

## The Marvelous Elijah's Return by Rever Chapter 81

Up in flames As her hair was getting done, and her face touched up with makeup, Peach kept telling herself to breathe, and knowing that Elijah was waiting on her at the altar made her less afraid.

"Mama, what time is it?" Peach asked, her eyes closed as the lady brushed a soft peachy color eyeshadow on her eyelids.

"Two o'clock," Miss Grace said with a smile, and yet, tears stained her face, feeling, overwhelmed by her daughter becoming a bride before her eyes, and every stage of Peach growing up from an infant to a woman kept playing in her head. 1 "The wedding starts at three... do you think we will be late?"

"No, honey. The drive to the ceremony is not that long."

Pulling her hand away from Peach's face, the makeup artist smiled and said, "Well, the bride is ready to get dressed."

Slowly, Peach opened her eyes to see her reflection staring back, and her lips pulled upward into a soft smile.

"You look beautiful, honey." Miss Grace whispered as Peach stood from the chair. "Thanks... can you please help me put on my gown, mama?" Peach uttered, looking at the garment bag on her bed.

Nodding, Miss Grace smiled and then walked over to the bed, unzipping the bag, pulling out this full-length gown with a sultry, unlined illusion lace bodice with beaded lace and a deep sweetheart neckline with delicately beaded spaghetti straps.

After helping Peach get into the dress, she stood behind her daughter, rested her chin on her shoulder, and whispered, consumed with emotions, "You are now a bride... God, I want Albert here with us so bad... to see what we made from love finally find love."

"I miss him too, mama. But this is papa... this entire motel... Every inch of it has a memory of him, even the zinc and the ceilings..." Peach said with a chuckle.

"I know... he used to make me worry so much about him when he turned into a carpenter."

"Yeah? Back then, I thought he was a superman whenever he was up there with his tools... But I understand... After Elijah got beat up in front of me, I think I know what your worry was."

A knock on the door made Miss Grace and Peach turn around simultaneously, listening to Matt and Ryan say almost in unison, "Two very handsome bridesmaids are reporting for duty."

"Your bridesmen are here," Miss Grace chuckled, feeling relieved that Elijah had a group of supportive friends that adored her daughter.

There was a brief moment of hesitation, and then Peach's heart filled with warmth as she asked, "Where is Elijah?"

"He's on his way to the ceremony," Ryan said, eyeing his buddy.

"Peach... umm, your entire family is at the beach," Matt uttered, not wanting her to be more startled seeing them there when she arrived.

There was a tense two minutes silence before Peach woke from her trance and asked, "All of them?"

"Yeah," Ryan said calmly.

When Peach looked up at her mother, Miss Grace stroked her cheek and spoke softly to her, "Don't stress about them. It's going to be fine... this might be a good thing, that they showed

"Mama, we both know that's not true" Peach mumbled with a weak smile.

The wind at the beach was calm, and the setup for the wedding looked simple but gave off a soft, sweet, and romantic vibe with blush pink and white decorations, lighting, an arch covered with blush pink flowers, and chairs on both sides of the aisle.

"What the hell," Dean mumbled, still trying to take in the scene, expecting something less breathtaking than this setup, and his mind couldn't seem to settle on anything else other than just how gorgeous all of this was.

"How can a man who doesn't have a job afford such a decent wedding like this?" Amelia muttered, looking over at Madam Jewel.

"It's not shocking to me... since he's a thug... Guys like him are nothing but a bunch of thieves and hoodlums.... They are into shady shit, so who knows what he did to fund it." Josh mumbled, clutching his fist as he tried not to lose himself.

Frowning as she looked at the people seated on the left side of the aisle, and then those seated at the back of them, Cora sighed softly before looking at their mother and then let out, "Who's all these people? When did that bum or Peach become so famous for this number of people to turn up to their wedding."

"These people don't seem ordinary... My best guess is that they are a part of the gang he's in..." Eli trailed, looking at his brother.

"I agree," Elmer mumbled as he looked at Tommy. "None of these men looks familiar from the business circle or high-class people, so they must all be lowlife thugs, playing dress-up in fancy suits." Scoffing, Tyson looked at his father, and then he mumbled mockingly, "This is a gangster wedding,"

"What other shitty things and people that idler is involved with?" Elmer mumbled, frowning in disgust at all the people.

