

Unbreakable 711

Chapter 711

Raegan took a seat, pressing herself against the door, creating as much distance as possible from Eloise. Eloise's gaze landed on Raegan's modest backpack and her lips twisted into a sardonic smile.

"Are you going to have a trip like this?" she taunted.

Raegan simply nodded.

Eloise's laughter rang out, tinged with malice.

Anticipation for the weekend's adventure began to bubble within Eloise.

As the vehicle pulled away, Raegan's eyes drifted to the front row, where Mitchel took the wheel.

Mitchel had swapped his usual suit for a casual navy windbreaker and sunglasses, his new attire lending him an air of rugged charm.

Taking in Bryce's and Eloise's outfits, a realization dawned on Raegan. They were headed for a mountain trek. Yet, Bryce had kept this from her, no doubt to throw her off balance.

Determined to make the best of the situation, Raegan decided against overthinking. She rested her head against the window, feigning sleep.

The journey was long, and perhaps thanks to Mitchel's skilled driving, Eloise drifted into sleep, her head resting against the window.

As for Raegan, she remained awake with her eyes closed, acutely aware of Eloise's head now resting against her shoulder. To avoid any awkward eye contact with Mitchel, Raegan continued to feign sleep, resisting the urge to shove Eloise away. After a while, the car's consistent motion made Raegan feel inclined to nap.

She mused on how Mitchel's driving had changed since Eloise entered the picture, his earlier haste replaced by a considerate pace.

Upon arriving, Raegan stirred from her light doze. Unlike Eloise, who was deeply asleep, head on Raegan's lap, arms encircling her waist.

Raegan nudged Eloise, who remained unresponsive. Suddenly, the back door swung open. Mitchel loomed into view, tapping Eloise's back to wake her up.

But Eloise, disoriented from her abrupt awakening, lashed out with a slap across Raegan's face.

Eloise had hardly applied any force, yet Raegan's delicate skin couldn't withstand even that mild slap.

In the brief silence that followed, realization dawned upon Eloise.

Chapter 712

Eloise observed Raegan's reddened cheek, then her own palm, and understood the cause.

Attracted by the noise, Bryce confronted Eloise with a fury akin to a lion's, "Eloise, have you lost your mind? How could you hit her like that?"

Although Bryce bore no fondness for Raegan, he still defended Raegan.

After all, he was the one who brought Raegan here with him. If any reprimand was aimed at Raegan, it should come from him, not others.

Eloise had intended to apologize to Raegan. She was frank but never malicious.

But as soon as she heard those questioning from Bryce who was younger than her, she retorted immediately, "Why the outrage? It was unintentional."

"Then offer her your apologies," Bryce insisted.

Bryce's anger seemed to eclipse Eloise's, and he looked poised to force an apology by grabbing Eloise's collar. Terrified, Eloise sought refuge behind Mitchel, clutching at Mitchel's garment in her anxiety. Mitchel intercepted Bryce's hand with a scowl, his voice icy.

"Calm yourself. It was an accident."

Bryce winced at the pain in his hand, incredulous.

"Mitchel, you're taking her side?"

"Yes, is that an issue?"

Mitchel's gaze grew frostier.

"Are we proceeding with our hike or not?"

Initially, Raegan didn't mind at all, aware that Eloise didn't do it on purpose.

However, witnessing Mitchel's overt protection over Eloise shifted something within her.

She knew the feeling of being defended was undeniably pleasant.

Eloise, grinning broadly, trotted behind Mitchel and taunted Bryce with a face.

Bryce was seething with anger. He

had believed he could have some fun when Hector was away, but he hadn't anticipated that Hector would assign Mitchel to watch over him.

Moreover, Mitchel, the typically occupied CEO was monitoring him personally and even joined his hiking with Raegan. Such misfortune!

Raegan found Bryce's defending her startling. She was somehow moved, bolstering her resolve to better his opinion of her.

"What's the plan, exactly? Could you tell me now?" Raegan inquired.

