

Chapter 1461

Ian did not answer.

Elaine also felt that she had spoken out of turn because they had agreed not to interfere with each other's life.

"I'm sorry, I didn't mean it. I just think that if you're regretting it, it'll be better for us to stay engaged for the time being.

"Being engaged will make it easier for you to seize power too."

'I've never liked to force others. Even though he's the one who proposed the marriage at the beginning, the purpose of the marriage has always been the benefit that each of us will get from the marriage at the end of the day.

We won't have anything to do with each other, let alone fall for each other.

'But I've been a little hesitant recently, hesitant about my decision.'

I've never been afraid of a marriage of convenience as I could still keep the life that I want after the marriage.

Getting a divorce can be done any time if I find out we don't suit each other.

The whole thing will still be acceptable to me as long as it's not troublesome.

'But after listening to Lucy's reminder, I'm unsure whether I can remain unrelated to Ian in all aspects of life after our marriage.

'To be honest, Ian is excellent in every way. He's both gentle and graceful when he's around me'

Elaine was a little afraid.

They would, in fact, only be acting in front of the public, but if unnecessary feelings were to emerge from all the interactions, her losses would truly outweigh her gains.

The man behind her remained silent for a few minutes and then asked, "Why would you keep on reminding me if I have any regrets or not?"

She choked on her own words for a split second and decelerated.

"Did I?"

He gave off a faint chuckle.

"Are there other issues that are bothering you?"

Elaine pursed her lips and did not utter a single word.

After a long time, Ian glanced out of the window.

"You don't have to overthink this."

The car was parked at 22, Northbay Avenue, Southpark, 20 minutes later. She stopped the car and turned around.

“We’ve reached your place.”

The man in the back was silent.

Elaine got out of the car, walked to the rear, and opened the door.

And under the dim yellow light of the street lamp, she saw him leaning against the back of the seat with his eyes closed, as if he was asleep. She leaned forward, propped one arm against the back of the seat, and nudged him with the other hand.

“Mr. Saldana?”

Ian frowned, rubbed his forehead, and slowly opened his eyes.

He then tilted his head and stared at Elaine’s face, his vision slightly blurred as if there were a couple of images that overlapped with herself.

“Mr. Saldana?” She called out his name again.

Ian returned to his senses slightly, and his eyes were fixed on her face.

Now that he could see Elaine clearly, he covered his forehead.

“I’m sorry.”

Elaine got out of the car and held the door for him.

“You’re home.”

He responded with a light hum and got out of the car. He could not even stand firmly and turned slightly toward her.

Elaine lifted her hands to support his arm.

“Are you okay going in by yourself?”

He paused for a few seconds and laughed as his chin rested directly above the top of her head.

The smell of liquor brushed through her hair as he breathed out.

“Then will you send me in?”

‘Send him in?’ She looked back at the villa where the lights were out.

“Is there no one else living in your house?”

He replied, “I’m the only one living here.”

“This...Wouldn’t this be a tad bit inappropriate?”

Ian leaned toward her and lay on her back.

It felt like he was using her as a crutch, but it did not feel as intimate as it could be.

“You’re now my fiancée. What’s not appropriate about this?”

Elaine swallowed her saliva.

‘He’s so right that I can’t even refute his statement’

“Then I’ll take you in,” she said very lightly as she supported him.

Fearing that he might fall, she asked again, “Can you still walk?”

‘I won’t be able to carry such a huge man on my back. Not to mention that I’m wearing heels now’

He laughed.

“I’m not that drunk just yet.”

Elaine helped him to the door, but his door was locked, and it would take a pin code to unlock it.

She was waiting for him to enter the pin code when he said, “The pin code is 0626.”

She typed it in, and the door opened automatically.

“Is that pin code your birthdate?”

He replied, “No.”

Elaine understood something immediately.

‘If it’s not his birthday, it must be his first love’s birthday’

‘How am I so clever!?’

Chapter 1462

Ian seemed to have seen through her thoughts.

“It’s the last four digits of my cell phone number.”

Elaine was rendered speechless.

‘This is a little awkward now’

She chuckled and helped him in the door.

“There’s no need to explain that.”

He responded with a light hum.