Looking around at his brothers, Matthew shook his head in disbelief and said, "This guy is going to fuck up our family reputation with all this low-class filth he's involved with... Mother,

A sigh slipped from Madam Jewel as she looked back at the two empty rolls between her family and those in the back, and then she looked at her son, letting out, "We are not here to celebrate or care about those people... so we should stay clear of them... We only came to prove that we were here and nowhere else."

The sudden sound of clap and excitement drew the Hayes's attention towards the back, and their gaze rested on Elijah, walking down the aisle, his expression deadass serious as Rookie and James walked behind him.

When his gaze locked with Madam Jewel, Elijah's eyes darkened, and she frowned slightly, looking away from him.

After Elijah arrived at the arch, a group of men led by Dice suddenly walked over to where Madam Jewel was sitting with the rest of the Hayes, at the front roll, and took the two empty rows right behind them.

'Is this idiot threatening us?!' Tommy thought, growling, a bit still in the shoulder at the overwhelming feeling of having twelve men sitting right behind them.

'He put watchdogs on us, Haha... this arrogant bastard!' Eli thought, clenching, his jaw and narrowing his eyes. Looking at Elijah, Melina frowned, anger flooding her system as she thought, 'You were not supposed to get the better end of this divorce, Elijah. I will not be a laughingstock... Someone who was replaced within a short time by her good-for-nothing husband, like I am easy to forget. That is not how our story ends!'

The mere sight of the Hayes family had left Elijah in such a tense mood and it lasted for a great length of time until he heard the bridal chorus, and then everyone suddenly stood up, leaving the Hayes as the only ones sitting down. Their faces contorted with hate, anger, and pure loathing, their fingers clenched as they tried to maintain their composure and calm themselves.

All that tension in Elijah suddenly softened when he saw Miss Grace gracefully escorting Peach towards the arch.

His heart began pounding loudly against his rib cage and his emotions suddenly took over him, in a way that he never thought he would feel, especially when he never wanted to get married again after Melina and what she did.

But this moment, in front of hundreds of people, Elijah found himself giving in to that feeling that he had been suppressing for so long, and just for a moment, he allowed his entire heart to see Peach and feel her.

"Here," James mumbled, tapping him on the shoulder with a handkerchief.

A soft snuffle came out of Elijah as he accepted the piece of baby blue cloth and wiped at his damp eyes, clearing the tears away from his face.

The sight of that made Peach grin lightly from ear to ear, her smile reaching her teary eyes, surprised that she would see this side of him and that gave her a lot more hope about the future, even if they would have to deal with some tough times, she felt like they could make it through them together.

The original plan had to be shifted because of the Hayes' presence, so Matt along with Ryan marched closed by Peach and Miss Grace, instead of ahead of them.

When Miss Grace brought her daughter over to Elijah, she gave him a soft smile and whispered, "She's yours now... Please don't disappoint me, Elijah." Then when Peach let go of her arm, she adored her child for a moment before heading over to her seat, intentionally sitting with the Hayes, just to give her daughter that sense of peace on her special day. "You look breathtaking," Elijah whispered as he and Peach turned to face the priest standing

*at the altar*, putting a smile on her lips.

"Dear beloved, we gathered here today to join Elijah Darius and Miss Peach Hayes in *matrimony in this holy sacrament*, which is based on faith, covenant, commitment, and love... *And may God bless this union.*" The priest spoke with a solemn tone.

*The ceremony went on for a while*, and then the beach grew quiet, allowing only nature to *reign supreme for a couple of seconds* before the priest announced, "I now pronounce you *Elijah Darius and Peach Hayes* as husband and wife! You may kiss the bride."

*Locking eyes with Peach*, Elija leaned forward slightly, slowly moving closer to her, and then *he lifted up one of his hands* to cup Peach's cheek tenderly before he gently pressed his lips *against hers*.

*The crowd erupted into cheers once they started kissing, causing Peach to giggle, and then Elijah pulled her closer, wrapping his arms tightly around her waist and burying his face on her neck, whispering, "I wanted to do this all morning."*

*Smiling widely, Peach brushed her palm gently against his hair and whispered, "Me too." "Why didn't the priest ask if someone wants to object to the wedding?!" Melina cried in her head, glaring at Elijah and Peach, her eyes darkening. When Elijah pulled away from Peach, his eyes subconsciously landed on Dice, and the look of worry that flashed in his eyes made Elijah's brow furrowed.*

*Suddenly his phone vibrated in his trouser pocket, and Elijah eyed Peach for a second before pulling the device out of his pocket and unlocking the screen, reading a text message from Jerome.*

*"The motel is on fire, boss. It is up in flames... the entire building is burning down." Elijah read, and his heart immediately dropped when he looked up and saw Peach smiling brightly at him.*

## **The Marvelous Elijah's Return by Rever Chapter 82**

Ruim down hell together

Without saying a word, Elijah put his phone back into his pocket, trying to compose himself, even though rage was eating at him from the inside.

