

## Read A Life Debt Repaid Chapter 1461-1470

A Life Debt Repaid Chapter 1461-Sam was worried he would be overwhelmed if Quinn could not accept it.

Even as he looked at her now, she was clearly stunned by the news, her concern barely concealed.

She could neither take it nor imagine how hurt Ryan was now.

Attraction aside, she really considered Ryan her brother.

“Yes, he is,” Sam replied. “He’s at the best hospital there is.”

“I’m going there,” Lindsay suddenly exclaimed loudly, seemingly having come to her senses just then.

“Yeah, let’s go.” Marvin did not hesitate either.

“We’ll all go there together,” Sam quickly said, staying calm just then. “Well have to call off the birthday banquet-leave that to me. Quinn, you arrange for our transport over to the capital.”

Both Marvin and Lindsay nodded, but they were clearly worried out of their minds.

“Okay,” Quinn said, working hard to keep herself calm and went to work with Sam.

Quinn called the house chauffeur, who took them straight to the airport and booked the next flight which left in an hour.

Meanwhile, Sam kept making calls to align the way to the airport, announcing the cancellation of the birthday banquet and instructing the staff to make the suitable arrangements for the guests. He also told them to pass the message that they would personally apologize after and tell them the reason for the cancellation.

Even as they arrived at the airport and waited, Sam was still making the arrangements with calm composure and without any trouble. However, none of the others noticed that change about Sam since they were all too focused on Sam.

After more than an hour's flight and arriving at the capital, they disembarked and got in the car waiting to take them to the hospital.

One of Ryan's colleagues was already waiting at the entrance. "This way, Mr. and Mrs. Saunders. You can call me Hans-they are still operating on Ryan at the moment."

"Is it that serious?" Marvin asked as he followed Hans.

"Actually, I was only informed later myself, so I don't know the details. Our supervisor did say that he was still conscious when he was brought in, s-so..."

Hans seemed afraid to speak and trailed off, and there was no hiding the worry on Marvin and Lindsay's faces at that.

As they arrived outside the ER, Jonah Jones, Ryan's supervisor, hurried over to them. "They are still operating on Ryan at the moment."

"How long has it been?" Sam asked.

"Over three hours," he replied.

"How did it go? Has anyone come out yet?"

"No." Jonah sighed exasperatedly.

Lindsay could fall apart right then. How could this happen? If the worst did come true...

Before Lindsay could think about that, a nurse hurried outside. "Is Mr. Saunders' family members present?"

"Yes," Sam promptly replied-neither Marvin nor Lindsay could speak with their nerves stretched thin.

"We're still doing our best to help the patient," the nurse said urgently. "However, his condition is serious, and his right leg was really mangled in the crash. It needs to be amputated, or it would risk his life. We need a family member to sign this consent form!"

Sam stared at the piece of paper and turned toward Marvin and Lindsay-both of them were clearly afraid to do it, since it was a leg!

Lindsay even demanded in agitation, "Can't my son keep his leg? I think he'd be overwhelmed if he lost it!"

"We wouldn't ask if it were possible-the doctors have really done their best," the nurse explained, before urging, "Please sign this now. The longer you wait, the further in danger the patient would be!"

A Life Debt Repaid Chapter 1462-Lindsay started bawling, while Marvin's eyes were red with tears as well-he might be old and experienced, but this was his son they were talking about.

Both Sam and Quinn were silent too. Ryan was ultimately his brother, and no one would stay unmoved.

As for Quinn, her tears were rolling freely after hearing that the amputation was necessary, as she did not think that it would be that serious.

Moreover, Ryan had always been successful and proud. She had no idea how he would react once he woke up to find himself missing a leg.

In the end, Marvin signed the consent form-keeping Ryan alive was more important than a leg.

His legs almost caved soon after, and Sam had to hold him up.

The surgery continued for a long while. It should have been a day of celebration for the Saunders, only for things to turn out so terrible.

Even Quinn had no idea how long the surgery continued, and the hallway was suffocatingly silent when the door to the ER opened.

The doctor stepped out first, taking off his mask and looking utterly tired.

Jonah approached him, asking urgently, "How's Ryan, doctor?"

The others came to their senses at that.

Sam held up Marvin, while Quinn held up Lindsay as they approached the doctor.