“I’m not explaining.”

‘I’m just telling her the pin.’

It doesn’t mean anything.

He stretched out his hand to turn on the chandelier, and the space lit up instantly.

The interior of the villa looked quite simple.

There were not as many bells and whistles as she imagined, and it did not look luxurious.

It looked simple, clean, and spacious. She helped him back to the bedroom, which looked even emptier.

There was only one king-sized bed, a wardrobe, a desk, a bookshelf, and no extra sundries or other items. She looked around.

"Your place looks way too simple."

It did not look shabby. It was just that it was extremely simple. It seemed almost vacant and did not feel like home at all. It was more like a temporary shelter.

"I live alone, so there's no need to put so many things in the house."

His eyes shifted from side to side, and he stopped for a few seconds before adding slowly, "I don't come here very often either."

He rarely returned home, mainly because it was located very far away, and it was inconvenient for him to come home when he was on a mission.

Elaine understood his reasoning and did not ask any more questions.

"Since you've arrived home safely, I'll go first."

As soon as she turned around, the person behind her asked indifferently, "Aren't you going to stay here for the night?"

Elaine was stunned, and her expression became more and more embarrassed.

"Although we're engaged, this is really inappropriate for me to do so."

Ian rubbed his temples, lifted his eyelids, looked at her, and laughed.

"Do I look like a playboy to you?"

She shook her head.

"Not really."

"Then what are you afraid of?"

Elaine was at a loss for words.

Ian explained with an unchanged expression, "You're too far away from the Xavier mansion. It's not safe for you to drive home alone at night. You should stay here for the night, and I'll send you back tomorrow morning."

What he meant was that it was not safe for her to travel at night, and he was asking her to stay without any ulterior motive.

Elaine was silent for a few seconds.

"Then where should I sleep?"

“You can sleep in the bedroom.”

Before Elaine could react, Ian had already gotten up, taken off his suit, draped it on his forearm, and stood at the door.

“I’ll sleep on the couch.”

Her mind was racing.

“I’ll sleep on the couch.”

‘How could I let the house owner sleep on the couch? I’ll just make do with what I have to survive the night.

Ian turned to look at her and gave off a smile.

“Nah, it’s more convenient for you to sleep here.”

He was a little tired because of all the alcohol, so he did not say much, went out, and closed the door behind him.

Elaine watched as the door closed until she could no longer see his figure.

‘This is still a man’s house, and even though he’s my fiance, this still feels really weird.

‘But what he said is right. It’s convenient for me to sleep in the bedroom because there’s a private bathroom”

Elaine hurriedly took a shower, got onto the bed, and took a glance at the door.

‘He should have fallen asleep, shouldn’t he?’ She pursed her lips and turned off the lamp.

Not long after she laid down and rolled over, she completely lost her drowsiness.

She was occupying someone else’s bed and letting him sleep on the couch. She just could not help but feel a little sorry.

Thus, she turned on the lamp, dimmed it, went to the closet, and rummaged for the extra blankets and pillows.

The light in the living room was not turned on, and a faint smell of alcohol permeated the cold air.

She followed the trail highlighted by the light that shone through the ajar bedroom door and walked toward the couch.

The man on the couch rested his forearm on his forehead, his shirt’s buttons were unbuttoned down to his chest, and he was asleep in a very languid position, but he still looked well-mannered and decent.

His breaths were very light, and he did not snore.

If she had not come closer to listen, she would have thought that he was not breathing.

Elaine carefully covered him with the blanket to avoid waking him up and placed the pillow aside.

‘Perhaps he might need it when he wakes up in the middle of the night”

Chapter 1463

After doing all this, she crept back to the bedroom.

Ian slowly opened his eyes, touched the blanket on his body, and turned to look at the silhouette that was stepping into the bedroom.

He was well aware of how much he had drunk. He did drink a lot, but he was not completely drunk.

Moreover, he was an undercover agent and had taken up a lot of dangerous undercover missions back then, so he had always been a very light sleeper.

He had already woken up when she opened the door and walked out of the room.

Ian chuckled softly. He had wanted to see what she would do, but he was really surprised by her actions.

The next day...

Elaine slept until 8:00 a.m. and woke up on time.

