

# Stars and Moon For You

## By Crescent de Luna

### Chapter 18

“Don’t mention it. Are you guys newlyweds? You’re so lucky to have a husband like

him. Others don’t usually come to the hospital for such a small injury.

Your husband’s

worried sick and even made sure we took an X-ray of your ankle.”

Feeling

embarrassed, Camilla leaned onto Skyler’s embrace. “Indeed, my husband adores me

a lot.” “You’re lucky. We have a patient who’s around the same age as you and she’s

at her last stage of lung cancer. What a poor lady! She even just given birth to a child

and almost lost her life in the process. She didn’t even get a chance to see her

husband!” As if she realized something, Camilla queried carefully, “Is she okay now,

doctor?” “Sigh, we managed to save her this time. But if you think about it, she’s at

her last stage of cancer and she just gave birth. Her body must be really weak and I

doubt she has much time left. Such a pity!” Smiling, Skyler tapped her nose lightly.

“Why are you worried about others when you’re the one injured?”

Putting her arms

around his neck, Camilla replied, “Sigh, you know I have a soft spot for people like

this. Whenever I hear of other people’s misfortune, I feel sorry and sad for them.” As

she completed her sentence, Skyler’s phone rang again. Camilla reached for his phone

and rejected the call. She said sulkily, “You promised that we’re going to officiate our

wedding today. But with my leg like this, I don't think we can do that anymore.

Though, you should still keep me company and deal with the company matters

tomorrow." Skyler naturally agreed to her request. "Let's get you home then."

"Okay." Skyler carried Camilla to the car and seated her in the passenger seat. Going

through Skyler's phone, Camilla noticed that the call she rejected was from Zayne.

'Zayne must've wanted to ask Skyler to visit Estelle and her two kids.' thought

Camilla. She sneered and deleted the call from the call log. 'Sorry, the person you're

calling can't be reached at the moment, please try again later...' Zayne desperately

tried calling Skyler but the call just did not get through. Zayne was getting anxious.

The surgery for the kids was put on hold as the operation needed to be approved by a

family member. He would not have been able to bear the consequences of the kids not

making it if the surgery got delayed. "Uhm..." The patient who laid on the bed made

a faint sound and weakly moved her fingers. "Miss Sanders, you're finally awake!"

Zayne walked over hurriedly. Estelle's face looked pale as if her blood was sucked

right out of her. Her body was attached with tubes and she was on a respirator as her

breathing was weak. "The kids..." "Don't worry, the kids are safe for now. Miss

Sanders, listen, the doctor's preparing for a stem cell transplant surgery for both of

your children. We need the signature of approval from a family member. Will you be

able to hold a pen?" Nodding her head weakly, Estelle raised her hands.

Zayne placed

a pen in her hands while he crouched down to place the agreement document in front

of her. "You can sign here." Estelle was weak and frail but with the help of Zayne, she managed to put down her signature. By the time she was at her last stroke, the pen slipped off her hands. There was no strength left in her to hold a pen. "Sky...Skyler..."

"Director Flynn said that Miss Camilla's injured. After that, I couldn't reach him through the phone anymore." Puff— A mouthful of blood stained the respirator.

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"Mommy...Mommy..." Who was calling her? Estelle woke up to the calling and all she could see were only white walls around her. As she struggled to look around, she realized that she was at the hospital. "Miss Sanders, you're finally awake! You were unconscious for almost four days now. If you didn't wake up, I'm afraid they would've..." The nurse explained as she let out a sigh of relief. Struggling to sit up, Estelle asked, "Where are my children? My children, they..." "Don't worry. The surgery was successful and both of your kids are safe." "I want to see them..." "Oh no, you really shouldn't, miss. You just had surgery yourself and you've got quite a wound. You shouldn't be walking around just yet..." A surgery? Only then was she aware of the thick bandage wrapped around her chest and stomach. As she consciously realized it, she felt a pressing pain. The nurse explained, "You suddenly passed out and we nearly lost you. The doctor performed a localized excision to your lungs and removed a quarter of the mutated lung cells. You ought to keep in mind to avoid intense movements and activities." "The cancer cells are removed? Does it

mean that...I have time to live?" The nurse looked torn. "No one can say for sure. We would have to monitor if cancer will relapse in the future. Though, if you're willing to undergo chemotherapy sessions regularly after this, you might be able to extend your time." "How much longer can I live?" Feeling torn, the nurse replied, "We can't say, but we'll try our best." The nurse felt bad for Estelle as 'trying our best' was the most said word in the hospital. However, Estelle did not feel disappointed. She was supposed to be long gone from this world, yet she was given more time to live. It was as if God had taken pity on her. She felt content. Knock knock — There was a knock on the door. The nurse opened the door and asked, "Are you a family member of Miss Sanders?" The person standing outside the door was dressed in a white shirt and blue slacks. His hair was neatly groomed and he wore a pair of gold-framed glasses. He looked decent and well-polished. "Yes, I am." "All right then, I'll leave you both. Press the bell if you need anything." The nurse left the room and shut the door. Looking at him, Estelle lifted the corners of her mouth. "What brings you all the way here?" Colten Howard had a gentle voice like the person he was. Whether it was the way he treated people or how he handled situations, he was always well-mannered. People felt at ease around him. Colten replied, "You did a great job in keeping the news about your illness from me." Feeling slightly embarrassed, Estelle explained, "Cancer's no good news. There was no reason to broadcast it." "So you wanted to just die after giving birth and not see me again? Estelle, even if you once

rejected my love for you, we're still friends, right?" "Director Howard..." Colten let

out a sigh and took a seat next to her on the bed. With a worried look, he proposed.