The doctor sighed, which almost left Marvin and Lindsay fainting right then.

"How is he, doctor?! How is Ryan?!" Lindsay cried in agitation.

“Don’t worry, he’s not in danger at the moment. But...” the doctor trailed off, hesitant.

“But what?!” Lindsay demanded loudly.

“The patient might get agitated when he wakes up after the amputation, so please be prepared. He has also suffered injuries on the rest of his body, and we will be keeping him in the ICU for observation. He will be transferred to a normal ward when his condition is completely stable.”

Lindsay nodded in silence.

On the other hand, Marvin could not say a word.

He was hurting, just like everyone else-and if they could not accept it, Ryan most certainly could not.

Soon, when Ryan was wheeled out of the ER, Lindsay promptly jumped toward him, calling out loudly, “Ryan!”

Marvin hurried after the stretcher too, “Ryan! Are you alright,

Ryan?!”

The nurses promptly shushed them. “Please calm down. The patient won’t wake up for another couple of hours-make way, we need to take him to the ICU now.”

With that, everyone followed the hospital staff to the ICU.

They watched him from behind a window, where his whole body was covered in bandages. However, the worst was still his amputated leg.

Lindsay’s tears would not stop, and even Marvin was wiping off his tears from time to time.

They had no idea how to break the news when Ryan woke up that he lost a leg.

Time passed in silence, and everyone stood outside, not moving an inch as they waited for Ryan to wake up.

A Life Debt Repaid Chapter 1463-Sam left and returned after buying a few bottles of water.

As his parents did not want any, Sam passed one to Quinn, who stared blankly for a moment before taking it.

In reality, they had not eaten or drunk for a day since rushing to the capital for a day, waiting until Ryan's surgery was over and standing watch over him now.

And even as Quinn took a few sips, all her attention was on Ryan.

That was when she suddenly realized that Ryan had woken up-

It was a small twitch, and there was no other reaction— perhaps it hurt too much, or he simply did not have the strength.

Still, he slowly opened his eyes.

“He's awake! Ryan's awake!” Quinn exclaimed excitedly.

Marvin and Lindsay noticed it right then and quickly turned to Sam. “Go get a doctor!”

Sam promptly did so, and the doctor arrived, entering the ICU to examine Ryan.

The walls were soundproof, however, and they could not hear what the doctor was discussing with Ryan.

They all watched anxiously, and the doctor stepped out after a while.

“How is my son? How is he?” Lindsay asked in agitation.

“Don't worry-his vital signs are stable and he's not in danger, ” the doctor assured her. “However, he's still very weak, so he'd need to stay here for another few days to avoid infection, or the consequences would be unimaginable.”

“Yes, yes... He should stay as long as he has to.” Lindsay promptly agreed to it. “Can we go in to keep him company?”

“Not for now,” the doctor replied, shaking his head. “He regained consciousness, but his head is still in a blur. He should rest for now—I’ll arrange for visitation in a few days once he’s better.”

Both Marvin and Lindsay both thanked the doctor gratefully.

“It’s what I should do,” the doctor replied. “By the way, the patient can’t quite feel his condition, so don’t tell him about his amputation for a few days when you start visiting. I’m concerned he won’t be able to take it, and it’s very dangerous until he’s better.”

“Okay,” Lindsay nodded, as she always did while tears flowed freely from her cheeks.

“Our staff will be taking shifts to watch him 24/7. Everyone may step away for now, since the patient would need your care after he leaves ICU. You need to take care of yourself before looking after others.”

And with that advice, the doctor left.

However, neither Marvin nor Lindsay intend to leave-their red, tearful eyes stayed on Ryan.

“Mom, Dad, you should get some rest and come back tomorrow,” Sam reasoned. “I’ve booked a hotel not ten minutes away from here, and neither of you have eaten or drunk since this morning.”

“No, I want to stay with Ryan,” Lindsay sobbed.

“Yeah, I’m staying too,” Marvin said.

“Your health matters too, Dad,” Sam told him. “What would happen to Ryan if both of you get sick?! Don’t worry-I’m staying here, and I’ll call you right away if anything happens.”

When Marvin still didn’t give in, Sam pressed, “You can neglect your own health, Dad, but not Mom’s.”

