let's do something else. I don't want anyone calling us copycats," Jade said, and Harry smiled.

"That's better. You can let me know what you came up with after I get back. Agreed?"

"When are you leaving? And when are you coming back?" Jade asked curiously.

"I'm leaving by 3 P.M, and I can't say when I'm coming back. It depends on the nature of the meeting," Harry said, and she sighed.

"At least I have you from now until 3 P.M. In return for not going with you, how about I spend the rest of the week and weekend with you after we get back to Ludus?" Jade asked hopefully, and Harry chuckled.

"Alright. Deal," Harry said since he equally wanted her under his roof.

"Deal!" Jade said excitedly as she shook hands with Harry, and after that, they left the room to go join the others for breakfast.

747 A Christmas Party?

While the others were already seated downstairs for breakfast, Lucy was busy entertaining Tom in the bedroom.

Lucy woke Tom up, wanting to start his day by putting a smile on his face after how she had offended him the previous night, even though he had forgiven her already.

Tom smiled when he opened his eyes to see Lucy dressed in a skirt and shirt which she tied at the waist to reveal her bellybutton.

She had unpacked her hair and left it flowing down her back and she had her pair of contacts on instead of her glasses.

"Good morning, handsome," Lucy greeted with a pleasant smile as she kissed him, and Tom raised a brow when he perceived her fresh breath.

"You freshened up without me?" He asked and she nodded.

"Yep. I wanted to be ready before waking you up," she said as he sat up.

"Ready for what?"

"I promised to show you my cheerleading routine, remember?" She asked and this time Tom grinned.

"Did you wear your glasses or contacts then?" He asked curiously and she shook her head.

"I wore contacts for the first time that night we met. I've always been scared of putting anything in my eyes. And to answer your questions I didn't wear either. My sight was bad then but not bad enough that I couldn't do the routine without the glasses. Now enough talking. Are you ready?" She asked and Tom bobbed his head.

"Very ready. The floor is yours," Tom said and watched happily as Lucy did her routine while repeating the chant and cheers.

Tom rose from the bed to clap for her by the time she finished, and Lucy grinned as she looked down at his morning erection which was pointing at her since he was nude.

"What a standing ovation," Lucy joked and Tom chuckled.

"Such a beautiful performance deserves that and more," Tom said and they both laughed.

"Now that you're smiling, freshen up and let's go join the others for breakfast," Lucy said and Tom nodded as he headed for the bathroom.

A couple of minutes later, they joined the others at the dining table and Lucy felt a pang in her heart as she took her seat next to Dawn after greeting everyone.

"Did you know that my governess is coming to take me home today?" Dawn asked Lucy in a whisper and she felt a lump in a throat as she nodded.

"Yeah. You must be excited to go home," Lucy said and Dawn nodded.

"I miss my mom and my grandparents. But I will miss you too. And everybody," Dawn added and Lucy nodded.

"And me too?" Jamal who was seated beside Dawn asked and she shrugged.

"I suppose I might. But just a little," Dawn said and Jamal nodded.

"That's fine. I might miss you too. I'm not so sure yet. But I'm glad I get to seat beside Lucy after you leave. And I will have her all to myself," Jamal said happily, hoping that would make Dawn change her mind about leaving.

Dawn scowled at him but said nothing since she didn't want to argue with him and be grounded from seeing Lucy on her last day there.

Lucy cleared her throat to get the attention of the others and Tom raised a brow as he wondered what she wanted to say this time.

"I want to apologize once again to everyone for my behavior last night. I'm sorry for acting in such an hypocritical way, and most especially I want to apologize to Tom in front of everyone for embarrassing him the way I did," Lucy said apologetically, leaving Aaron who had not been there to wonder what she was apologizing for.

"I forgive you. But what did you do?" Jamal asked in confusion and the adults laughed.

"She wasn't talking to you, Jam," Candace said and Jamal frowned.

"She said everyone. I'm a part of everyone. Am I not, Lucy?" Jamal asked and Lucy grinned as she nodded.

"No. Everyone here means everyone who knows what I did wrong. There is no reason for me to apologize to you when you don't know what I did wrong, is there?" Lucy asked reasonably.

"I guess so," Jamal said and returned his attention to the food.

"You already apologized last night, and we have all moved past that," Evelyn assured her.

"I know. I just thought I needed to apologize again...."

"No, you don't need to. You should stop being so critical of yourself," Desmond advised.

"I didn't actually mind. I liked seeing you do something you condemned. It was sort of nice to see that you are not so perfect," Jade said with a grin.

"Who says she isn't perfect because of that?" Tom asked Jade with a slightly raised brow and she rolled her eyes.

"Your opinion doesn't count. You are obviously blinded by love," Jade said and Tom looked at Harry.

"Harry, do you think Jade is perfect?" Tom asked but Harry shook his head.

"Leave me out of your squabble," Harry said and Jade raised a brow.

"Why can't you answer that? You don't think I'm perfect?" Jade asked with a pout and everyone laughed.

"I suppose he is not so blinded by love yet," Bryan said and they all laughed while Jade scowled at Harry.

"By the way, Matt would be coming over today," Bryan announced, and Candace's heart skipped a beat at the mention of Matt's name.

Although he had told her he would be coming to Heden on Sunday and would be around for the funeral, it had not crossed her mind to tell him she was at the Hanks family house.

Was he aware that she there? She mused as she glanced at Sonia. And as if Sonia could read her mind, she shook her head, letting Candace know that Bryan didn't tell Matt that she was there.