"Are you okay?" Peach whispered, seeing a slight shift in his expression when his gaze rested on the Hayeses, glaring at each member of the family.

"Yeah, I am..." Elijah muttered, turning towards Peach with a smile and then kissing her lightly on the head to distract her from the fact that his eyes still had a glint of anger hidden there.

Resting his chin on her head as he pulled her into a hug, Elijah's gaze met with Madam Jewel, and his jaw tightened.

At five the reception hall at a beachside hotel was filled with the sounds of chatter, laughter, music, and the noise of the ocean crashing onto the sand.

And the audacity of the Hayeses to follow them to the reception party had Elijah clutching tightly onto his wine glass while a bunch of his men with their girlfriends congratulated Peach, pulling her into calming chitchat.

His grip only tightened as Madam Jewel approached him with the rest of the Hayeses, forcing him to keep his anger cage because the last thing he wanted to give them the chance of ruining was Peach's happiness.

“Congratulations on becoming the son-in-law of the Hayes family for the second time...” Madam Jewel said, a little bit of sarcasm lacing her voice as she looked Elijah up and down, and then added, “Now, that you are a part of a prestigious family again, it must be nice, huh?”

Elijah kept his gaze trained on Madam Jewel as he glared at the woman, not giving her the pleasure to see his lips part or move.

‘Arrogant bastard,’ Madam Jewel thought, her anger rising, and her lips twisted in disgust.

With a spiteful spirit, she reached into her purse and took out a white envelope, pointing it at Elijah, and said, “I can see that this wedding must have drained your pocket to fund such a lavish wedding... I know you are trying to prove something, but take this, so Peach can have food to eat tomorrow after such a wasteful decision... after all, she’s still my granddaughter.”

When Elijah didn’t move his lips, her face turned an ugly shade of red, and she said in a low, but angry voice, “Now that you have married Peach, you should learn manners and behave more respectfully around the people who matter in this family. After all, you are now part of -”

“Is everything okay?” Peach suddenly cut into the conversation, forcing a smile at Madam Jewel, as she hugged Elijah’s arm.

Then she and Melina’s gaze locked, but she didn’t break eye contact until Melina’s sight lowered towards her ring finger.

“Is that real diamond?” Melina blurted out, her eyes bulging as she pointed at the ring, reaching for Peach’s hand.

But Josh’s scoff made her stop and look up, staring at him, when he uttered, “As if! It’s fake, sister... Stop drooling over useless things.”

A pout formed on Peach’s lips at their arrogance and rudeness, she looked at Madam Jewel once more and said politely, “you don’t mind, I will like to steal my husband for the bouquet toss.”

That word made Melina roll her eyes, and then looked away, listening to madarn Jewel say, “ Peach, wait...”

“Yes, grand...ma?” Peach looked up, holding tight onto Elijah’s arm, feeling, slightly nervous due to how silent he was with a coldness in his expression.

“Yeah, take this.” Madam Jewel handed Peach the envelope with both her hands.

“What is it?”

“Money,”

A frown crossed Peach’s face, and she looked up to see Elijah’s expression even colder, his lips pursed tightly and his hands clenched into fists at his side.

“No thanks... umm, we don’t need your money... I will take my husband away now.” Peach mumbled in annoyance.

Before anyone could react, Peach pulled on Elijah’s arm, leading him to the other side of the venue, where Miss Grace, Matt, James, Rookie, Dice, Ryan, and a group of people were.

“Hey,” Peach whispered, looking up at Elijah’s eyes, and suddenly tiptoes to kiss his cheeks. A chuckle left Elijah’s lips, and he placed his hand on her waist, kissing the top of her head as he thought, ‘You are the only reason I don’t have my fist in someone’s face right now.’ Looking to the right, Ryan frowned as he watched the Hayes leaving, and then he faced his front to meet Peach’s eyes.

“Let’s do this! I need to know between Matt and me who’s getting married first!” Ryan said in a cheerful tone.