Marvin was convinced right then and turned to Lindsay,” Sam’s right. We’ll have all the time we need to care for Ryan, and we should be more careful about our own health.”

“But...” Lindsay sobbed, unable to say anything.

Marvin nodded-they shared the same pain.

“Quinn, you can go with them to the hotel,” Sam said, not asking for opinions just then.

The priority now was to not let everyone wear themselves out!

A Life Debt Repaid Chapter 1464-Quinn nodded, knowing that it was most important to take care of Marvin and Lindsay’s health at the moment. With both of them being old, and Marvin recently suffering health issues himself, anything that happened to him now might turn out to be terrible.

“Let’s go to the hotel for now. Sam will stay here to keep an eye on Ryan,” Quinn quickly reasoned.

Lindsay eventually agreed to it thanks to Marvin’s insistence, though she told Sam again to immediately inform them if anything happened.

“Don’t worry, Mom.” Sam nodded. “Come-I’ll walk you to the entrance.”

Sam watched as Marvin and Lindsay got in, and then at Quinn, who was riding shotgun.

A million things crossed his mind, but he ultimately buried it and stayed quiet.

Quinn turned to look at Sam as well. There was a sense of an attachment in their gaze, but it ultimately went unsaid.

Sam hence watched as the car sped into the distance, its tail lights disappearing before he returned to the hospital.

He sat in the hallway outside the ICU, finally having the time and mood to check his phone.

Unsurprisingly, he had countless missed calls and texts.

He ignored most, tapping on the group chats with John and Cordy respectively.

Everyone was asking basically the same thing.

John: [What happened?]

Jay: [Sam, what is it? Why was Mr. Saunders' birthday event suddenly canceled?]

Bob: [Say something, man. You're killing us, not answering our calls! What could be so serious?]

Cordy: [What happened, Sam?]

Zoe: [Reply, Sam! What in the world happened?! You should look at your face—that and your parents'! It's on the news?!]

Zoe: [Hey! Say something?!]

Zoe: [By the way, are we still going with the proposal?]

Zoe: [Probably not, with the birthday party canceled.]

Zoe: [Answer us, Sam! This is so frustrating—even Quinn isn't answering calls! What the hell happened?!]

Zoe: [You're killing me!]

Cordy: [Calm down, Zoe. Quinn and Sam must be really busy if both of them can't answer. They'll tell us once all of this is over.]

Zoe: [Fine, I'll calm down...]

Sam stared at the messages, his fingers hovering over the screen.

He really had trouble telling them everything since he could hardly accept it, but it was reality and there were no miracles to be expected here.

Eventually, he typed: [We received a call saying that Ryan was in a car accident this morning during that press conference. The whole family rushed to the capital. It took some time for them to save Ryan, and they had to amputate his right leg. He's in the ICU, and the doctor said that his vitals are stable, but he's not completely safe yet.]

Sam read it after typing it before sending it, after which he sighed heavily himself.

He could not imagine what would happen if Ryan found out he lost a leg, since he was always proud and unable to accept any flaws in himself.



Both chat groups were stunned after they received Sam's text.

Cordy sent a sad emoji, while the rest were asking questions.

Jay: [That's terrible!]

Bob: [For real? Are you with Ryan now?]

Bob: [Should we come over to keep you company?]

Zoe: [Amputate? As in he lost his right leg?! Gosh! Can he take it?! He's been spoiled and proud as a child!]

A Life Debt Repaid Chapter 1465-Zoe: [Is Quinn with you at the hospital in the capital?]

Zoe: [How are your parents taking the news?]

Sam felt really stressed even as he replied to his friends' text, since this was a tragedy for anyone, just as he had no idea how to deal with Ryan.

Soon, it was late into the night, and Sam received a text from Quinn: [Are you asleep?]

[Nope.]

Quinn: [Can you sleep at the hospital? You should find a place to rest—you should be careful with your own health too. You'd have to step up if your parents get overwhelmed.]

Sam: [I know. It's late, though. Aren't you sleeping?]

Quinn paused for a moment. [I'm a little worried about you.]

Sam chuckled bitterly. [Why? I'm fine. Ryan, though...]

Quinn's fingers hovered over her phone, unsure of what to say.

Sam did not dwell on it either. [It's late. You should get some sleep.]