"Matt is coming? I can't wait to see him!" Jamal said excitedly.

"Me too," Aaron said with a grin as he looked at Candace.

"Candace too," Harry said and Candace scowled at him while the others laughed.

"Can't you stay out of my business for a day?" Candace asked and Harry shook his head.

"No, I can't. I don't want to either," Harry said with a sweet smile, "I can't wait to see Matt, and let him know what a mistake he will be making by having anything to do with you," Harry said and Candace shook her head.

"You are so childish."

"It's like watching teenagers," Evelyn said with a grin and both Aaron and Desmond chuckled.

"Yes. Bryan and Jade were always bickering this way," Desmond said with an amused smile.

"What about Tom?" Lucy asked with interest.

"He skipped that stage and chose to act as a kid now," Jade said and Tom chuckled.

"By the way, Lucy and I are thinking of hosting a Christmas party," Tom said, and Lucy beamed a smile at him.

"A Christmas party? I thought we all agreed on a Christmas vacation?" Sonia asked, pretending to be surprised.

"Yeah, Lucy mentioned the party but I would like to grow a Christmas party. We can always go on a vacation after the party," Tom said, and everyone considered it for a moment.

"Is the party going to be just for the family?" Jade asked curiously.

"No. Since Tom has revealed his identity now, I was thinking the party would be a good way to meet and mix up with important people in the society. The company anniversary party was a formal event. But this Christmas party would be a themed informal party. We can invite the major shareholders of the company, a couple of celebrities, and some very top people in the country. What do you think?" Lucy asked and from the excitement in her voice and on her face, it was clear to everyone that the party was her idea.

"I don't think it's a bad idea. Tom's house would be perfect for such a party," Harry said with a nod.

"It's a lovely idea, but I'm not sure we will be around for that. I forgot about the vacation. Desmond and I already have plans for Christmas," Evelyn said surprising everyone.

"What plans?" Bryan and Jade asked in unison.

"We will be traveling after the funeral. We will come down for Bryan's wedding but will leave after it," Desmond said and Lucy frowned.

"Is this because of me and all I said?" she asked sadly and Evelyn shook her head.

"No. It's not about you. You may have played a role in it, but I think it's time to focus on myself. I have spent all these years being a mother that I don't know how to be anything else. Seeing how you all have wonderful partners now, I think it's time I learned to focus on myself and rediscover those things I loved to do before you all came along," Evelyn said and Lucy sighed.

"This is my fault," Lucy said sadly.

"No, it's not. I was the one who advised her to focus on herself and tour the world," Jade said, smiling at her mother with approval.

"Focusing on herself doesn't mean we can't all spend Christmas together as a family. When was the last time we did that?" Tom asked and Desmond nodded.

"Tom is right, Eve. Let's spend Christmas as a family," Desmond said and Evelyn sighed.

"Alright. Let's do that," Evelyn said with a happy smile since she also wanted to spend Christmas with them.

"I guess that settles it then," Tom said, and Sonia flashed Lucy a smile.

"So, what is the plan for the theme for the party? You know I've always wanted to throw a Christmas party and..."

"You are about to over do it now, mom," Jade cautioned Evelyn and they both laughed.

"Hopefully, your brother would join us by then," Evelyn said and Lucy nodded.

"Yes, hopefully," Lucy said as they all focused on their meal again.

"Lucy?" Jamal called, and everyone turned their curious gaze at him.

"Yes, Jam?"

"Are we invited to the party?" He asked, and Lucy nodded.

"Of course. Everyone gets to be there. You are part of the family too, are you not?" Lucy asked, and Dawn sighed.

"What about me? Can I come with my mom?" Dawn asked, and an awkward air filled the room as everyone waited to hear Lucy's response to that.

Lucy cleared her throat, "I'm not so sure about that darling."

"Why not?" Dawn asked with a frown.

"I think your mom will explain that better when you get home," Lucy said and Dawn's face fell as she looked at her food, while Lucy glanced at Tom who patted her hand.

"Why don't I help you pack your bag before your governess gets here?" Lucy offered after breakfast and Dawn gave her a nod as they both rose to go pack her bag.

As Lucy walked away with Dawn, Harry called Tom aside so they could speak privately.

"Have you spoken with the girl and the lawyer yet?" Tom asked curiously as they both sat at the terrace.

"Yeah," Harry said and went on to give him the details of the conversation and also showed him the confessional video which Amos had sent him.

"Nice. We should be able to wrap this up by tomorrow then," Tom said and Harry nodded.

"I'm going to the hotel by 3 P.M.," Harry said and Tom raised a brow.

"What for?" Tom asked and Harry showed him the text from Cassidy.

"Who is Cassidy? The cartel guy who left with Candace's sister?" Tom asked and Harry nodded.

"Yeah. What do you think?" Harry asked and Tom shrugged.

"I'm coming with you," Tom said easily.

"He said I should come alone and keep it to myself," Harry pointed out.

"That is assuming he is the one that sent it and it's not some sort of set up. I won't let you walk into a trap. Besides, if I get to the suite before either of you gets there, it would be a coincident," Tom said and Harry considered it for a moment.

"Do you think that would work? What if he is there already and finds out you are there?" Harry asked thoughtfully.

"Then he will change the venue of the meeting and we will also know if someone at the hotel is working for him. I just think we need to be careful so you don't walk into a trap," Tom said and Harry nodded.

"Alright. That means you have to be discreet about being there so that only a selected few of the staff would see you," Harry said and Tom nodded.