“Okay!” Peach laughed, taking her bouquet from her mother’s hand.

The laughter sound made Dean look over his shoulder at Elijah and scowl.

“Don’t worry, brother. They will soon come crawling back to us.” Tommy uttered with a cocky smile, patting Elijah’s shoulder.

Standing a few distances behind Peach as she turned her back to them, Matt and Ryan got ready to catch the bouquet.

When Peach threw it behind, Ryan pushed Matt out of the way and caught it, and he grinned triumphantly yelling, ‘yes!’ and making everyone laugh.

The night went by with dancing and talking, drinking, and lots of laughing.

Even though Elijah tried to be polite and smile at everyone, his mind was somewhere else.

Finally, when James and the others had Peach distracted, Elijah walked over to Miss Grace and said, “Can we talk outside?”

The sadness in his voice made her grow worried, and she nodded, looking over at Peach for a moment before following after Elijah.



When they got outside, staring at the open sky and seashore, Miss Grace asked, "Is something

wrong?"

"Did you take your medication?" Elijah softly asked. "How's your heart?"

"I feel overwhelmed with joy, but aside from that, my heart is beating perfectly normally. Why? Did something happen?"

"Well. "

Silence fell between them, as Elijah thought about what to tell her, how to explain it.

"The motel... Umm... the thing is..." Elijah uttered, pausing as he held her by the shoulder, making sure she was stable in his grip. "The motel was set on fire today, and... I'm... it burnt down. It's gone."

"No, that... is... it can't... No, no, no...!!" Miss Grace stuttered, feeling tears streaming down her cheeks as she stared straight ahead, unable to control herself.

"I am so... I am sorry..." Elijah whispered, wrapping his arms around her shoulders.

Silently, she broke down, hugging Elijah tightly, letting out muffled sobs against his chest, feeling like the world was collapsing around her.

"I'm so sorry," Elijah murmured over and over again, rubbing her back in circles, trying his best to calm her down.

"Why? It's not your fault! I mean, it wasn't you who burnt down everything my husband had sweated for... it was them... those dirty Hayes... I know it in my bones!!" Miss Grace cried, feeling her heart clench in pain and sorrow.

"Matt and the others will take you to a hotel with them, and I will tell Peach tonight when we get to our suite," Elijah whispered, listening to her deep sob.

When the reception was over, Dice was driving Peach and Elijah back to the honeymoon resort, and a smile never left her face as she stared at the streetlights, drawing a deep breath.

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"Today is one of the best days of my life! Every moment is just perfect," Peach exclaimed in a happy tone, looking back at Elijah.



Then she snuggled closed into his arm, resting her head on his broad shoulder, sighing as she felt his warmth and strength surrounding her.

“Me too,” Elijah agreed, kissing the top of her head.

Slowly, Peach closed her eyes, falling asleep while clinging to Elijah’s body. The night drifted by along with the drive, and at eight o’clock, Elijah arrived in their room, carrying Peach in his arms.

When he walked her over to the bed, Elijah slowly laid her down on the sheets, and then as he was about to pull away, she suddenly wrapped her arms around his neck, whispering, “Thank you for today,”

“Are you still sleepy?” Elijah chuckled, running his fingers through her hair.

Shaking her head slowly, she sat up and then leaned in, pressing her forehead against his shoulder.

“Peach,” Elijah said hesitantly, placing his hand on her head, and stroking her soft hair.

She raised her head and said, “Yes?”

Suddenly, Elijah felt his body going still as liebeard limsell mumbling, “The motel,”

“Hmm? Is something wrong?” Peach blinked, sitting upright while pulling away slightly to look up at Elijali.

“It... well... today, it burned down,” Elijali muttered, watching her face turn from surprise to utter horror.

Her entire body shut down, and her lips trembled, her eyes filled with tears, and her breathing stopped

“Papa,” Peach whispered, burying her face on Elijah’s shoulder. Her body trembling in his arms, Elijah hugged her tighter, closing his eyes as his chest tightened, listening to her whispering, “Papa... everything is gone...” Elijah couldn’t help but tighten his hold on Peach, as he opened his eyes, feeling pain spread throughout his body.

Clutching onto his coat, Peach burdened her face more deeply in Elijah’s shoulder, letting out another broken cry, causing Elijah to squeeze her even tighter.