"Estelle, bring the kids and come back to the US with me." "I...I can't leave now."

Letting out a bitter laugh, Colten asked, "Why? Haven't you given up on Skyler?"

What is it that he has that I don't? Why do you dislike me so much?"

Estelle felt a bit

wretched upon hearing his words. The year after the Flynn family's tragedy, when

Skyler decided to go his separate ways with her, it was Colten who stayed by her side

when her world was falling apart. He stayed by her side even when he knew her heart

belonged to someone else and that she was carrying another man's child.

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Colten continued. "I'm not forcing you into anything. If you want to give him another

chance, I'll respect that. I do sincerely hope that you'll find the happiness you long

for. But Estelle, I also want you to remember that you're not alone. No matter what

happens, know I'll always have you back." When her first child was infected with

sepsis, she had no choice but to leave the US and return to her hometown. She

tolerated all the insults, shame, and pain from Skyler, all in hopes for the three of

them to reunite as a family. Furthermore, her baby was at a hospital in the US under

the care of Colten at that time. Estelle could not understand him. "But why?" "What

do you mean why?" "Why me? A man like you should be able to find a much prettier

and younger woman compared to me. Someone who'll love you with all her heart and

carry you a child who isn't sick." Estelle explained. He looked as if he was brooding over her words, Colten then explained, "... It might be fate then." "But the thing with fate...is that it's hard to grasp hold of what it means. When it dawns upon you, you can't say for sure if it's a good-fated or an ill-fated relationship." Colten was all the same well-mannered. "It's okay. You can take the time to think about my proposal." Estelle continued. "I have cancer. It's like a ticking time bomb. One minute I'm okay, the next, I could be dead." "Then you can at least live in peace. I'll take care of your children." Getting up from his seat, Colten comforted her while he gently stroked her hair. He sighed, "Estelle, don't strain yourself too much. You're only in your twenties, you're young. You don't have to pretend to be strong and composed. It's okay to cry when you're sad and it's okay to admit you're afraid." Looking up to meet his eyes, Estelle said, "It's been so long since someone saw me as a young lady." "The first time I met you, you were a young lady who was alone, lost and strolling aimlessly down the streets in the rain. If it wasn't for me, you'd have walked into the river." She recalled the events of her life when she was only twenty and thought how time flew by quickly. Six years had passed. Time was a file grinding on her wounds in her heart, again and again, making her damaged heart even more disfigured. Back then she allowed herself to be a wreck. However, she now lost the right to be that way. It was because she was a mother of two kids. She was no longer alone and had to provide her warmth and love for her children. "Director Howard, the kids..." "Don't worry. I was

in the operation room just now and the surgery was successful. You should get some rest, and I'll keep the children company." Feeling grateful, Estelle thanked him.

"Thank you, Director Howard..." "Estelle, do you know how many times you've thanked me the past few years?" Estelle shook her head. "Taking into account the one you said just now, it will be a total of 5276 times. We've known each other for six years, 2192 days. On average, you thanked me 2.5 times every day. Do you know what this means?" "...What does it mean?" "It means that I'm still a stranger to you."

"No, it's not that...I'm just.." "If you saw me differently, you wouldn't have to thank me. Say, did you constantly thank Skyler for everything?" Estelle was lost for words.

Indeed, she did not constantly thank Skyler. When she and Skyler were on good terms, she always demanded things. She knew he would have given her anything she wanted. She felt a pressing pain in her heart as she thought about those memories. She smiled helplessly. "When it comes to debating, how could I compete with the associate from the best law firm in the US." Lifting his lips into a smile, Colten said, "It's good enough that you're finally smiling. You're beautiful when you smile, you should smile more." "Director Howard..." "All right, I'll stop teasing you. I'll go check up on the kids." "Okay." Colten stood up and opened the door. He walked into someone by the door.

## Chapter 21

Skyler took a quick scan of Colten then turned to Estelle and mocked, "Estelle, you're something, aren't you? That's quick of you to find someone to replace me." Estelle

tried to explain. "You're mistaken..." Cutting her off, Skyler added. "Am I though?"

Zayne begged me to visit you right away and said that you're dying. But you seem perfectly fine to me, seeing how you still have the will to flirt with someone else."

Estelle's face hardened. "You're being unreasonable, Skyler." "I'm not here to reason with you." "Then why are you here?" "Zayne said that you're dying. I'm here to see if

that's the case, or if you're just up to one of your tricks again just to get me to come to

you." Estelle suddenly felt exhausted. "I'm...you know what, forget it. See it the way

you want." She had enough of explaining herself all the time. She lived her days

explaining herself for the past five years and she decided that it was enough. Every

day, she tried to explain that she had nothing to do