She washed up and walked out of the bedroom only to realize that the blanket and pillow were the only things left on the couch.

"You've woken up."

Ian came out of the kitchen with breakfast. She was astonished and walked toward the dining table.

The breakfast was simple but looked good and smelled delicious.

"Your cooking skills are quite up there, huh?"

Ian pulled out a chair.

"After living by myself for such a long time, honing a few cooking skills was a necessity."

She sat down.

"Are you sober?"

"I'm not even hung-over."

Ian sat across from her and started buttering his toast slowly.

"Did you sleep well last night?"

"It's quite okay."

Elaine lowered her head and tasted the sausage on the plate.

Ian placed the buttered toast on the plate in front of her.

"How is it?"

She nodded.

"To be honest, this is delicious"

He chuckled.

“Take this as an appreciation for bringing me a blanket and pillow.”

Elaine’s eyes shifted away as she explained, “It’s just that I felt bad for occupying your bed for the night.”

She had no other intentions.

Making a drunk man sleep on the couch made her feel guilty.

“You’re a very kind lady.”

“Are you complimenting me?”

Elaine bit her fork. She did not seem to have done anything.

Ian smiled and said nothing.

After breakfast, he asked her to wait in the living room, changed into a new set of clothes in the bedroom, and sent her back.

Elaine was still wearing last night’s evening dress.

Ever since the arrival of autumn, the breeze was freezing in the morning, and she could not help but shiver a little.

She walked to the front of the car and was about to open the door when Ian draped his coat over her shoulders, and his fingertips touched her skin inadvertently.

There were some calluses on his hands.

They were not very rough, and they scraped lightly across her skin like fine sand, but the friction on the skin was enough to light a fire in the heart. She was lost in her thoughts for a while as if the world was standing still.

However, Ian acted very openly.

He knew how to grasp the sense of proportion and appropriation, so even when he made such a move, it would not feel like he was overstepping but felt like he did so out of a gentleman’s courtesy.

“You should put it on first.”

He then retracted his hand and walked around the car to the driver’s seat.

She was dumbfounded for a few seconds before regaining her senses. She got into the front passenger seat, fastened her seat belt, and said, “Thank you.”

He turned to look at her.

“You’re welcome.”

Elaine tried to calm down the throbbing in her heart that was about to spread like wildfire.

‘I have to admit that Ian’s charm is prominent, especially his sense of proportion.

'Usually, the more obvious a man's purpose is, and the more disrespectful a man is, the more likely he'll arouse the disgust of a woman.

That's because the woman would be able to guess what he's thinking at once.

'On the contrary, the more a man can keep his impulse under control and restrain himself, the more a woman will feel a sense of security and dependency when she's around him.

This trait is even more obvious when it comes to Ian, a man who keeps all his secrets to himself and acts mysteriously all the time.

'If all of these were part of his act, I can only admit that his acting skills are so good that he can make fake scenes look real and that I definitely won't be able to go against him when it comes to cheating on another'

Ian sent her back to Xavier mansion, and she returned the jacket to him before she got out of the car.

"Thank you, Mr.Saldana."

He paused for a moment before grabbing his coat.

"Ms.Xavier, you're truly a courtesy enthusiast."

Chapter 1464

Elaine was astounded and explained casually, "I've already gotten used to it."

Ian stared at her and let off a faint smile.

"You still have to get used to our new relationship."

Elaine took a deep breath and smiled at him.

"Okay, I'll get used to it gradually."

She pushed the door open and got out of the car.

He glanced at her as she stepped into the mansion and slowly raised the car window.

At this time, he received a call from his father, Juan.

At the Saldana manor...

When Ian stepped into the living room, he saw Juan sitting on the couch smoking a cigar while the servant beside him was brewing tea.

He raised his hand, motioned him to sit, and dusted off the ash.

"Ian, I plan to give you a big gift before you get married."

Ian sat on the opposite couch.

The engagement between him and Elaine had not been fully disclosed.

It was just an agreement between him and Edward.

Thus, Juan should not know about it.

Ian smiled.

“Then I truly look forward to what kind of gift you’ll give me.”

Juan placed the cigar on the ashtray and picked up the teacup.