“It was not an accident, right?” Peach asked in a weak voice, pulling back to look at Elijah’s eyes. “No, it wasn’t,” Elijah muttered, shaking his head slowly. Tears formed in Peach’s eyes once again, yet her face had darkened and become emotionless as she mumbled, “They didn’t stop until they took everything away from me...!! I want them to feel what I am feeling right now...!! what it means to lose it all... I want them to feel

every pain and humiliation... every ounce of anguish, hurt, and agony until there is nothing left for them to lose!"

"Is that what you really want?" Elijah questioned, grabbing Peach's chin and lifting it until their eyes locked.

The anger in her eyes didn't leave them, and her eyebrows furrowed as her jaw clenched, and it seemed as if there was nothing left inside of her, as all emotions had faded from her expression.

"Yes," Peach replied, closing her eyes as she breathed heavily before raising her lashes.

For a moment, Elijah studied her eyes, seeing if he could find any sign that would show him she was lying and then he mumbled, "How bad do you want it?"

"As much as possible and more," Peach mumbled as her hands were balled into fists and her knuckles turned white.

A half-smirk played on Elijah's face as he leaned closer to her until the space between their lips brushed against each other and their breaths mingled together.

"You have no idea how much I love hearing you say that..." he whispered, watching her eyes. "If that is what you want, then let's rain down hell together."

## **The Marvelous Elijah's Return by Rever Chapter 83**

### **Rule three**

The dull morning light in her face with her body wrapped into Elijah's arms, Peach just stared at him, his lashes, the details of his lips, unable to look away. Her hand rested on his cheek, and looked at his shut eyes, stroking his skin lightly as she felt her breathing become slow and steady. "I know it was just nonsense that she said, but I still can't get her words out of my head..." Peach whispered, leaning in closer until there were no more inches between them, their breaths mingling together. "What can't you get out of your head?" Elijah asked, his voice low and soothing as his eyelids slowly opened.

Not expecting him to even be awake, Peach froze, trying desperately to think of something, anything because she didn't want to tell him about the conversation between Melina and her.

"Nothing," Peach quickly replied, pulling her face back, feeling a heat rise to her cheeks. "It's nothing. You should go back to sleep. Yesterday was hectic, and my crying kept you up late." "Peach, what is rule two?" Elijah questioned, his brows furrowing slightly as he gave her a look, his expression telling her that he wasn't going to take 'no for an answer. "I'm not allowed to lie to you or hide anything from you," Peach whispered,

taking a deep breath, and closing her eyes as she tried to stop her mind from racing so fast. Watching her, Elijah's brows furrowed as he sighed and then mumbled, "Peach, look at me." His tone told her to open her eyes, and she held her breath until she finally looked at him. "You're lying to me right now, right?" Elijah said, staring into her eyes with such intensity that Peach couldn't help but feel like she was melting under his gaze. "Yes," she breathed, her voice barely above a whisper, afraid to break the spell he had over her. "It's just something silly Melina said." His brows furrowed as he tilted his head to the side, and Peach could swear that he was searching for something inside her. He was silent for a few moments before asking, "How silly?" "Well..." Peach hesitated, thinking of how she wanted to phrase it, feeling a sense of embarrassment well up within her. "Forget it,"

"Huh?"

Her eyes widened, and she held back her tongue, looking down at their hands as he continued, "It's okay, we don't have to talk about it if it not important." "Elijah," Peach said softly, her voice cracking ever so slightly and hating this part because she knew she had to say something about her feelings, but she just couldn't bring herself to do it. Suddenly, Elijah grabbed her by her waist and pulled her closer, his face hovering dangerously close to hers, his eyes softened, and his body pressed against hers.

"I rather focus on something else this morning," Elijah muttered, his fingers tracing the outline of her lips. His other hand slowly ran through her hair, sending shivers down her spine as his warm breath caressed her face,

Suddenly, he leaned in closed, his lips almost resting on hers, only a breath apart, and then he halted, making her heart race.

The warmth from his breath lingered on her lips as he said, "I want you, Peach." She stared into his eyes, unable to speak, unable to move, her body frozen as she waited for something to happen. A tear rolled down her face, but she blinked it away, her vision starting to blur and her chest constricting. Slowly, Elijah kissed the tears off her face, his lips soft and gentle, and his arms tightening around her

Then his lips made their way down her jaw and neck, and she let out a shaky breath when he reached her collarbone as his hands traveled up her pajamas shirt, grazing her sides, and her whole body tensed. "I want you 100," Peach finally managed whispered, but the words were stuck in her throat. "I know," Elijah said quietly, placing feather light kisses along her neck until he reached her ear, and she let out a small gasp when he bit gently at the lobe. Her legs slowly raised upward, spitting open to allow him access to the rest of her body and she threw her head back when she felt his hand glide across her stomach. "Elijah," Peach gasped, her knees shaking and her hips jerking upwards as he sucked on her neck.