Chapter 713

Bryce stood, one hand on his hip, gesturing toward the mountain. "See that peak? If you can withstand two days and a night at the summit, I'll fulfill any request you have." "Deal." Raegan's agreement came swiftly, without a trace of doubt.

With a smirk, Bryce warned, "Just so you're aware, I'll only provide you with a tent. You need to manage yourself. No food or drink from me."

He eyed Raegan's modest backpack, adding with gravity, "It's not too late to concede and step down." Raegan's response was firm.

"Don't worry. I've got this."

Bryce's scoff was clear.

"Cry all you want on the mountain. No one will escort you down" Raegan disregarded his taunts and set off. Bryce was completely taken aback.

The trail was treacherous, a challenge to navigate.

Despite a not-quite-healed sprained ankle hampering her, Raegan's stamina was commendable. She was an accomplished distance runner in her school days.

In contrast, Bryce, climbing for leisure, had hired help for his gear, allowing him to ascend with ease. Eloise, on her first mountain climb, was abuzz with excitement, chatting eagerly with Mitchel.

Her enthusiasm was infectious, though it soon waned, replaced by a weary silence.

Initially trailing, Raegan steadily gained on the group.

Exhausted, Eloise called out for a break, parched and fatigued.

Bryce, too, showed signs of exhaustion, his forehead beaded with sweat.

As they drank, Raegan pushed on, announcing, "I'll continue upward."

Impressed, Bryce nodded, resting with Eloise at the trail's edge.

Further up, Raegan's thirst intensified. She reached for her water bottle, but a sudden rustle halted her.

The wilderness was unnerving.

She turned around, only to recoil at the sight of Mitchel's looming figure.

Chapter 714

Raegan was teetering on the brink of a fall, but Mitchel's swift hand caught her.

The next instant, Raegan tumbled into Mitchel's embrace, the water bottle escaping her grip. Surrounded by jagged rocks, a fall could be disastrous.

Instinctively, Raegan clung to Mitchel, her face against his sturdy chest.

And there, against him, she heard the rhythmic assurance of his heartbeat.

Raegan took some time to recognize the overly close nature of their stance.

She inhaled sharply and leaped away from Mitchel's embrace.

Her reaction made Mitchel's attractive features darken.

He said harshly, "Drop this trick. The mountain's crowded, and I have no interest in you." Raegan had opened her mouth to express gratitude, but his words stopped her cold.

Her complexion lost its color.

Nearby, a group of climbers cast meaningful looks at Raegan, mistaking her for someone craving for a one-night stand. Disturbed by their stares, Raegan shot Mitchel a glare, turned around, and ascended silently. She soon noticed the same group of men taking a break ahead. Their gazes were unsettling. Opting to wait for Bryce, Raegan stopped.

However, those men approached Raegan as she halted.

A sudden anxiety gripped Raegan when one taunted, "That dashing man just rejected you. Maybe you'll prefer my company. We'll enjoy ourselves. What do you say?"

Another man chimed in, "Don't think about having this lovely lady all to yourself."

They were not only flirting with her but even attempted to take advantage of her.

With a face etched in caution, Raegan retrieved her walkie-talkie, a gift from Bryce, and called out, "Bryce, where are you now?"

Silence answered. The battery was dying, and those men had noticed.

One quipped, "No fear, we're decent

folks. We can negotiate a price.”

Anger whitened Raegan’s face, and her resentment toward Mitchel deepened.

His words had painted her wrongly in these men’s eyes.

Chapter 715

Gripping the pepper spray in her backpack, Raegan asserted, “Move aside. I need to find my partner.” One of the men intercepted her and mocked, “You little liar. Your partner deserted you just now.” Raegan’s demeanor hardened.

“Do you wish to verify my honesty?”

Those men had come for leisure, not trouble. When laying eyes on the stunning Raegan, they attempted to flirt with her. But they harbored no ill intents.

One relented first, saying, “Easy, miss. No offense intended.”

As he coaxed his friend away, he reassured Raegan, “All clear. You can go.”