"Exactly. I will leave by noon after the kid leaves," Tom said as he glanced at his wristwatch.

"Lucy is really attached to the kid," Harry said and Tom sighed.

"Yeah. It makes me wish she wasn't Kimberly's kid. That way Lucy wouldn't have to stay away from her," Tom said feeling sorry for Lucy.

"You don't have to keep her away from the kid completely. Kimberly might be irresponsible but Dawn is still your grandfather's kid and for his sake you have to care for the child," Harry said and Tom sighed.

"Perhaps I will do so eventually, but I don't see myself doing so now."

"Alright. Let's go in then. I have to spend enough time with Jade so she doesn't feel too bad when I leave," Harry said and Tom shook his head.

"Loverboy," Tom teased.

"I wasn't the one wearing a uniform yesterday and parading around the place," Harry said dryly and they both chuckled as they headed back inside.

"I know you're jealous," Tom said and Harry scoffed.

"You wish."

Chapter 748 You Offered?

Amy had not been able to sleep for most of the night because she had been too worried about Miley's health and the fact that Malone had threatened to go to Miley's parents for payment.

Did Malone go to them? Or did he possibly change his mind? She mused as she picked up her phone for the umpteenth time that morning to check if there was any text or missed call from Miley's parents, even though she doubted that they would call.

She knew that after what she had done, she had no right to hope for their call whatsoever, but somehow, she still wished they would call.

She was only hoping that Miley would have regained consciousness and explained things to her parents.

She sighed as she slumped on the couch in the living room. Maybe it was time she sneaked into the hospital to check on Miley through any of the nurses or perhaps the doctor.

Who knows? Maybe she could get the doctor to tell her about Miley's health. She didn't want to have to sit there doing nothing and just worrying about Miley.

She glanced at the time, wondering why her mother wasn't there yet. She couldn't go to the hospital until her mother arrived since she had asked her to stay put.

Thinking about her mother arriving there anytime soon, her heart skipped a beat since it meant her having to face her mother's anger.

She had always been the perfect daughter to her mother and had tried all her life to not give her mother any reason to worry, especially after they lost her elder sister, but now she was afraid that her mother would be furious. She had disappointed her mother.

Amy was startled when a knock sounded on the door. Even though she was expecting her mother, she was still somehow scared that it might be Miley's parents, especially if Malone had succeeded in going to the hospital. Or it could be Malone wanting to threaten her some more.

She walked to the door and peeped through the doorhole, and when she saw that it was her mom, whom she was expecting, she relaxed a bit as she opened the door. Better her mom than the others.

"What is this nonsense I'm hearing? Is it true that you kept Miley's health issues away from her parents?" Amy's mother asked sternly the moment she walked through the door into the house.

Amy swallowed, "It's true."

"Why did you do such a thing? How could you keep Miley's health condition away from her parents? What right did you have to keep such a secret from her parents? What sort of a friend are you?" Amy's mother yelled at her, and Amy blinked rapidly to stop the tears that burned her eyes from flowing.

"She didn't tell me about her health either. I found out by chance."

"Finding out by chance is more reason you should have told her parents about it!"

"She didn't want them to know until she checked her bucket list. She asked me not to tell them..."

"And you listened to her? Can you listen to yourself? Can you really hear yourself? What kind of a friend are you?" Her mother yelled angrily, cutting her off.

"I thought I was helping her live out her best last months..."

"Helping her live out her best last months? Who are you to do that? Do you think you love and care for her more than her parents do? Don't you know they would have gone to every length possible to

get help for their only child? Wouldn't it be best to exhaust all treatment options and know they did all they could but couldn't save her, rather than being faced with a dying daughter because you wanted to help her? If you loved her and really wanted to help, you could have convinced her to receive treatment, even if it meant fighting with her! That is what real friends do!" Amy's mother yelled, unable to contain her anger, and Amy broke into a sob.

"I don't know what I was thinking, Mom. I'm sorry I caused such a mess," Amy cried as her mother began to pace the room.

"Sorry doesn't fix this, Amy. It doesn't fix anything. Do you know how much hurt you have caused them by keeping this away? Can you begin to understand how pained they are that they have less than a month to live with their only child?" Amy's mother asked as Amy wept.

If her mom was this mad over her not informing Miley's parents about her health, then she would definitely go crazy with anger when she heard what she had truly done.

Could she possibly bring herself to tell her mom that she had not only encouraged Miley by keeping her health away from her parents but had also encouraged her to get involved with a stranger and even offered to be her surrogate? How was she supposed to tell her mother that she was possibly carrying Miley's child right now?

Perhaps she should tell her mom first before she hears it from Miley's parents or Malone. That would make her even more angry.

"..." She opened her mouth to tell her mother about it, but no sound came out. She just couldn't bring herself to do it.

"Let's pray she recovers, else her parents will never forgive us," her mother said, and Amy looked down at her hands.

"If she dies, it's on me..." Amy said tearfully, and her mother sighed as she went to embrace her.

"It was foolish of you to do what you did, but I know you thought you were helping her. I know that this must be hard for you. Stay strong, and let's hope for a miracle," her mother said as she patted her back while Amy cried.

After Amy stopped crying, they both sat down, "Have you heard from them again? Do you know if Miley is awake now?" Amy asked her mom.

"I heard from the cleaner that she is awake but in a critical condition. She is having a hard time speaking," her mother said, and Amy's heart skipped a beat.