“The equity of the company in Hewston, do you want it?”

Ian’s face remained unchanged.

“Is it appropriate for you to give me shares?”

“How is it inappropriate?”

Juan took a sip of tea.

“Your brother, Marco, can’t inherit it. But you’re my son too, aren’t you? I’ve ignored you throughout all these years, and I wish to make up for you before you get married.” Ian lowered his gaze.

“It’s my honor that you’re willing to promote me.”

Juan did not see that Ian had any ulterior motive. He only knew that his illegitimate child had had a difficult life.

As such, he would be extremely grateful as long as he gave him some benefits.

“Tan, I have faith in you. I hope you won’t let me down.”

“I won’t let you down, Father.”

The conversation ended after a short while.

Juan asked Ian to go to Synergy tomorrow to sign the contract, and he would arrange for him to go to Hewston to take over the company.

Seeing that Ian agreed to the proposal without any hesitation, Juan was satisfied with the outcome as Ian bid him goodbye and left.

Ian returned to the cafe.

As soon as he entered the door, the store manager told him someone was looking for him.

His brows creased.

“Who’s that?”

The store manager glanced over to a corner of the café.

“She’s there.”

Ian looked at the window seat.

The woman sitting there was none other than Barbara.

Barbara had made a decision before she came to him. She felt the need to talk to him until a silhouette sat down opposite her. She raised her head and met Ian's profound gaze.

He asked, "How have you been doing over the years?"

She nodded.

"I've been doing fine."

"You've lost a lot of weight."

Ian rubbed the dial on his wristwatch as his eyes moved.

"Is he treating you well?"

Barbara looked out the window.

"Helios has always treated me very well. There's no need for you to worry about me."

"Good, I'm glad to hear that."

"I didn't come to you with any obvious purpose."

He responded with a soft hum.

"I know."

Barbara lowered her eyes and held the coffee cup in her hands.

"I heard that you and Ms. Xavier are engaged. I'm here to give you my sincere blessing."

Ian remained silent, and all he did was stare at her.

"I didn't know the nature of your work before this, and I was a little angry at you for leaving me without any goodbye. Now that I know more about it, however, I'm not as furious as I was. Not to mention that you secretly helped me three years ago. I'm very grateful for that."

She took a deep breath and faced him calmly.

"I hope that you can live a happy life too."

A woman sitting in a car parked outside the cafe looked in the mirror to touch up her makeup while waiting for the driver to get in and purchase her coffee.

She then saw someone and felt a little familiar, so she took a closer look.

"Isn't that Elaine's fiancé? He's sitting with a woman whose long hair covers her side profile, so I can't see her face clearly"

She picked up her cell phone, pointed it at the window, zoomed in, took a picture, and then found Elaine on WhatsApp and sent it to her.

Chapter 1465

At that moment, Elaine was busy working on the software.

After receiving the message, she flipped through her phone in her spare time half an hour later.

[Isn't this your fiance?]

[Do you know the woman your fiance is meeting behind your back?]

A photo was attached.

She tapped on the photo to view it—it was indeed Ian.

He looked at the woman who had a gentle smile and was sitting across from him.

She did not look as gentle as any ordinary woman.

There was a hint of affection and tenderness that existed only between a couple mixed within her gentleness.

Others might not recognize her, but Elaine could with only one glance.

It was exactly as she had guessed.

Elaine did not reply after reading it and turned off the screen of her phone. She thought she was a little ridiculous.

It was made clear that they would not interfere with each other's private life or do anything for each other, but she was still a little downcast when she saw this scene.

She thought that the marriage she wanted could still exist even without the presence of love, but in fact, it also depended on who the other party was.

If the other party were too perfect, she would still fall for him as long as she was a woman.

She turned off her phone, ignoring everything that was happening in the outside world.

Elaine worked until 9:00 p.m. before leaving the company. She walked out of the building, turned on her cell phone, and realized that she had three missed calls.

One was from her father, and the other two came from Ian.

Ian's calls were made about an hour and a half ago.

The sound of a car horn pulled her back to her senses.

When she turned her head around, she noticed Ian's white Land Rover was parked not far away.

She was astonished and walked toward the car in a hurry.