Suddenly, he stopped, and she gasped deeply, trying to control her breathing as he slowly lifted his head. When Elijah reached into the drawer, her entire body stiffened, knowing what he was going to pull out before he even took out the condom.

“Rule three...” Peach thought with a groan, letting out another shuddery breath.

“Do you trust me?” he whispered, his eyes locked onto hers as he held the packet between his thumb and forefinger.

‘I do. But it’s clear it’s not the same for you,’ Peach thought, biting her lip and staring at him with wide eyes.

Knowing it was going to take time for him to change his mind, she nodded, smiling slightly under the blanket on the bed.

His nervousness didn’t reassure Peach until a moment later when she was bare for his

eyes to behold, and she felt every part of his body, long her.

Staring at her, Elijah felt his stomach churn as he watched Peach squirm nervously, and he felt hesitant, knowing that he was about to do something from long that he could never give

Then he ripped the pack open with his teeth, and Peach’s eyes widened, waiting for to happen, and then after a moment, she felt his weight above her. “Focus on me, Peach,” Elijah spoke in a low voice, his fingers gliding along her bare skin as he placed himself over her.

Slowly, Peach opened her eyes, and her gaze went straight to his, and she found herself lost in his brown eyes, unable to look away. “Tell me if you want this,” Elijah mumbled, studying her eyes. With a shaky smile, Peach nodded as he placed his forehead against hers, and she grin at him, reaching up to touch his face, “I trust you.” And after those three simple words, she felt a tingle run through her entire body as their hips connected slowly.

It was as though electricity flowed throughout her body along with the pain, and the feelings he caused were enough to make her feel dizzy.

Hugging her tightly to him, Elijah nuzzled his face against her hair, kissing the top of her head as his hips began moving gently in a rhythm, Peach letting out a moan as the sensations increased

Elijah groaned and shifted a bit, causing Peach to moan louder, her body becoming more sensitive.

He picked his pace up, and Peach felt herself losing control and gripping the bedsheets with both her hands, trying hard not to scream at the top of her lungs. "Elijah," she moaned as he thrust harder, her hips beginning to buck up against him. Pressing his mouth on hers, he moved his fingers through her hair and wrapped his hand around one of her wrists, pinning it against the bed as he pushed harder against her. "Elijah!!" Peach screamed as he hit a certain spot, causing her hips to jerk upwards as she felt a wave of pleasure pass through her body. Feeling her tense beneath him, Elijah slowed his movement, allowing her to catch her breath, "Are you okay?"

Panting heavily, she nodded her head, and once she caught her breath, she responded, "Yeah."

He lowered his body, brushing his lips across her cheek before kissing her nose, then her lips, slowly moving his hips again, causing Peach to wrap her legs around his waist, holding tight onto him as his mouth captured hers hungrily, their lips moving together in sync.

Suddenly his ring tone echoed, causing Elijah to groan, burying his face in her neck and pulling, his lighter against him as he tried to ignore the sound

"It's my honeymoon, for crying out loud," Elijah mumbled with a sigh before kissing her skin.

As her lips moved to speak, his ringtone echoed too, and the room was filled with the pas dornan ort innti obtine phonins rinrini, bank to back, making them grojn almost in nison.

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"Mmmhmm," Elijah murmured before pecking her lips and getting up to pick up both their phone, handing Peach's hers. When she took it from him, her mood immediately shifted as a look of hate clouded her eyes, her brows furrowing, and her mouth set into an angry frown.

"It's Jewel... What could she possibly want?!" Peach hissed, rolling her eyes angrily. Taking his eyes off Jerome's name on his screen, Elijah met Peach's eyes, clearly seeing that the things she said last night weren't in the fate of rage, but she was actually serious... he could see it in the depths of her eyes.

**Grandpa's Will**

Ignoring Jerome's call, Elijah met Peach's eyes and let out calmly, "Answer it,"

Her eyes darted upward to meet his gaze before looking down at her phone screen and then accepting the call, putting it on speaker. "Peach, dear! Are you alright?" Madam Jewel's voice came from the other end of the line, causing Elijah and Peach to scoff at her fake concern.