"But yesterday, she was speaking just fine," Amy said in alarm, and her mother looked at her like she was silly.

"If she had died, would you say, but yesterday she was alive? Her condition worsened, obviously. I don't think that's the only problem she is having," Amy's mother said, and Amy began to cry again.

"Do you think they would take your call if you called? I'm really worried about Miley," Amy said, and her mother sighed.

Even though she knew it was probably a bad idea to reach out to Miley's parents when they were still so upset, she was also very worried about Miley and wanted to know how she was doing now.

"I should call Miley's mom and see if she will speak to me," Amy's mom said before dialing her line and placing it on speaker.

Miley's mom, who was seated beside Miley, scowled when she saw that Amy's mom was calling her.

She had wanted to call Amy's mom the previous night after Malone left, but her husband had advised that they let her be and completely cut off any business with that family.

"Hello..."

"What more do you want? Haven't your daughter done enough already?" Miley's mother asked, cutting Amy's mom off.

"I understand how you feel, and I'm very sorry. I just want to know how Miley is doing?" Amy's mother said while Amy listened with a sad expression on her face.

Amy didn't like that her mother was being spoken to that way because of her. Miley's mom had been very good to her mom in all the years she had worked for them, and it hurt to hear the coldness in her tone now as she addressed her mom.

"Why do you want to know how Miley is doing? So that your criminal of a daughter... That thief, can come ask for more money from us too?" Miley's mom asked, and this time, Amy's mom became annoyed.

On hearing that, Amy's heart skipped a beat as it confirmed what she had feared; Malone had made good his threat of going to Miley's parents.

"I take exception to that! You can be angry at Amy. She deserves that. I am angry she acted so foolishly, but never you refer to my daughter as a criminal! She has never stolen a penny from you or anyone! All her life, she has worked hard to earn every penny, so don't you dare call her a thief!" Amy's mother snapped angrily.

"Or what, you low life? I didn't expect anything less from you. She is your daughter, after all, and I'm sure you are in on their plans, too. Well, tell that daughter of yours that she and that thief she connived with to dupe my daughter won't be getting so much as a penny from us, and she shouldn't dare think of coming to us with any pregnancy or a bullshit surrogacy story either. She won't get a dime from us or Miley," Miley's mother warned before hanging up.

Amy's mother turned to Amy with a dumbfounded look on her face, "What is she talking about?" Amy's mother asked as she looked Amy over.

"Are you pregnant? What surrogacy is she talking about?" Amy's mother asked Amy, who looked away guiltily as she rose from her seat.

"Why are you not saying anything? Answer my question!" Amy's mother yelled, startling Amy.

"I guess it's true then, seeing as you are not saying anything," Amy's mother said as she rose, and Amy sighed.

What was the point in keeping it away from her mother now? There was none whatsoever.

"Miley wanted to get married and have a child. She paid someone to marry her, and I offered to be her surrogate...." Her mother slapped her before she could finish speaking, shocking her.

"You offered? You offered to throw your life away for something so foolish? ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?" Her mother yelled.

"I..."

"You what? What excuse do you have for all of this nonsense?" She asked angrily.

"It's not confirmed yet if I'm pregnant..."

"Not confirmed yet? Is that even the point? How could you even think of ever being a surrogate for anyone? Whether or not it's confirmed yet, does that change the fact that you're about to destroy your life because of your foolishness? What is wrong with you, Amy?" Amy's mom yelled angrily.

"If I didn't do it, she would have paid someone else to do it. And after all she has done for me, I figured I could do this much for her. What is so wrong about wanting to be there for my friend?" Amy asked as tears rolled down her cheeks.

"At the expense of your life and future? You know what? Get dressed. We're going to the hospital," Amy's mother said, and Amy frowned.

"But Miley's parents won't let us anywhere around them," Amy pointed out, and her mother raised a brow at her.

"And who said we are going to see Miley? I'm taking you to the hospital to see if you're pregnant or not and to flush it out if you are pregnant. I can't stay still and watch you ruin your life this way," Amy's mother said, but Amy shook her head.

"An abortion? I can't. I won't do that to Miley. I promised her I would do this for her, and I intend to see it through whether or not she is here," Amy said firmly.

She knew she was probably making a mistake, but the deed was done already, and even if Miley's parents went on to cut her off from ever seeing Miley or being close to the family, she wanted to have this piece of Miley with her.

"I won't be your mother and watch you embark on such a stupid venture. If you wanted to prove such loyalty and devotion to her, the best way to go about it would have been to force her to live and not to let her die and offer to be her surrogate. You should have forced her to receive treatment so she will live long enough to carry her own child! Amy, if you go ahead and do this, I'm going to disown you," Amy's mother threatened, and tears stung Amy's eyes.

"I'm sorry, Mom, but I won't change my mind, and I hope you understand. Even if not now, I hope you understand in the future," Amy said, and tears stung her mother's eyes as she stared at Amy unbelievably.

Without uttering another word, her mother picked up her bag and walked out of the house.

The moment the door shut behind her mother, Amy collapsed on the couch and broke into a sob.

Considering the situation of things, she was going to need to figure out a way to care for herself and the baby if it happened that she was pregnant.

Perhaps it was time to go back to work while she waited to hear from Miley and her family.

Chapter 749 Everyone Likes You

"Lucy?" Dawn called as they both organized her stuff into her luggage.

"Yes?" Lucy asked, pausing to look at Dawn.

"Are you going to miss me?" Dawn said, and Lucy smiled.

"Of course. Why do you ask?" Lucy asked, and Dawn shrugged.