She opened the car door, got in the car, and explained awkwardly, "Sorry, I forgot to turn on my phone and didn't receive your calls."

She turned to look at him.

"Please tell me that you haven't been waiting for a long time."

"I haven't been here for as long as you think. It's just been an hour."

The neon sign boards outside the window cloaked the outline of his face, so she could not read his emotions from his hazy expression.

Elaine was stunned for a while, and her emotions were suddenly overwhelmed.

'He waited for an hour but claimed he hadn't been here for long. Not many men can afford to wait for that long, not to mention that we're not a couple, so why would he waste time on me?' She retracted her gaze and said with a dry throat,

"You don't have to wait so long in the future."

Ian looked at her.

"Have you eaten yet?"

She was flustered.

"No."

He smiled.

"What do you want to eat?"

"Anything will do."

Ian started the engine and drove away.

They arrived at a high-end restaurant, and he asked her to go in first and went to park the car.

Elaine walked into the restaurant.

Ian had reserved a table by the window, and they could see the lively scene of the streets from the table.

Ian came over, said something to the waiter, stood across from her, took off his jacket, draped it on the back of the chair, and slowly sat down.

"I'm going to Hewston in two days."

Elaine looked up.

"You're going to Hewston?"

"Yeah, it's a business trip."

Elaine did not ask what his mission was, but she could guess it accurately.

"It's because of Synergy, isn't it?"

Ian poured a cup of tea and smiled.

"You're still so smart, Ms. Xavier."

"Are you complimenting me?"

He raised his gaze to look at her.

“Can’t I do so?”

Elaine felt that his compliment had an implicit meaning to it.

‘Dad doesn’t like it when women are too smart. Mom is the best example. She’s someone that won’t hide her emotions and speak frankly about everything.

That’s why Dad always says that Mom doesn’t have what it takes to be someone’s wife.

‘However, the funny thing is, men don’t like smart women, but they like smart women who know how to play dumb”

She asked, “Are you telling me that you’re not praising me with an ulterior motive?”

Ian paused for a split second, and his eyes were fixed on her face.

“What do you think that [I’ll get from complimenting you?”

She opened her mouth but said nothing.

Chapter 1466

After that, Ian calmly smiled.

“You’re a little sensitive.” He picked up his teacup and slowly took a sip.

“I bumped into your colleague at the cafe today.” She paused, then suddenly smiled.

“Really?”

“Did she tell you something?”

Elaine’s smile froze, and she looked into his deep-set eyes. She started feeling guilty.

‘Did he find out that my colleague secretly took a photo of him?’

If Ian didn’t have great observational skills, could he have been an undercover agent? That would be a terrible choice.

She admitted with a smile, “She did, but I don’t question your private life. The outsiders don’t know about our arrangement, so that happened. I’m sorry for causing any inconvenience.”

“Was that why you switched off your phone?”

Elaine started sweating cold sweat.

Sometimes men were sharper than women when it came to observation.

“No, I just don’t like being bothered while I work.”

She then explained, “I know our situation, so I don’t need to read too much into it. Who you meet is none of my business either.”

He fell silent for a few seconds before smiling.

“I thought it made you uncomfortable.”

Soon, the waiter brought the food.

When Ian took a whiff of the food, she immediately felt hungry and picked up her cutlery.

“Not at all. I just don’t like to be a burden. I was just worried that you’re unhappy with what my colleague did.”

She then looked at him and teased, “You’re not that petty, are you? Are you going to take revenge?”

He smiled.

“No.”

Elaine poured some tea and smiled.

“That sounds about right. I don’t take you for a petty person.”

Ian looked at her.

“Honestly, do you regret this?”

Elaine paused because she knew what he meant by regretting.

Before she could speak, Ian added, “Even though I didn’t force you into this, I did convince you.

“You’re afraid of getting married, but I found a way to make this a transaction and tie us together. It does seem unfair to you when I think about it.

“I’ve never seen myself as a good person.”

Ian’s eyes turned dark as he mocked himself.

After speaking to Barbara, he knew he still had feelings for her.

While being undercover for so many years, he had never felt bad for using women, regardless if it was Katrina Zalensky, the other random women that the mob bosses gave to him, or the women he approached to get closer to his target.