"Why wouldn't I be?" Peach said calmly, not breaking eye contact with Elijah. An awkward silence settled on the line, and it took a while before Madam Jewel spoke again. "Are you... sure?" Her tone was almost concerned, but they could hear the underlying hint of disappointment in it.

"Yes," Peach mumbled, struggling to cage the anger that flared up inside of her. "But... I heard... this morning that the motel burned down, and I was worried because that's where you and Elijah with Grace stayed." "Yeah... It did burn down."

"And you are fine... Where are you guys staying?" Not wanting to answer that question, Peach didn't move her lips as she sat there, her jaw clenched tightly against the urge to lash out her feelings at her step-grandmother.

"You know what?... You and Elijah should stop by at the mansion and let's talk in person... I have a proposal for you guys." Madam Jewel spoke in a low, calm manner.

Looking up at Elijah, she gave him a what-should-I-do look, and he nodded his head slightly, telling her to agree.

"Umm, okay. We will be there soon," Peach said reluctantly into the phone, her voice strained from holding in all her emotions.

"Okay then... We will see you both soon." Madam Jewel said before the call ended, causing Peach to finally sighed heavily, tossing the phone on the bed. A frown etched her face, and she ran her fingers through her hair as she whispered, "Gosh, I hated every second of that conversation. It just made my stomach flip over in disgust."

A faint smirk made its way to Elijah's face as he walked over to Peach, rested his palms flat on her thighs, and whispered, "Pretence and patience are the two key things in dealing with people you hate, darling... You got to know how they think, and you need to listen carefully to every word they say, or else it can cost you a lot."

The way he said those words, with no emotions, and a blank expression as he stared right into her eyes made chills run down Peach's spine.

His hands slowly slid their way up her legs until he placed his hands on either side of her hips, and leaned forward to brush his lips gently against hers. "We should freshen up and then go meet those laypocrites," Elijah whispered against her lips, siniting ather.

By ten am, Peach and Elijah were seated in the backseat of the car with Dice behind the steering wheel, eyeing Elijah in the mirror. And then when he and Elijah's gaze accidentally met in the rearview mirror, it finally clicked to Elijah that he needed to call Jerome back

For a second, his gaze darted towards Peach, watching her focused solely on the window in front of her, and then he quickly glanced away from her, taking off his phone "[, what's up?" Elijah said casually after Jerome had picked up his call.

"Good morning, boss... Sorry for disturbing your honeymoon, but we did a little interrogation with the fools that started the fire at motel, and it seems like I think this was a unanimous decision. These men met the Hayes family at the mansion, and with the entire family present, the decision was made to burn down the motel." Jerome uttered, his voice sounding tense.

Looking back at Peach, Elijah gripped and tightened the phone as he let out, "I see. Thanks for the heads up, I..."

Immediately, Peach looked away from the window and looked at Elijah, raising a brow, but he simply smiled before ending the call.

"Is everything okay?" She questioned, concern lacing her words. "Don't worry, darling... Everything is good," Elijah reassured her. The drive to the Hayes mansion suddenly came to an end in the family's garage, and Elijah looked over at Peach, taking her hand in his before pushing the car door open and getting out, leading her behind him.

After Dice joined them, Elijah and Peach walked into the mansion with him, and when they reached the living room, Madam Jewel with her seven children was seated on the couches, their eyes glued to them as Peach and Elijah walked over to an empty sofa and sat down next to each other.

Right from the beginning, the tension in the atmosphere was palpable and they all seemed a bit irritated to see how calm Peach and Elijah were

"Peach honey... where did you leave Grace?" Madam Jewel asked, trying to act casual about the whole thing as if it was nothing but a normal situation. "My mother is well and safe." Peach replied with ease, her voice cold as ice

Suddenly, Dean's face contorted into a scowl, meeting Peach's eyes with a look that seemed to say, "What the hell is wrong with you?!"

"What kind of response is that?! Mother asked you where Grace is... and not how she's doing?!" Dean spat, shooting daggers at Peach, who was now glaring at him "I think my wife answered correctly," Elijah intervened, his tone soft yet firm



“No one asked for your opinion, you arrogant bastard,” Dean snapped at blujah, ansing Peach’s eyebrows to furrow together.

