

Chapter 279 Old Acquaintance

"My apologies for the delay."

"It's fine. We've just arrived," Blayze remarked, his eyes scanning Sabrina from head to toe. "What's wrong with your forehead? Is it serious?"

Sabrina brushed off his concern. "Oh, it's nothing. Just a little tumble."

"It's been quite a few years since I last saw you. You're still as stunning as your college days," he complimented.

Blushing, Sabrina replied, "Thank you, Blayze. Let me introduce you to my close friends. This is Bettie, and over here is Aylin. Aylin's quite the photographer. The one still in the car is my niece."

Bettie extended a friendly hand and a warm smile. "Hello, handsome. I'm Bettie Ramirez."

Though sadness had briefly clouded Bettie, she quickly regained her cheerful demeanor.

Aylin nodded in Blayze's direction and introduced herself, "Nice to meet you. I'm Aylin Nixon."

Blayze acknowledged both with a kind smile. "Greetings, I'm Blayze Fowler, and I happen to be Sabrina's tutor. Once we reach Orden, we can have a discussion," Blayze proposed.

Directing his next words at Aylin, he added, "Especially you."

Aylin responded with a pleasant smile, "That would be my pleasure."

As they stood there, a man emerged from the car behind them. He approached the group and introduced himself, saying, "Hello, I'm Mr. Fowler's assistant. You can call me Wayne."

Sabrina raised an intrigued eyebrow. "You're the assistant of the group?"

Wayne nodded, confirming, "That's right."

Blayze remarked, "It's getting late. Let's hop in our respective cars and head for Orden."

"Agreed," everyone chimed in, and they all returned to their vehicles, setting off for Orden.

Orden, situated in the southern region of Mathias, enjoyed a perpetual spring-like climate due to its geographical location and terrain. The breathtaking natural landscapes made it a paradise for photographers.

As Jennie settled into the passenger seat, she turned to Sabrina and inquired, "Sabrina, did you happen to notice the person in their car?"

"What?" Sabrina, puzzled, responded, "What do you mean?"

"I spotted a man in their car, but he didn't step out," Jennie explained.

"Really?" Sabrina's curiosity was piqued.

Bettie, focused on the road from the driver's seat, casually commented, "I didn't notice it at all."

With a mischievous grin, Aylin teased, "Well, you were too busy ogling the handsome one!"

"I didn't notice it either," Sabrina confessed.

Bettie countered playfully, "What's wrong with admiring someone handsome? Who wouldn't want to? By the way, is he married?"

"Well..." Aylin pondered for a moment and continued, "I'm not sure. I didn't see a ring on his finger. But if he does get married, would his wife allow him to hang out with other girls?"

Bettie replied in a determined tone, "You've got a point. So, I might still have a chance."

Sabrina was taken aback, exclaiming, "What?"

"Bettie, are you seriously considering pursuing him?" Aylin asked in astonishment.

Bettie glanced at Aylin with a sly smile and said, "I did a bit of detective work before coming here. Want to know what I discovered?"

Aylin and Sabrina leaned in with anticipation. "Tell us!"

With a grin, Bettie revealed, "He's not just any photographer. He's one of the renowned and wealthy Fowler family in Violetholt. He used to live abroad, but last year, his father fell ill and called him back to take charge of the family business. Now he's the head of the Fowler clan."

Aylin and Sabrina exchanged surprised glances and urged, "And then?"

Bettie chuckled mischievously. "Well, you see, my father has been pressuring me to go on a blind date, with the ulterior motive of passing our family's assets to his illegitimate son. I couldn't agree to that, of course. But I have no idea how to run a company, and I don't have any leverage.

So... I need to find someone to manage the company and monitor my father's behavior. That way, I won't have to exert myself to gain control of the business and avoid the hassle of running it. Plus, Blayze's family is influential, and he probably has no interest in our family's assets. I say he and I could make a perfect match!

Don't you think it's a good idea? Even though our backgrounds are quite different, I want to give it a shot. What if he's actually interested in me?"

Aylin burst into laughter, unable to contain herself.

Sabrina remained quiet for a couple of seconds before finally saying, "It does make a certain kind of sense. Go for it, Bettie."

Jennie, who had been listening, chimed in sweetly, "Bettie."

Bettie turned toward Jennie, inquiring, "What is it?"