Elaine was different. He never thought of using her because it was a deal. He had looked into her past.

She never had a lover, wasn’t crazy about love, didn’t live her life for men, was a career woman, and had a strong personality.

He had chosen her because she checked all the boxes.

Women who weren’t clingy and were very clear-minded were rare.

He admitted that getting engaged and married to her was to get help from Edward so he could join his circle.

That would help him when he worked as ‘Edward Xavier’s son-in-law’.

The Saldanas had a strong foundation in Hewston, so removing them would involve insiders.

He had to find a good 'identity', so he had his eyes on the Xaviers. He had chosen them because Edward had no previous connections with the Saldanas, so it wouldn't be suspicious when he got into the circles of Hewston as 'Edward Xavier's son-in-law'.

Chapter 1467

Ian thought that in return, he would give some shares to Elaine after taking down Synergy.

Elaine wanted benefits, and he would give them without holding back.

However, he forgot about one thing: 'feelings'.

When people were bound by marriage, even if they didn't love each other, they would develop feelings if they stayed together for too long.

He hadn't been too drunk the other night, so he clearly remembered what she had done. He had come across many women, so he could tell when they were genuine toward him.

Elaine was more secretive and didn't show much. He could see how she tried to distance herself, and she knew that what they had was 'business'.

Elaine looked down and understood what he meant.

After a moment, she asked, "So, we can just stay engaged, can't we?"

Ian didn't answer.

Elaine looked calm.

"Once you get what you want, we could just call off our engagement."

She thought that it would be simple for them to get married, but she was hesitating now that they were just engaged. She could guarantee that once they got married, she might be unable to keep herself from falling for him.

How could she not fall? Still, she was sharp.

What he had said translated into 'not to fall for him', because nothing good would come out of that.

Ian looked down and pressed his lips together.

The dinner ended in silence.

When they left, he wanted to drive her home as usual because they were still engaged.

She didn't object and walked toward his car with him.

But once they got to the garage, a group of people suddenly rushed out from nowhere and surrounded them.

Ian subconsciously stood in front of Elaine to shield her.

A car was parked behind the group of people.

A man with an eyepatch walked out of it and flashed a bright smile.

“It’s been a while.Are you Owen or Ian now?”

Ian squinted as he recognized the man.

“Tyrese, you’re out.”

Tyrese took out a pack of cigarettes and ripped up the packaging.

“It’s been 10 years.I’ve served my time, so they had to let me out.Owen, I thought you were my brother.”

He creepily looked at Elaine hiding behind Ian.

“This i s your lady?”

Ian’s face froze.

“This is between you and me.Leave her out of it.”

He pushed Elaine.

“Go back.”

Elaine looked at them, then back at him.

“What about you?”

Ian frowned.

“I’ll just have a chat.You should leave.”

Tyrese laughed.

“I never thought that there would be a woman you would want to protect.You seem to have turned into a loverboy after so many years.You don’t use women anymore?”

Ian calmly replied, “There’s nothing going on between us, so I’m not going to use her.”

Tyrese smirked.

“Nothing going on between you? Great then.”

He put one cigarette between his lips and got the lighter.

“I haven’t tasted a woman in 10 years.Why don’t you give her to me? We’ll have some fun.”

Ian’s face dropped.

Elaine looked at him.

He wasn’t going to give her to him, was he? Ian looked at him.

“She’s too good for you.”

Tyrese wasn't happy about that.

Ian continued.

"You just got out of prison. She's not like the women you've been with. Shouldn't you look into her background before laying your hands on her?"

Tyrese paused.

He could have gotten anything he wanted in the past, but he trusted Ian, which was the mistake that led to his downfall.

Chapter 1468

After getting out of prison, Tyrese wanted to take revenge on Ian.

However, if this woman had a background, it wouldn't do him any good.

Nonetheless, he didn't buy that and scoffed.

"You're just scaring me.

"Or have you used her to get where you wanted, and she knows your dirty tricks?"

Tyrese looked at Elaine.

"He was merciless when it came to using women. Go ask around and see how many had fallen because of him. You're probably just a pawn to him."

Elaine pressed her lips together and looked at Ian after a few seconds.