"You have Jamal," Dawn pointed out, and Lucy raised a brow.

"Why can't I miss you if I have Jamal?" She asked, and Dawn sighed.

"I wish he was leaving too," she said, and Lucy giggled.

"Don't tell me you are jealous of Jamal?" Lucy asked, and she shrugged.

"He gets to be here with you, and I don't," she said sadly.

"Yeah. And you get to be home with your mom and grandparents," Lucy said easily.

"Why does everyone like Jamal, but nobody likes me?" Dawn asked, and Lucy raised a brow.

"I like you," she said, and Dawn sighed.

"I know you do, but it's just you. Everyone else likes Jamal, but they don't like me," Dawn said, and Lucy smiled.

"Everyone likes you," Lucy said since she knew that was true. Everyone liked her but were acting distant because of her mother and the circumstances surrounding her birth.

"Listen, when Jamal came the first time, everyone wasn't as friendly to him. Even Tom had a really mean look on his face when he first spoke with Jamal. It took some time before he won their hearts," Lucy assured Dawn while the kid eyed her doubtfully.

"Really?" She asked, and Lucy nodded.

"How long did it take? Maybe I'm leaving too soon? If I stay longer, will they like me more and miss me when I leave?" Dawn asked, and Lucy smiled sadly.

Thankfully, before she could respond, a knock sounded on the door, and they both looked up as Desmond walked into the room.

Lucy's brows pulled together as she looked at Desmond, wondering what he was doing there.

"I want to speak with Dawn," Desmond said as if reading her mind, and Lucy gave him a nod as she rose to excuse them.

"I will be in my bedroom. You can come get me when you're done," Lucy told Dawn before walking away.

Seeing Desmond in her bedroom left Dawn disconcerted, and she didn't know exactly what to do as she looked at everywhere else but at him.

Watching the kid, Desmond didn't know what to do either. He wished she was older. Maybe if she was, he could have a genuine conversation with her.

They had received the result from the lab a moment ago, confirming that Dawn was his half-sister, even though they already believed it.

"Can I sit with you?" Desmond asked, and Dawn looked at him briefly and gave him a nod before looking down at her hands.

Desmond walked over to the bed and sat beside her. He remained quiet for some time, saying nothing as he thought of the best possible way to convey his message to the kid.

He doubted that she would remember this conversation in years to come, but he had to at least try.

He wasn't sure how much he was supposed to say to her or how much Kimberly and her parents would appreciate him telling her, but he knew that he didn't owe them anything. If anything, he expected them to tell the child the truth.

As much as he didn't like the situation of things, Dawn was a Hank. She was his father's daughter. His half-sister. He was not going to be a shitty older brother to her because of the circumstance surrounding her birth and because of the kind of person her mother was.

"I haven't been very welcoming, have I?" Desmond asked, deciding to start from there.

Dawn shook her head.

"I'm sorry about that. I lost my father, and things have been sort of rough lately," Desmond said, and Dawn looked at him.

"Sorry," Dawn said, not sure what she was expected to say.

Desmond looked at her for a moment, wondering what age she would be, when she realized she had also lost her father, and that was the person he was referring to.

"I wish things didn't happen this way. And I wish we met under different circumstances. Maybe then I would have been a lot nicer," Desmond said, even though he knew she wouldn't understand what he meant.

"Are you going to miss me?" Dawn asked, and this time, Desmond smiled.

"Yes, I will," he said after a moment, and she smiled.

"Do you want me to stay longer?" She asked hopefully, and Desmond sighed.

"Your mom needs you back now. But hopefully, when you are older and can make decisions for yourself, you can come over and stay for as long as you want to. My home will always be open to you then. You are family, after all," Desmond said, and Dawn nodded.

That was good enough for her.

They both turned to the door when it opened, and Evelyn looked in, "I didn't realize you were here," Evelyn said as Desmond rose.

"I'm done. Why are you here?" He asked, and she shrugged.

"I wanted to check on Dawn," she said as her gaze moved from Desmond to Dawn.

"I will leave you to it then," Desmond said as he left the room, and Evelyn walked in.

Dawn watched Evelyn as she sat on the spot which Desmond had just vacated.

Seeing Evelyn here, she figured that maybe Lucy was right. Maybe they all needed time to get to know her and like her like they liked Jamal.

Looking at Dawn, Evelyn sighed. This wasn't the sort of relationship she expected to have with Lawrence's daughter.

Lawrence had been like a father to her, and she knew she was supposed to be more accommodating of the kid. She was very much worried about Dawn but couldn't show it because she also had to consider her husband's feelings as well as Tom's because of what Kimberly had done, and even though she had chastised Lucy for interfering the way she did, she had been very much thankful that Lucy cared about the kid.

"What did Desmond say to you?" Evelyn asked curiously when she had been silent for some time, and it was obvious that her silence was making the kid uncomfortable.

"He said he was sorry and that he was going to miss me, and when I grow up, I can come and stay here for as long as I want," Dawn said since that was what was most important to her in all that Desmond had said.

"He said that?" Evelyn asked in surprise, and she nodded.

"That's nice," Evelyn said, and Dawn nodded.

"Do you know how to make phone calls?" Evelyn asked, and Dawn bobbed her head.

"I do."

"If I give you my phone number, will you call me from time to time to let me know how you are doing?" Evelyn asked, and Dawn looked at her in surprise.

"You want me to call you?" She asked, and Evelyn nodded.