Quinn: [Yeah.]

Sam: [Watch my parents for me. I'm worried that they'd get overwhelmed.]

Quinn: [I'll stay with them. Don't worry.]

Sam put down his phone at that and reclined against the hallway chair.

He stayed there until the morning, even though the hospital had already booked a VIP ward for his convenience. It was for Ryan once he could be moved out of ICU, but he did not go there.

He just thought someone should stay with Ryan at all times -he would get scared if he were alone.

By daybreak, however, Sam had dozed off because he was too drowsy... until a nurse came, and called out softly, "Mr. Saunders?"

Sam opened his bloodshot eyes and straightened, looking at her in surprise as she said, "The patient would like to see you."

Sam paused for a moment before pointing at the ICU and exclaiming in surprise, "You mean Ryan?"

The nurse nodded. "He says he would like to see you inside."

"Didn't the doctors forbid visitation?"

"They were just here to check on him, actually-all his vital signs were stable, so they gave him the green light," the nurse explained mildly. "You can visit the patient, but you'll have to watch the time. Since the patient is still very weak, we'll do our best to fulfill his needs to help with his recovery."

"Okay." Sam got to his feet, deciding to confront Ryan right then.

"Come with me. You need to change into scrubs," the nurse told him.

Sam did so and followed the nurse into the ICU.

Now that he was seeing Ryan up close, Ryan looked way worse than he thought.

His brother, who had always cared a lot about his personal image at home or outside, usually looked sharp and well- dressed at all times.

Now, he was covered in bandages and had plenty of tubes attached all over his body, leaving him a shadow of his past self.

Keeping a lid on his feelings, Sam looked at Ryan's face, meeting the latter's feeble gaze just then.

A Life Debt Repaid Chapter 1466-"Are you alone?" Ryan asked with considerable exertion.

His voice was so soft Sam barely heard him, and he had to drop to a crouch to hear him clearly.

"Mom and Dad are worried, but they're too old," Sam quickly said. "The doctor also stopped US from visiting for another couple of days, so I sent them to the hotel. I'll call them now if you want to see them."

Ryan shook his head slightly, instead asking, "What did the doctor say about me?"

"Your vitals are fine," Sam assured him. "But there's organ damage so you need to recover here in the ICU for a while. Don't worry-you have the best medical staff here. You'll get better."

"Am I disfigured?" Ryan asked.

Sam did a double take.

"I can't see-you're totally covered in bandages," Sam said earnestly before adding. "Your eyes, mouth, and ears are showing, but those are fine."

"Am I missing limbs?" Ryan then asked.

Sam paused, surprised that Ryan would ask about that.

Still, it was understandable-anyone who went through such a terrible accident would be either concerned about their survival, and then their physical condition. After all, it would be easy to be crippled or disfigured after serious car accidents.

"Sam."

There was panic in Ryan's eyes when Sam did not answer.

"No," Sam lied, going against his own conscience-the doctor had told him not to tell Ryan about his condition, since it would be adverse to his recovery.

If they could deceive him for even a moment, so be it.

“You were hesitating,” Ryan said, his tone feeble but agitated. “You’re lying, aren’t you?”

“No,” Sam repeated. “You’re perfectly fine.”

‘Swear it.’

“I swear,” Sam said, bracing him against his conscience once more.

However, he also clearly sensed Ryan’s changing mood, which was bad, since he was not supposed to get aggravated at the moment.

“If you lied, you won’t get to stay with Quinn,” Ryan suddenly said slowly.

Sam gulped—he could swear anything about his own life, but not his relationship with Quinn!

Even his tone turned stern. “I won’t swear on anything with the lives of my loved ones, because I don’t fool around with their lives—not just Quinn’s, but our parents’ too. That’s my principle.”

‘Why not? Because you’re lying?’ Ryan asked in rising agitation.

“No, but it’s my duty toward my loved ones. I can swear on my life, but I have no right to swear anything on another person’s life. It’s not fair to them.”

“So you were lying.”

“I think you need to calm down,” Sam tried to reason. “I’ll get the doctor for you.”

“I can’t feel my right leg,” Ryan suddenly said.

Sam subtly pursed his lips, but he said calmly, “The doctor said the painkillers aren’t wearing off yet. You will feel it once the effect passes.”