However, the man halting in Raegan’s track lingered, his eyes fixating on Raegan.

With a few steps forward, Raegan noticed his gaze still following her.

After a while, Raegan spotted Mitchel propped against a tree, stealing glances at her as she descended. Avoiding any interaction, Raegan opted to tread further down and settled in the shade, anticipating Bryce’s arrival. The midday sun scorched the hillside, igniting a thirst within Raegan.

Unfortunately, the only water bottle was gone.

The prospect of enduring two days under such conditions seemed daunting, especially under the assumption that Bryce would deny her water, unless she conceded defeat.

As Mitchel made his descent, Raegan shut her eyes, subscribing to the mantra “out of sight, out of mind”. Yet, as he walked by, a scent she knew all too well wafted toward her. The sound of something striking the ground prompted Raegan to open her eyes. Mitchel had left a water bottle behind.

She puzzled over why she'd never before considered his Littering impolite.

The bottle, caught in a sunbeam, seemed to have water rippling inside. Skeptical, Raegan blinked hard, only to confirm it was indeed half- full.

Frozen in place for minutes, her resistance finally crumbled, and she moved toward the bottle.

Upon retrieving it, Raegan’s expression was a mix of relief and confusion.

She consoled herself with the thought that Mitchel was as fit as a fiddle.

The sun's rays made the water glisten, tempting her parched throat.

Chapter 716

With resolve, Raegan unscrewed the cap, tilting her head back to drink without her lips grazing the bottle. She dared only a few sips from the half-full bottle.

No sooner had Raegan set the bottle down than she noticed Mitchel, who returned and stood before her, eyes narrowed and arms folded.

His expression was like she was a pervert for taking the mineral water he’d been sipping. A sudden coughing fit overtook Raegan, her cheeks flushing with red.

Mitchel extended a hand, prompting Raegan to clutch the bottle defensively to her chest, hastily asserting, “I'll pay you back once we're off this mountain.”

Mitchel's outstretched hand paused midair, and in a frosty tone, he replied, "No need."

His darkening expression led Raegan to surmise he desired no further dealings with her.

The sentiment was mutual. Besides, to a CEO, one bottle of water was trivial.

Mitchel's gaze darkened as he watched Raegan cautiously stow away half a bottle of water in her bag. The tension in the air was palpable when Bryce and Eloise approached.

Bryce's disheveled blue hair made him look particularly ghastly.

Upon seeing Mitchel, Bryce pushed Eloise toward Mitchel with a sense of urgency, exclaiming, "Mitchel, you are the one who is supposed to look after her."

If it weren't for Eloise who had clung to his arm and dragged him along, Bryce would have ascended earlier.

Eloise was disheartened. Had she known how exhausting the day would be, she would never have accompanied Mitchel here to take a trek.

Clinging to Mitchel's arm, Eloise pleaded in a sweet tone, "Mitchel, I'm tired. Can you escort me back?" Mitchel gave her a brief glance and offered, "I'll arrange a ride for you."

Eloise's expression soured instantly, interpreting his words as an intention to send her back alone.

Previously, Mitchel had expressed a desire not to see her, which had left Eloise weeping all night, her eyes puffy with tears.

With no alternative, Eloise's parents had implored Mitchel to at least consider Eloise a friend. Eloise, stubborn as ever, wasn't quick to change her mind about adoring Mitchel and needed time to cool off.

Mitchel, for the sake of Eloise's parents, hadn't expelled Eloise but instead invited her to join the mountain trek.

Now, it seemed Mitchel was subtly declining Eloise's advances.

But Eloise refused to give up so easily, especially with the presence of Mitchel's ex-wife who possibly waited for a moment alone with Mitchel.

Chapter 717

Gazing at Mitchel's striking features, Eloise shook her head determinedly.

"I'm not leaving."

She was smitten with this handsome man, having never met anyone who rivaled Mitchel's allure. Mitchel simply looked at Eloise and kept silent.

Noon had arrived.

Bryce unpacked an assortment of fast food, urging everyone to help themselves.