"Of course. I care about you and would want to know that you are fine," Evelyn said, thinking that she owed Lawrence that much, and she also knew that once Desmond recovered fully from the loss of his father and the surprise of this, he would want to have a better relationship with Dawn too.

"Will you miss me?" Dawn asked, and Evelyn laughed softly.

"Of course I will."

Dawn beamed a happy smile since she could see that now that they realized she was leaving soon, they were all showing her that they actually liked her and cared about her.

Away from there, in Tom's bedroom, Lucy raised a brow when she walked in and saw Tom dressing up.

"Are you going somewhere?" She asked since she didn't remember him mentioning anything of the sort to her.

"Yeah."

"But you didn't mention having any plans of us going out. Or am I not coming with you?" Lucy asked with a slight frown.

"Nah. I'm going alone. I'm going out to the hotel to handle something that just came up," he said distractedly as he put on his tie, and she pressed her lips together and folded both hands in front of her.

Tom caught her expression in the mirror and turned to look at her, "What is the problem?" He asked with concern as he approached her.

"Why can't I come with you?" She asked, and his lips twitched in amusement.

"Don't you want to be here to see your little best friend off when she leaves?" Tom asked, and Lucy scowled.

That was true. She had to be at home when Dawn leaves, but that didn't mean she liked the idea of being at home without Tom. It wasn't like she wanted to do anything with him. He could stay in the Den with the guys all day while she chatted with the ladies or did anything else, but she just didn't like the thought of him being out of the house.

"How long will you be gone?" She asked, and Tom shrugged.

"A couple of hours. Hopefully, I will be back in time for dinner," he said, and her scowl deepened.

"That's a long time," she said, and this time, Tom grinned.

"Why? Missing me already? I thought you'd be happy to have some time to yourself. You like to have your space, remember? And you...."

"Shut up!" Lucy snarled at him, and he chuckled as his arm went around her waist and he pulled her close.

"Make me," he said as he kissed her, and Lucy bit his lower lip mildly.

"Can't it wait?" She asked with a pout.

"Tomorrow is the funeral, remember? And we will be leaving the day after tomorrow. Will you rather I travel down here alone after we return to Ludus?" He asked, even though he knew that wasn't going to happen.

"How about you go later in the day?" She asked, and he raised a brow.

"Would it make a difference whether I go now or in two hours time?" He asked with a knowing smile.

"I suppose not. Whatever. Leave if you want to leave," she said as she walked past him and went to sit on the bed so she could watch him dress up.

Tom returned to the dressing table, and he stifled a chuckle when he caught a glimpse of her face in the mirror.

"I will try to be back as soon as I can," Tom promised.

"You can spend the night there for all I care," she hissed, and he grinned.

"Really? I can? It's been a long time since I last spent the night there," Tom said, and Lucy glared at him.

"Thomas Hank," she called in a warning tone.

"Yes, Lucinda Perry?" He responded, and this time, he chuckled when she got off the bed and approached him with a pillow.

"You know you can just say you are going to miss me, right? You don't have to be so dramatic about it," Tom said as she hit him with the pillow.

"I'm not traveling, Lu. It's just the hotel. And I will be back before you know it," he said, and she raised a brow.

"I know it. So, I guess you are back now," she said, and Tom looked lost for a moment before he caught the joke, and then he laughed out loud.

Before Tom could respond to that, Lucy's phone started ringing, and she went to pick it up.

She smiled when she saw that the call was from Amy, so she received it, "Hey, Amy!" Lucy greeted cheerfully.

"Is this a good time? I'm sorry to bother you...."

"Sure. And it's not a bother. Are you alright?" Lucy asked when she heard the distress in her tone.

"I'm fine. I wanted to find out if you have gotten a replacement at the office yet or..."

"No, I haven't. Why?" Lucy cut in.

"I was hoping I could resume work tomorrow," Amy said, and Lucy gasped when it occurred to her that Miley was dead; hence, Amy wanted to return to work.

"Oh, Amy! I'm so sorry for the loss. You don't have to get back to work so soon. Take your time to process your loss and..."

Amy shook her head quickly when she realized what Lucy was thinking, "Oh, no! God, no. She is not dead. Miley is still alive. Her family is taking care of her now, and I just need to get back to work," Amy said, not wanting to give Lucy the details.

Perhaps it was because she didn't want Lucy to tell Lucas about it. She could bet that Lucas was most likely going to gloat if he heard how everything had gone south.

"That's a relief. You can resume then. The HR hasn't been able to find anyone good enough to fill your shoes. I'm so glad you're coming back. And I wish your bestie a smooth recovery," Lucy said, and Amy thanked her before hanging up.

"That was Amy. She wants to come back to work tomorrow," Lucy said, and Tom nodded.

"I heard that much. But why? Didn't you say she wanted to stay with her best friend, who is terminally ill?" Tom asked, and Lucy nodded.

"Yeah. She said her bestie is with her family now, so she has to get back to work," Lucy said easily.

"Why would the bestie being with her family stop her from staying with her?" Tom asked, and Lucy's brows pulled together thoughtfully.

"You have a point," Lucy said and then glanced at her phone when it began to ring again. This time, it was Lucas.

"It's Lucas," Lucy said, and Tom glanced at his watch.

"I have to leave now. I love you," Tom said and headed for the door, but Lucy said nothing, so he turned to look at her.

"Not even a kiss? Are you going to the hotel to meet another lady?" She asked, and Tom chuckled as he went over to where she sat and rained kisses on her face.