Jennie offered a gentle dose of reality, saying, "It's all in your head."

Laughter erupted among them as they continued their journey to Orden. They arrived in Orden after 5:00 p.m. The cars smoothly entered the hotel's underground parking lot.

After exiting the car, Sabrina gently carried Jennie out before retrieving her luggage. Then, all of them made their way toward the elevator.

Bettie, suitcase in hand, scanned the area and questioned, "Where did they park?"

Sabrina replied, "Their car is over there. Let's head in to check in first."

Bettie pouted, grumbling, "There's an empty spot right here. Why did they park so far away?"

Sabrina shrugged. "Who knows?"

They entered the elevator and rode it to the first floor to check in.

After the receptionist efficiently processed their details, she handed them the room key card. "Your room number is 1605," she informed them. "Take the elevator up to the 16th floor, turn left to the fourth room, and you'll find it."

They had reserved a suite with three bedrooms and a living room, with each of them having a dedicated bedroom. Jennie would be staying with Sabrina.

"Great, thank you," Sabrina replied, taking the key card.

Sabrina held the room key card and led the group to the elevator. Fortuitously, the elevator had just descended, and they stepped inside.

As the elevator doors closed, another elevator from the first-floor underground opened, and Blayze and his two companions emerged.

Surveying the empty hallway, Wayne remarked to the young man beside Blayze, "They must have gone upstairs."

"Understood," the young man responded calmly.

After resting in their respective rooms for a while, hunger began to creep in. Sabrina suggested, "Let's head to the hotel restaurant for dinner."

Bettie, who had been reclining on the sofa, immediately sat upright and proposed, "Sounds great. How about we invite Blayze and his friends to join us?"

Sabrina raised an intrigued eyebrow. "Okay, I'll ask him."

Excitedly, Bettie added, "Hey, can you send me his Facebook account?"

"Sure," Sabrina agreed with a chuckle.

Sabrina promptly messaged Blayze, inviting him and his friends to join them for dinner, and then she shared Blayze's account with Bettie.

"He said he'll meet us at the restaurant. Let's go," Sabrina informed the group.

"What?" Bettie, puzzled, checked Sabrina's phone and saw Blayze's reply. She was taken aback and somewhat disappointed. "Then why didn't he accept my friend request?"

Aylin tried to console her, gently patting her shoulder. "Maybe he didn't notice it."

Bettie couldn't find words to respond. She found it hard to believe that.

Blayze and Wayne had already settled at their table in the restaurant. Aylin saw them and thought Jennie might be wrong about seeing a third man in their car before and brushed this off.

They enjoyed their dinner together, with Bettie and Wayne injecting energy into the conversation. Despite just meeting, they found plenty to talk about.

During the conversation, Blayze shared how he had helped Sabrina when she first arrived, including assisting her in finding an apartment, purchasing necessities, and extending her visa.

On another occasion, Sabrina had lost her phone in a supermarket

within a shopping mall. She had tried to see and check the surveillance footage, but the staff hadn't taken her seriously. Blayze had intervened, ensuring they thoroughly reviewed the footage and identified the thief who had stolen her phone.

Coincidentally, Blayze had graduated from the same university as Sabrina. This connection allowed him to offer valuable advice on her studies, as he knew several of her professors.

Furthermore, Sabrina had been bothered by persistent advances from a young man of considerable wealth during an event. Blayze's intervention had dissuaded the man from pestering her.

However, the more Sabrina heard about their shared past, the more distant it felt. She struggled to recollect any of these memories.

Bettie, observing the interaction between Blayze and Sabrina, couldn't help but comment, "Wow, it sounds like you two used to be close friends."

Her gaze shifted between them, carrying a meaningful expression. In comparison to Tyrone, Bettie was starting to view Blayze as a genuinely good person.

Regarding her earlier playful comments in the car, they were mostly jests, and she wasn't entirely serious.

Unperturbed by Bettie's scrutinizing gaze, Sabrina turned her attention to serving food for Jennie, who had already sensed Blayze's interest in Sabrina. Jennie vowed to report this to Tyrone!

As they neared the end of their meal, Bettie excused herself and headed to the restroom.

The men's and women's restrooms shared a row of sinks. As Bettie washed her hands, a man emerged from the men's restroom.

Bettie glanced up and froze in place.