His challenging stare at Raegan seemed to dare her to confess her hunger.

Raegan turned away, ignoring them.

Soon, the tantalizing smell of food wafted through the air, and Raegan's stomach growled. She retrieved beef jerky from her bag, rationed it, and ate just enough to satiate her hunger.

Her foresight in packing practical items in her small bag was proving beneficial. By evening, they had reached the mountain's summit. While Bryce directed the workers to set up camp for him, he left Raegan to fend for herself.

As others rested in their erected tents, Raegan struggled with the hammer, which slipped and struck her hand, eliciting an involuntary cry of pain.

She looked up through tear-filled eyes, seeking Mitchel's assistance habitually, only to be met with his scornful gaze.

Ashamed, she quickly averted her eyes, chastising herself for such a lapse in judgment. How could she have forgotten Mitchel's profound disdain for her?

ANGELA'S LIBRARY

As dinner time approached, Eloise stepped out of her tent and summoned Mitchel, "Mitchel, come and eat. Bryce has brought a feast of food and beer."

Being offered with sorts of foods, Eloise started to get on with Bryce.

Mitchel glanced at the Raegan and sensed his patience wearing thin.

He anticipated her imminent plea for assistance. With a scoff, he departed without a second thought.

Once Raegan perceived Mitchel's departure, she allowed herself to unwind and settled onto the ground.

A bitter smile played on her lips, pondering her own expectations.

Raegan had been self-reliant for so long that she managed to pitch the tent by herself after much effort.

Having trekked the mountain all day, her body felt the pangs of hunger and thirst, leaving her exhausted.

Chapter 718

Ignoring everything else, she crawled into the tent and surrendered to sleep.

The quiet rustle eventually roused Raegan.

She turned on her flashlight and called out, "Who's there?"

Hearing footsteps outside, Raegan wrapped herself in a blanket of fear, too scared to remain alone. Grasping her spray for protection, she peered out of the tent to find nothing amiss.

Yet, the thought of sleep eluded her.

Her tent was vulnerably positioned at the edge. After a moment's hesitation, Raegan moved toward Eloise's tent which was safely nestled at the center.

Standing near Eloise's tent, Raegan caught the sound of Eloise's voice inside. "Mitchel, stop that. It tickles..."

ninjanovel.com

The voice cut through Raegan, a frigid gust chilling her to the core.

She stood frozen momentarily.

Regaining her composure, she retreated.

Wasn't it normal for Mitchel to be intimate with another woman? After all, they were divorced. Driven by desire, he was not one to refrain.

Her thoughts were abruptly interrupted as a hand clamped over her mouth in the darkness. Startled into full alertness, Raegan fought back fiercely. But the assailant seized her hair with a vice-like grip, pulling her into the shadows.

Raegan's head throbbed where her hair had been ruthlessly grasped, and a hand clamped over her mouth stifled her cries. The pain was too intense for her to utter a sound.

Eventually, the assailant halted.

A rag was roughly thrust into Raegan's mouth, and her wrists were bound tightly with a thick rope.

Shadow shrouded the man before her, his eyes gleaming with a Lewdness that sent shivers down Raegan's spine.

It was only then that Raegan realized she wasn't alone with the assailant. There was another.

In the dim light of the moon, she recognized them as the ones who had harassed her in the daytime.

Fear seized her.

The man who had previously feigned kindness now leaned in close, his voice a disturbing whisper.

Chapter 719

"Don't be scared, little girl. I've no desire to harm you. Comply, and I'll ensure you're well looked after."

The other man wore a far more menacing look, brandishing a sharp Swiss Army knife with a threatening snarl, "Defy us, and I won't hesitate to mar that pretty face of yours."

The chill wind whipped around Raegan, tossing her hair wildly as her complexion turned ashen with terror.

“Did you hear that?” the man with the dagger questioned, his lecherous gaze roaming unchecked over Raegan’s ample bosom. Regaining her composure, Raegan could do nothing but nod continuously while a visible shiver ran through her body.