"I will say hello to the other woman when I get to the hotel," Tom said as he straightened up and headed for the door once again.

"Ask her to make sure I never find her," Lucy called after him, and he chuckled as he shut the door behind him.

Chapter 750 No More Playing Safe

Lucy had a smile on her face as she returned Lucas' video call since she had missed it because she wanted Tom to give her a see-you-later kiss before leaving.

"Hey, Luke! Sorry, I missed your call," she said the moment the call connected.

"You mean like you miss my presence?" He asked, and she rolled her eyes.

"Word of advice, only share such dry and boring lines with me. I'm your twin, so I can easily forgive you and overlook your flaws," Lucy said, and Lucas chuckled.

"I'm so lucky to have a twin with your sense of humor," Lucas said, and this time, Lucy giggled.

"What's up? I thought you didn't want to talk to me yesterday. Why are you calling me now?" She asked with a scowl, and Lucas grinned.

"I never said I didn't want to talk to you. I wanted to say hello to your boyfriend first," He said, and she rolled her eyes.

"Whatever. How is your program going?"

"I just got started. Things are not very serious yet."

"And Tyler? What's up with him?"

"Tyler is fine. Just really busy. Although I would say, it's worth it since he is raking in a lot of cash working as a cosmetic surgeon. But then again, he barely has time to enjoy all his money," Lucas said with a shake of his head.

"Don't tell me you're considering starting your own practice like him," Lucy said, and Lucas shook his head.

"Nope. Some of us aren't that ambitious. I love to live easy. Besides, I might be taking up Tom's offer to come work at the company clinic," Lucas said, and Lucy raised a brow.

"Tom offered you a job? When?" She asked in confusion.

"The first night we visited..."

"Why am I just hearing about it now? He didn't say anything to me about it," Lucy said with a frown.

"That's because I asked him not to say anything to you I'm yet to give him a response, but I'm thinking of taking up the job. Do you think you will be comfortable with me working for your boyfriend in the same company as you?" Lucas asked, and she considered it for a moment and shrugged.

"It's not about me. It's about you and what you want. And if this is what you want, then you should go for it. Besides, I will be glad to have you so close to me," Lucy said, and Lucas grinned.

"That is settled then. So, couple outfit, huh?" Lucas asked with a wink, and Lucy giggled.

"Why didn't I guess you were going to bring this up?" She asked, and Lucas chuckled.

"Whose idea was it?" Lucas asked, and she smiled.

"Would you be very surprised if I said it was mine?" She asked, and Lucas grinned.

"I suppose I would be. So, was it?" He asked, and when she nodded, he laughed out loud.

"You're an idiot," she hissed at him but joined in his laughter.

"Well, who knew you could be so romantic? It's good to see all these changes in you," Lucas said, and Lucy smiled.

"Speaking about being romantic. I want to tell you something," Lucy said, and Lucas raised a brow.

"What?"

"Well, you said you would be back in time for Christmas, right?" She asked, and Lucas gave her a nod.

"Yes. Why?"

"We are throwing a Christmas party...."

"Who do you mean when you say 'we'?" Lucas cut in.

"Tom and I. The party will be at the house, and all our family and friends will be in attendance, as well as some other selected important guests," Lucy said, and Lucas grinned.

"That sounds like a couple of things. Why does it seem like all that is left for you to do now is walk down the aisle with him? You've made up your mind to get married to him, haven't you?" Lucas asked, and Lucy raised a brow.

"Why do you think so?"

"Because I know you, Lu. And you won't do any of these if you haven't made up your mind to go all the way with him. You prefer to play safe, but you are not playing safe right now. Am I wrong?" Lucas asked, and Lucy shook her head.

"You are right. But no more playing safe now. And what I wanted to tell you is that I'm thinking of proposing to him at the party," Lucy said, and this time Lucas' eyes widened in disbelief.

"A proposal? You? You want to propose to Tom? If this is a dream, I don't want to wake up from it," Lucas said dreamily, and Lucy giggled.

"Stop being so dramatic. What do you think? Good idea or not?" She asked, and Lucas grinned.

"You better don't do it without me. I want to see Tom's face when you pop the question. If he says no, I'm going to punch him in the face," Lucas said, and the smile on Lucy's face faltered.

"Do you think he might say no?" She asked uncertainly.

"For Christ's sake, Lu, I was just kidding. You know Tom better. Do you really think he would turn you down? I know he won't, and we both know you wouldn't be planning such a thing if you thought there was a possibility that he might turn you down," Lucas said, and Lucy sighed.

"You're right," She said, and Lucas smiled.

"He's so good for you, Lu. And I'm very happy for you."

"Thanks. And I'm good for him, too," Lucy said with an eye roll.

"Are you? I'm not so sure," Lucas said and chuckled when Lucy glared at him.

"What about Mom and Dad? Have you told them yet?"

"No. I plan to surprise them with it, too," Lucy said, and Lucas chuckled.

"I can imagine the joy on mom's face. She will be over the moon for sure," Lucas said, and Lucy smiled.

"Yeah. So, enough about me. Let's talk about you," Lucy said, and Lucas raised a brow.

"What about me? We already talked about me. I'm fine, and the training just started," Lucas said dismissively.

"I know you saw the news or heard about it. How do you feel?" Lucy asked, and Lucas shook his head.

"Let's not talk about that," He said, and Lucy looked at him with concern.

"Are you sure you don't want to talk about it?" She asked, and he nodded.

"Don't worry about me, Lu. I'm okay, for real," He assured her, and she sighed.