“It’s gone, isn’t it? My right leg?!” Ryan demanded with stubborn agitation.

He always was smarter than the rest and could tell from Sam’s tiniest reactions that something was wrong.

Moreover, he really could not feel his right leg even though he was lying in bed!

A Life Debt Repaid Chapter 1467-Ryan's other senses were still intact, and he could feel everything except for his right leg!

'Calm down, Ryan.' Sam did his best to calm Ryan down. 'You're just hallucinating from the morphine. You'll feel it once the effect passes and you've recovered.'

"No, I really can't feel it. It's really gone..." Ryan started to convulse, losing control of himself right then.

Whatever Sam said, Ryan was dead sure he had lost his leg.

At the same time, the monitors attached to him begin to blare in the ICU room, while Sam promptly called for the doctor.

All the medical staff rushed to the scene immediately, checking the instruments for a moment before quickly wheeling Ryan to the ER.

Sam was actually spooked that Ryan would react like that-he seemed to have seen Ryan almost flatline right there!

As he followed the medical staff hurrying to the ER, Marvin, Lindsay, and Quinn just happened to arrive at the hallway outside.

They were there to visit Ryan since they could not stay calm. In fact, Marvin and Lindsay were up before daybreak, and it was difficult for Quinn to persuade them to come after having breakfast.

And yet, they arrived to see Ryan being wheeled into the operating room—was he not supposed to be in a stable condition? What was happening? Judging from the grim looks of the medical staff, it was serious!

Lindsay almost collapsed from fear, while Marvin had to keep assuring her as Quinn helped her stand.

They hurried to the ER, where Sam stood outside, restless and not even noticing that they were all behind him.

"Sam," Quinn called out to him.

Sam realized with a start and turned toward them, his hands trembling, and he inadvertently touched Ryan's hand when he helped the medical staff wheel Ryan to the ER.

It was so cold...

'What's wrong? You're scaring me,' Quinn said, a little scared when she saw his pale face.

On the other hand, Lindsay did not notice Sam's reaction since all she cared about was Ryan. 'H-How's Ryan?'

Sam had no idea what to say.

That Ryan was in denial of losing his right leg, and that was why he was in danger?

"What happened?! Wasn't he stable?! How did this happen?!" Lindsay kept pressing, looking like she could faint in an instant.

Thankfully, the surgery was short this time, and the doctor stepped out in twenty minutes.

Sam hurried toward him. "How is Ryan, doctor?"

"The patient's heart seemed to weaken and showed signs of arrest, but we managed to resuscitate him in time," the doctor replied. 'He's stabilizing, but he's not in the best state of mind. You were the one who spoke to him, weren't you?'"

When Sam nodded, the doctor promptly snapped, "What did you tell him? He's already in a bad state, and I can't promise that he'll survive if this continues!"

A Life Debt Repaid Chapter 1468-As the doctor interrogated Sam, he pursed his lips and replied, "He knows he lost his leg."

"How could you tell him?!" the doctor cried in agitation. "Didn't I say not tell him?! He's weak, and knowing about his amputation wouldn't work for his recovery! Can't you be more careful as his family member?!"

And when the doctor was done, Lindsay could not hold back either. "How could you be so terrible, Sam?! Don't you understand Ryan's condition?! Why

would you tell him?! Don't you know what's right at your age?! If he's hurt because of you... I-I'll give up!"

Lindsay started bawling at that, and Marvin had to comfort her.

However, he was clearly angry as well and told Sam, "What you did today is really disappointing, Sam. You're thirty—don't you understand the consequences?"

Sam wanted to explain himself but soon decided it was futile.

It was always that way since they were children—he would always be the one at fault whenever he and Ryan were at odds.

If he said he never told Ryan now and that Ryan had guessed it himself, no one would believe it anyway—they would just believe that he was lying.

Lindsay promptly turned toward the doctor then while sobbing hysterically. "What should we do now, doctor?! How bad is it, my son knowing his condition? You have to save him—he's only in his thirties and still has much to live for! I can't outlive him!"

The doctor sighed exasperatedly. "He's stable and not in danger, but being depressed like this or sudden outbursts could lead to worse situations. But it's already happened, so we just have to do our best to comfort him and help him accept reality."

