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"I am!" Lydia and I broke the silence at the same time. After we exchanged glances, I gestured for her to carry on with the conversation. "I'm the patient's wife."

The doctor nodded and carried on in a serious tone, "The patient was stabbed, but he is no longer in danger. However, he needs to pull through the next forty-eight hours. Otherwise..."

He paused, seemingly at a loss for better words to explain Jackson's situation in a less impactful manner.

"Doctor, be frank with me. As a fellow doctor, I'm ready for what's awaiting me."

Sighing, the doctor stated, "There's a huge probability he's going to turn into a vegetative patient because his carotid artery has been severely damaged."

Once the doctor delivered the news, he tapped Lydia's shoulder lightly and made his way past the crowd.

I started shuddering in fear, my mind going completely blank once again. The image of Jackson leaving with Macy by his side crossed my mind. My eyes started brimming with tears, but no tears seemed to fall.

"Please leave us alone." Lydia's seemingly harmless request took me by surprise.

I knew she wanted me to get out of her sight after the misfortune I had brought upon Jackson. As there was nothing I could do, I begged her, "Dr. Alder, please allow me to stay here and keep Jackson company. The doctor said the next two days are extremely crucial. He needs someone to be by his side. On top of that, you need to take care of your child. If I'm around, I can—"

"What can you do?" Lydia directed another rhetorical question at me before I could finish my sentence. "If anything happens to you, should I take care of you or him? Haven't you achieved your goal to turn his life upside down? Do you wish to witness his demise? Ms. Stovall, please stop crossing the boundaries!"

I couldn't bring myself to rebuke her statement. In the end, she walked away and left me behind.

Although I was reluctant to leave, she was right—I couldn't even take good care of myself, let alone take care of others.

Once we reached the entrance of the hospital, another intense fight between Ashton and John broke out.

Subconsciously, John showed me the way to his car, but Ashton got in his way and stopped him.

"You might have saved her, but it takes more than that to prove yourself worthy! If it weren't because of you, the Ziegler family wouldn't pick on us either!" John glared at Ashton, squaring himself up against the other man.

"If you could take care of her, how did Mitchell get his hands on her? Since nowhere is safe, I'd rather have her by my side!" Ashton showed no signs of stepping back at all. He was ready to take John on.

I stood in the middle of the duo, feeling like a statue when they would yell at one another and try to bring me away with them. They seemed to have forgotten I could feel the pain, and I had no intention to stop them because I thought it was a punishment I deserved.

When I reached my limit, I let out a hiss and shuddered in pain. Subsequently, Ashton and John moved away from me at the same time.

The former's hoarse voice could be heard when he repeated himself, "Come with me."

However, John wasn't about to give up just yet. He said, "Letty, don't let him deceive you! You know deep down that you're one of us!"

"Come again?" Ashton raised his volume, indicating he was infuriated for real.

My brother pushed Ashton and demanded, "Have I said anything wrong? You're a liar! All along, you have been making use of the affection she has for you to get your revenge!"

"Give me a break!" Not being able to take it anymore, I subconsciously walked in the direction of Ashton.

Before I could move any further, John rushed over and stopped me. "Letty, are you having doubts against my words?"

I heaved a long sigh and announced, "John, please allow me to return with him. I'll spend a night at his place to sort out the things that are supposed to be sorted out since a long time ago. How about you pick me up tomorrow morning?"

John still had his doubts, but after much consideration, he moved away and said, "Alright, I'll allow you to spend a night at his place, but only under the condition of me tagging along."

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Halfway through his answer, he looked at Ashton when he felt the man's eyes boring into his back. He demanded, "What? Can't you even accommodate another person?"

I had no intention to deal with the bickering duo any longer. Thus, I sneaked my way into the car and urged Ashton to get going. I needed to get myself checked and return to Jackson as soon as possible.

By the time I was done with all the required check-ups, it was already eight o'clock in the evening. The doctor said the children were fine, but I would have to take a break and refrain from moving around.

After all the things those around me went through over the past few weeks, I knew I couldn't afford to mess around anymore.

I made a decision to tell Ashton everything, but right when I was about to, someone uninvited showed up at the doorstep immediately after the doctor departed.

Seeing as it had only been a few hours since Ashton broke Mitchell's arms. The Ziegler family had shown up to sort out the issue with him.

Mitchell's elder brother, Zayne, had shown up. Perhaps he was confident of his identity as a member of the Ziegler family—he had merely brought his chauffeur with him.

After he took a seat, the man announced, "I'm here on behalf of my father!"

The patriarch of the Ziegler family, Jonelle, had built most of the skyscrapers in the central business district. He was renowned amongst corporate players and politicians. Thus, those from the upper echelon and the underworld would show him some respect. Zayne, who was older than us, was there on Jonelle's behalf, so he was relatively arrogant and proud of himself.

Ashton took a seat by my side on the couch while John was on the opposite couch of ours. They had braced themselves for the upcoming conversation with Zayne, who seemed to be up to no good.

"Have you dropped by to express your apology?" John broke the silence and asked sarcastically, "Your brother instructed his men to stab a close friend of my sister. In fact, he tries to get his hands on my beloved sister. She's traumatized by the things he had in mind. Uncle Louis is infuriated as well."

Uncle Louis was a high-ranking official with great records; everyone in K City would be intimated should they have to face his wrath. Zayne, who had been emanating a menacing aura, was intimidated by John's words. After he adjusted his glasses, he fell into a process of thoughts.

After a short while, Zayne regained his composure and glared at my brother, asking in a callous tone, "Let's forget about the outsider and talk about our families' affairs for the time being. Scarlett was perfectly fine when my brother asked her over for a conversation. However, Mr. Fuller broke my brother's arms when nothing was done! Do you think the Ziegler family is an easy target?"

"Oh? Have his arms been broken yet?" John continued sarcastically.

Perhaps Zayne couldn't take it anymore when he yelled, "He's been rushed to a hospital abroad! My father almost passed out due to a heart attack because of the incident! Who should I hold accountable for all these occurrences?"

Those from the upper echelon definitely knew the methods to find their way around their foes. Although many had always considered Zayne a wimp, that was not the case. Mitchell was the one at fault, yet Zayne avoided mentioning Jackson. He brought up Jonelle's condition instead, making it sound as though we were at fault.

John had always been an expert in taming rebels, so he didn't bother concealing his sarcasm as he repeated, "Are you telling me you're not aware of all the things Mitchell has done? My brother-in-law has been pretty merciful, considering the situation. He only broke his arms! If I was there, I would have dug his eyes out of their sockets with my bare hands!"

It wasn't an exaggeration because John had always been known as a cruel man. He had never shown mercy to those who tried to pick on him.

Humiliated, Zayne turned around and confronted Ashton, "Mr. Fuller, are you of the same opinion with Mr. Stovall? Are you not going to compensate for my brother's loss?"

Ashton deadpanned his reply, "I was aware he was a member of the Ziegler family when I gave the order to have his arms broken."

It was evident that his statement was an attempt to provoke the Ziegler family.

As Ashton made it sound like it wasn't a big deal, Zayne jolted up from his seat in anger. The man started panting heavily, to the extent his chest could be seen jerking involuntarily. He glared at Ashton in the eyes, yet the latter didn't seem a bit intimidated. Subsequently, the color drained from Zayne's face.

As John had always enjoyed gloating over others' misfortunes, he went on and suggested, "Mr. Ziegler, you should get going and hire the best attorney in town to defend that brother of yours. My men can testify your brother is the mastermind behind the abduction and assault. I can't wait to see if you're able to save him from the Stovall family and get him out of the bars again."