"I guess tomorrow is the funeral, right? I must say I'm surprised you both decided to go on a date in spite of the scandal, and all that is going on at the moment," Lucas said, changing the subject again.

"I didn't think about any of that. Tom needed a break, and I wanted him to have it. Besides, being seen together would have been a good thing considering the rumors," Lucy said, and Lucas nodded.

"True. By the way, who is she? Is it true that the kid belongs to Tom's grandfather?" Lucas asked curiously, and Lucy told him all about it and all that had happened.

"Wow! You keep attracting troublesome people," Lucas said, and Lucy scowled at him.

"That's not on me. Tom is the one who was involved with them," Lucy said defensively.

"And you're the one who is always gullible enough to befriend them," Lucas pointed out, and she glared at him.

"The truth is bitter. You need to be more careful, Lu. And wiser, too," Lucas advised, and she sighed.

"Well, I've learned my lesson. I suppose the next time any lady smiles at me, I'm going to find out if she has slept with Tom before or if she is his ex or has plans of being in his future," She said dryly, and Lucas chuckled.

"Maybe you should do that. So, when do you guys plan to travel back to Ludus? Or do you plan to spend the rest of the week in Heden and return to work next week?" He asked with interest.

"No. We are going back on Tuesday. And I will resume at the office on Wednesday. I was worried about going back to sort out things at the office, but thankfully, Amy is resuming work tomorrow," Lucy said, and Lucas raised a brow.

Even though he didn't want to be curious, he couldn't help the questions that ran through his mind. Did she perhaps change her mind and fall out with Miley? Or did something happen to Miley? Was she dead?

"Why is she resuming work already?" Lucas asked as Lucy had known he would.

"She said Miley was back with her family, and they were caring for her, so she wanted to get back to work," Lucy said, and Lucas tried not to frown.

"I see," He said, not wanting to seem too interested in whatever was going on in both their lives.

Before Lucy could say anything, Sonia knocked on the door, "Lu, Dawn's governess is here," Sonia announced.

"I have to go now, Lucas. Be good," Lucy said before hanging up.

Lucas sighed as he dropped his phone. Even though it wasn't his business, and he shouldn't be worrying about either Miley or Amy, he couldn't help it.

Although he didn't know Amy much but, from what little he had gotten from his interactions with her, he knew that Amy would not just leave Miley to her family. It just didn't sound like her.

He knew that if she had her way, she would stay beside Miley until she drew her last breath. That was the kind of friendship he knew existed between those two.

So, why then was she going back to work when Miley was still alive and had limited time? Lucas mused.

Without wasting any time dwelling on it, he picked up his phone to call his former employer since he remembered that Miley had mentioned that he was her family's doctor.

If anyone would have information on Miley's situation, then he believed it would be Dr. Drew.

"Hello, Doctor Drew. It's Lucas," Lucas said the moment the call connected since he was using a different line.

"Hey, Doctor Lucas! How have you been?" Dr Drew asked, happy to hear from him.

"I'm alright. How are you? And how are my patients doing?" Lucas asked, and they both talked a bit about the patients before Lucas decided to ask about Miley.

"I was worried about one of your patients. Miley Garwood...."

"You know Miley? How?" Dr Drew cut in.

"Well, let's say she is an acquaintance of mine. I just wanted to find out if she is receiving treatment now. The last time we spoke, she was adamant about not getting treatment," Lucas explained, and Dr Drew sighed.

"Well, she was brought in yesterday, and she is in a critical condition now. Her body is gradually shutting down. It's painful to watch her," He said, and Lucas frowned.

"Her parents brought her in? I guess she finally told them," Lucas said, and Dr Drew raised a brow.

"You seem to know a lot about her. You both must have been really close," He observed.

"Not exactly. We met by chance, and she told me a lot about herself. I was just worried about her and wanted to check with you since she told me you were her family doctor after I told her I used to work for you," Lucas explained, even though that wasn't exactly how it happened.

"She didn't happen to tell you why she didn't want to receive treatment, did she?" Dr Drew asked curiously.

"Well, she didn't want to wither slowly on a hospital bed. She wanted to be able to tick the items on her bucket list before dying since she knew there was no cure for her," Lucas explained, and Dr Drew sighed once again.

"Well, now it's too late to tick the items on her bucket list, and she won't wither slowly either since the cancer is progressing rapidly. Her parents are devastated and doing all they can to save her life," He said, and Lucas decided to ask about Amy.

"And her best friend, Amy?"

"You know her too?"

"Yeah. I met them both," Lucas said, seeing no reason to mention that Amy worked under his sister.

"Well, Miley's parents are furious and wouldn't let her anywhere Miley. She kept the truth from them, and I don't think they can forgive her for that," He explained, and Lucas sighed.

So that was what happened, Lucas mused. Although a part of him wanted to rush to her defense, but he chose not to.

"That's too bad," Lucas said, and after that, he switched the topic again before hanging up.

Lucas shook his head as he thought of Amy. As much as he wanted to feel sorry for her, he didn't.

He warned her against indulging Miley, but she had refused to listen to him, so she should bear the consequences of her action. Maybe next time, she would learn that loyalty to a friend went beyond enabling bad decisions.

He hoped for her sake that Miley had not gone ahead with the whole marriage and surrogacy stuff, or else things would be a lot more difficult for her.

Lucas shook his head to get rid of the thoughts. It wasn't his business what happened to Amy. He shouldn't worry about her. He wasn't in any position to worry about anyone.