The calmness on Elijah’s face seem more deadly than any rage as he stare bat hatiku spoke, his voice dangerously low, “I didn’t hear Peach asking for yours either the who are you talking when you shouldn’t be, hul, Dean?”

A faint smile curve on Elijah’s lips as he sized Dean with his eyes, and the fifty-four years old man lost his shit, and lashed out, “Mother, please remind me why you think it’s a good idea to help this piece of trash!”

“Watch yourself, Dean! And calm the heck down!!” Tommy yelled at Dean, his face contorting into a scowl as he glared at his brother.

“How about you two stop talking?!” Madam Jewel yelled back, causing everyone in the living room to fall silent.

With a sigh, Madam Jewel turned her gaze back on Peach, smiling warmly, and said, “Honey, I know how much that motel meant to you and your mother. It was your home, your source of income, and where you and your husband should be staying right now... So hearing that it burnt down saddened us, and it’s so devastating that happened to you and Grace.”

‘Then maybe you shouldn’t have fucking burnt it down to ashes?!’ Peach thought, her anger growing as she stared into Madam Jewel’s eyes and gritted her teeth as she kept a neutral expression.

When she looked over at her husband and saw how calm he looked, his advice from earlier popped into her head and Peach whispered in her head, ‘Pretence and Patience...’

“I know it’s going to be hard for you to recover and stand on your two feet again, so I am offering for you, Elijah, and Grace to come to stay here with me until you can get your life in order.” Miss Grace said calmly, and without any emotion whatsoever. “No,” Elijah immediately responded, his expression still as composed as ever. A single word made the entire Hayes family to flinch as they looked up at Elijah with wide eyes.

“Excuse me?” Madam Jewel stuttered, obviously taken aback by Elijah’s refusal. Taking a deep breath, Elijah repeated himself, “No.” “Look here, my mother is being generous and showing you kindness, but you want your ego to grow bigger? What is going on with you, Elijah!? Do you realize how stupid your refusal is!?” Cora snapped, her voice laced with annoyance and frustration as she glared at him.

Their little plan was getting ruined by just one word, and it had all of them pissed off and worried, especially Tommy, because he thought for sure if the motel got burned down,

that will leave Peach and Elijah at a disadvantage and they will have no other choice but to live in the Hayes mansion.

“Stupid? Cora, I wouldn’t call that stupid. I just don’t want my wife or my mother-in-law living here,” Elijah stated, a smug grin on his face. “I don’t see the issue with that.”

“Elijah, I will advise you to think about this before allowing your arrogance to run you headfirst into something that could very easily end badly,” Madam Jewel warned, narrowing her eyes at him as she continued.

Meeting her eyes, Elijah took a moment to look at her, and then he smirked, letting out, “I said what I said, and I meant it.”

The living room immediately fell quiet as everyone watched Elijah stare directly into Madam Jewel’s eyes with this smug smile that clearly said, ‘This isn’t happening’

Reluctantly, Madam Jewel scowled, averting her eyes on Peach, and said, “Peach, honey... I know

love can blind one and make them a fool, but-” “My husband already said, ‘No! What else do you want to hear from me?’” Peach said, her expression soured, feeling irritated. Those words left the Hayeses in total shock, and for a couple seconds, everyone sat in stunned silence. “Peach, you are being foolish and disrespectful right now!” Dean blurted, his face contorted into a frown. “Albert will be.” “Don’t bring my father name into this discussion, Dean!” Peach cut him off sharply, causing his bottom lip to hang loose. Scowling, Amelia glared at her niece and then lashed out, “What has gotten into you, Peach!! Even when Melina was married to this fool, she knew how to put the family first and put him in his place!! Why are you respecting him, instead of looking at the big picture?? You are making a mistake, dear!!”

“No, I think I am making the right decision, Amelia.” Peach refuted, her tone turning colder as she shot Amelia another heated glare.

“It seems like I thought wrong about you, Peach... Since you have chosen a side, I don’t think I want you involved with anything that has to do with this family... including the companies...” Madam Jewel said, her face filled with distaste and displeasure.

A blank expression flashed across Peach’s face, as she clenched her jaw tightly, and then she mumbled, “What are you saying?” “I heard that the entire motel burned down...” Madam Jewel said, her voice monotone, and completely void of any emotion, and it caused everyone in the room to go silent. “Were you able to salvage anything from the wreckage?”

A look of horror quickly spread through Peach’s face as her mind went over everything that she lost, and then she blurted out in her head, ‘Grandpa’s will! It burned too!’