"I don't need you to tell me what kind of man he is."

When Tyrese heard that, he laughed maniacally, and a trace of hatred flashed across his eyes.

"You're so loyal. Too bad you're not getting out of this tonight.

"Owen, you ratted me out 10 years ago and sent me to prison. I lost an eye there, and I'm going to claim it back from you."

Ian's eyes were cold. He pushed Elaine behind him.

"Leave."

Elaine stumbled and almost lost her balance while Ian rushed toward the group of men.

He removed his jacket and tie and threw them to the ground before starting to fight them. He was agile and fierce when he fought against the group.

Elaine watched him anxiously and took out her phone to call the police, but two men came after her.

Ian looked over and yelled, "Leave!"

He was attacked from the back due to the distraction.

Ian punched the man's jaw, then tackled him to the ground. He stomped on the man's shoulder, leaped over him, and kicked toward the crowd. He grabbed the two men who were holding Elaine.

Her phone fell to the ground during the scuffle, and the screen cracked.

The man grabbed her hair to drag her back, but Ian grabbed the man's wrist and cracked it.

The man screamed out in pain. He pulled Elaine into his arms and raised his leg to kick the man rushing toward them.

Elaine was so afraid that she shook from head to toe, her mind blank.

Tyrese put out the cigarette with his foot and turned to the man who wasn't fighting.

"Get it done soon."

The man nodded and didn't go empty-handed. He took out a switchblade and rushed toward Ian.

Elaine saw the man's sneak attack, so she pushed Ian away, but the man didn't stop and stabbed her in the stomach.

Elaine didn't expect him to be holding a blade.

Ian's pupils shrank.

"Elaine!"

His eyes turned red while he maniacally broke the man's arm and punched him in the shoulder, then connected his elbow to his jaw.

He spat out some blood and fell back.

The other people around them were wiped out by Ian too.

The commotion in the garage caught the attention of the security guards, who called the police.

When they saw that someone was injured, they called the ambulance too.

Tyrese asked his men to leave because he saw it was going south.

Ian held Elaine, who was holding her wound with blood oozing out between her fingers. She turned paper white because of the blood loss.

Ian yelled while the veins popped around his neck, "Elaine Xavier! Why did you push me away? Are you nuts!?"

Elaine trembled but couldn't speak. She could feel the heat leaving her body, and her teeth chattered.

Chapter 1469

Elaine forced a smile.

"I didn't know that he had a blade."

She just didn't want him to be hurt.

Ian put pressure on her wound and cradled her in his arms.

“Hang in there, Elaine, don’t fall asleep.”

When the ambulance got there, Elaine was put on the stretcher and taken away.

Ian’s hands were covered in her blood.

Elaine had lost consciousness by the time she got to the hospital, and they had to send her to the ER.

When Edward and Jenna received the news of the incident, they rushed over and saw Ian standing in the corridor.

“Where’s Elaine? What happened?”

“I’m sorry,”

Ian looked down, “I dragged her into this.”

Edward’s knees turned into jelly while he looked at the red light of the ER, looking worried.

After two hours of surgery, the doctors exited the ER, and Edward immediately went forward to ask, “How’s my daughter?”

The doctor removed his mask.

“Are you a family member of Ms.Xavier?”

“I’m her father.”

He said in a heavy tone, “She’s safe, but the blade pierced too far in and hurt her womb.I’m afraid she won’t be able to have her own children.”

Edward was devastated when he heard that.

Ian pressed his lips together and felt that a huge stone was pressed on his chest because he couldn’t breathe.

Jenna was pregnant, so Edward asked her to go home while he continued speaking to the doctor.

Elaine was transferred to a private room, but she was still asleep due to the effect of anesthesia.

Edward looked toward the room.

His heart ached because his daughter had to go through that.She had lost her ability to bear children, and not all men are fine with that.

He would be worried if she didn’t get married because he knew how she was.

There was no point pushing her.

Edward was worried that if someone married her, she would end up like her mother.

Elaine was finally engaged and was getting married, but this happened.

Edward walked into the room and saw Ian sitting in silence beside the bed.

Edward sighed and looked stoic.

“I can’t blame you for what happened to Elaine, Ian. You can see how she is right now.”