The terror within her was so overwhelming, it rendered her thoughts incoherent.

Noticing her fright, the two men’s wariness diminished considerably.

They believed that wielding their daggers wasn’t necessary to intimidate fragile young girls like Raegan.

With a grin, one man caressed Raegan’s soft cheek, murmuring, ‘Such a good girl, indeed.’

“Enough, Silas, we should get moving. My patience is wearing thin,” the other grumbled, his rough exterior starkly evident as he began to disrobe. The sight of Raegan earlier had ignited an impatient lust within him.

They had been unable to shake Raegan’s attractive image since they spotted her at noon.

It was only because of Silas’ keen observation, noticing the man Raegan had argued with lingering nearby, that they had bided their time.

Eventually, these two men had slipped away from their group and trailed Raegan up the mountain, stealthily waiting for the moment to pounce.

Silas, observing the other’s scant attire of just shorts, let out a laugh and playfully chided, “Neal, you’re in quite the hurry. Try not to scare the little girl.”

Neal responded with a chuckle, “Think she’s startled by this? Just wait. There’s scarier stuff on the way.”

Raegan, witnessing Neal's advance, violently shook her head and wept, as though she were desperate to convey a message. This piqued Silas' curiosity. He halted Neal, suggesting, "Hold up.

Let's hear what she has to say."

Impatient, Neal spat out a curse, "What's gotten into you? Quit dragging this out."

Silas reassured, "No need to worry. Her friends are out cold. Nobody's going to search for her."

With those words, Silas moved closer to Raegan, crouched before her, and warned, "I'm about to remove the towel. Make a sound, and [1] make sure you regret it. Got it?"

Raegan sensed that beneath Silas' mild exterior lurked the most indecent of nature.

Silas masqueraded as a kind soul under the sun's gaze.

Chapter 720

Raegan's affirmation came through tear-stained eyes, radiating fear and vulnerability. As Silas removed the towel from her mouth, Neal gripped the dagger, his vigilance etched into his stern features. His look was so intimidating that any scream from her would prompt an instant slash to her throat.

Taking a deep breath to steady herself, Raegan whispered through her tears, "Sir, I'll be compliant... Very compliant. Please don't hurt me. Spare me. I... I'll do whatever you ask."

Her quivering, tearful voice caused both men to be captivated. To them, she was such a rare find.
Angela's Library

Her voice was so appealing that they hesitated to silence her again.

The mere thought of her screaming excited them.

Pleased, Silas caressed Raegan's pale face with a lewd smile, saying, "Don't worry. If you comply, you won't suffer much. We'll be very gentle..."

As he spoke, his hand trailed down from Raegan's cheek to her neck, then creeping further... His rough touch felt like venomous scorpions skittering across her skin.

Raegan shuddered, her skin crawling.

Her voice quivered as she pleaded, "Sir, can we not do here?"

Silas cast a wary look at Raegan. Raegan complained, still trembling, "The ground is littered with stones. It's unbearably uncomfortable."

Silas surveyed Raegan and noticed her feet were bleeding, leading him to surmise she must have stumbled earlier. Moreover, the ground was indeed strewn with rough, uneven rocks.

Neal, growing increasingly impatient, gripped Raegan by the collar, exclaiming with annoyance, "You're exasperating. I'll begin first."

With that, he hauled Raegan toward a smoother area.

Raegan's tears flowed as she implored in a hushed tone, "Neal, please, ease up. Don't pull me. The ground is scattered with stones. I can walk on my own."

Her gentle voice caused Neal to lose his composure. There was something about being called by name by a lovely, melodious voice that everyone found endearing.

Neal ceased dragging Raegan and instead gestured toward a clearing, instructing tersely, "Lie down quickly. The cold is biting."

He took off his pants, and the mountain's drastic shifts in temperature from day to night had him shivering.

Obediently, Raegan nodded and advanced, keeping her hand struggling against the grip of the rope.

The binding Silas had secured earlier wasn't too tight, and her wrists were slender, allowing her to loosen most of it already.