Edward understood what he meant. He stayed silent for a moment before looking up.

“Sir, I know what you’re worried about.”

Edward was surprised.

“You don’t mind?”

He didn’t mind that Elaine would be barren? Ian looked down and puffed his cheeks.

“We can always adopt if she wants.”

Edward looked at Ian because he had surprised him.

After all, people would rarely choose adoption because the children were not their own.

Edward didn’t say anything after that.

It was late, so Ian asked Edward to go home and rest, and he would stay there.

Edward trusted him, so he let him stay.

Ian looked at Elaine lying in bed with an overwhelming surge of feelings.

By the time the anesthesia wore off, it was almost midnight.

Elaine slowly opened her eyes and realized she was lying in a hospital bed.

The IV drip coursing through her body was cold.

She felt that her hands were freezing, and she shivered even with the blanket.

Ian walked in and noticed she was awake, so he hurried to the side of the bed.

“You’re awake.”

Elaine nodded, and her dried lips parted, “I’m cold.” Ian asked the nurse for more blankets.

She started warming up when the nurse brought some over and wrapped two more layers over her.

Ian quietly asked in a gentle voice, “Are you still cold?”

Chapter 1470

Elaine’s voice was coarse.

“Not anymore.”

Ian touched her hand, which was cold because of the I V drips.

The warmth from his palms stopped her from shivering and made her feel warm.

Ian looked at her.

“Go to sleep. You’ll feel better when you wake up.”

His voice was soft as a feather.

Elaine closed her eyes and fell asleep in no time.

Maisie found out that Elaine was in the hospital because Lucy was taking a day off.

She asked how she was, but Lucy was silent.

She curiously asked, “What’s wrong?”

“Ms. Vanderbilt...”

Lucy pressed her lips together.

“My sister...might not be able to get pregnant in the future.”

Maisie paused.

She couldn’t leave work because she had a lot on her plate, so she asked Saydie to visit with Lucy on her behalf.

Lucy didn’t want to bother Hector, so she didn’t tell him.

When the two women got to the hospital and opened the room door, they saw Ian feeding Elaine soup.

They looked like a married couple.

Elaine choked because of their sudden appearance and started coughing, which made her wound hurt.

Ian immediately raised his arms to help her.

Lucy immediately walked to the bed.

“Are you alright?”

Elaine waved her hand.

“I’m fine. How did you know that I was admitted?”

Lucy fell silent.

“Did your mom tell you?”

Elaine could guess because both the mother and daughter loved to worry.

“I’m fine, just took a stab.”

“How are you fine after getting stabbed? Do you have to die to not be fine?”

Lucy glared at Ian.

'Did she really throw her life away because of this man?' Elaine was confused because she had been stabbed just once and was awake now. Thus, why did Lucy think that she was badly hurt?

"You're overreacting," said Elaine.

Lucy lost her cool.

"Don't you know how bad this is? Did you know that you— Mm!"

Saydie covered her mouth quickly.

"It's fine, Ms. Xavier. Your sister is just worried, so her emotions flared."

Elaine nodded because she could tell as much.

Saydie dragged Lucy to the emergency exit stairwell, which confused Lucy.

"Why wouldn't you let me tell her?"

Saydie calmly replied, "She's still recovering. Telling her wouldn't be beneficial to her recovery."

Lucy paused because she realized that she was too impulsive.

"I'm sorry. I was just too angry.

"They're just having a marriage of convenience. I don't understand why my sister would do that. I'm just worried my sister will fall for a man who doesn't love her back. That would be very painful."

Ian was standing outside the stairwell and heard everything.

He was silent for a moment, then turned to leave.

When he returned to the room, Elaine didn't know why they had left, so she looked at him.

"Where are they?" Ian looked down.

"Outside."

"Why are they being so secretive? My dad too, as if I have some incurable disease."

Elaine leaned back on the pillow behind her back. She was still alive after being stabbed.

Shouldn't they be happy? Why were they acting as if she had died? Ian pressed his lips together, walked to the chair, and slowly sat down.

After a long pause, he spoke.

"Elaine."

Elaine looked at him, a little stunned.

She hesitated for a short while before asking, "What's going on?"