Lindsay remained hysterical. But he's been successful even as a child and worked for the top research center of the country! Can someone as proud as him accept his disability?! I can't even imagine how much he was hurting when he found out... I'd rather be the one hurting than him! How could fate be so cruel?!"

"Please calm down," the doctor told her. "First of all, we need to be positive around the patient, in order to offer him strength and assurance. Don't be sadder than him, or you'd overwhelm him. Don't worry—acceptance is a process, and it takes time."

Lindsay simply kept sobbing.

Just then, Ryan was wheeled out of the ER, and Lindsay leaped toward him, calling out tentatively, "Are you alright, Ryan? Does it hurt in any way?! Tell me... Tell Mommy..."

Ryan kept his eyes closed and stayed silent.

He was clearly conscious and reluctant to deal with anyone, and that reaction only left Lindsay hurting more.

However, the doctor told him that he must first control his own emotions and quickly said, "I'll be with you whatever happens, alright? You have nothing to be afraid of...."

Ryan did not respond, while tears rolled down from the corner of his eyes.

Lindsay's heart could break right then, and she kept wiping them for him while telling him repeatedly:

"Be strong, Ryan."

"We're family."

"We will get through this."

Nonetheless, Ryan stayed silent even after he was wheeled into the ICU.

Everyone could only watch from the door, with Lindsay's tears never stopping.

Marvin's eyes were welling up with tears as well...

Sam was silent, his pain palpable, while Quinn had quietly shed tears a few times.

Soon, they watched as the staff inside lowered the folding curtains on the window of the ICU.

A Life Debt Repaid Chapter 1469-Her eyes filled with pain, Lindsay was exceedingly agitated since she had been staring fixedly at Ryan. "What's going on?! Why aren't they letting US see him?!"

A nurse stepped outside just then. "I'm sorry, but everyone should leave.

The patient needs to rest."



"I'm staying," Lindsay insisted. "I'm staying with my son."

"He asked for this, I'm afraid," the nurse told her. "He says he doesn't want to see you."

Lindsay was left hysterical right then. "Why won't he see US? How could he stand being alone there..."

"You should give him time to accept reality," the nurse reasoned. "You should go. We'll inform you right away if anything happens."

"I'm staying." Lindsay remained stubborn.

Marvin did not try to talk her out of it since he wanted to stay with Ryan too.

Suddenly, Lindsay's tone turned cool as she said, "You should go, Sam."

As Sam looked up at her, she added, "You've stayed here the whole day. You should get some rest."

Sam pursed his lips, knowing that his mother did not say that out of concern but as a form of punishment instead, and to have him stay away and stop being an eyesore.

As such, he simply nodded. "I'll go to the hotel. Just call me if anything happens. I'll be right over."

Lindsay did not respond at all, while Sam stared at her cool demeanor from behind for a moment before turning to leave.

He glanced at Quinn when he did.

She had been silent all while keeping Lindsay company.

He could see her tears too, and he wondered if she too blamed him for not keeping Ryan in the dark.

As such, Sam headed out of the hospital without pause.

Quinn pursed her lips as she looked on, pains showing in her eyes.

For some reason, she had the feeling that Sam had not told them the full story, and that Sam would not have told Ryan about his amputation.

She would not be sure before, but she had found Sam to be tactful after working with for a while. There was no way he could have run a company as huge as Saunderia so easily otherwise.

As for why he never explained himself despite his mother's blame... was he perhaps hurting too much to say anything?

Quinn turned toward Marvin and Lindsay and mustered her courage to say, "Mr. and Mrs. Saunders, you should stay with Ryan. I'll go check on Sam."

Both Marvin and Lindsay were surprised that she would ask to leave.

Still, as they calmed down, they realized that there was nothing she could help with even if she stayed.

Lindsay nodded. "Go on."

A Life Debt Repaid Chapter 1470-Sam had just stepped outside the hospital and was ready to get in a cab when Quinn ran outside, calling out to him loudly, "Sam!"

He glanced at her, almost telling the cabbie to leave just then.

However, seeing that she appeared pressed, he decided not to leave her behind even if that meant being scolded by her.

Quinn was panting as she got in the cab-she thought Sam was going to leave without her.

Fortunately, he did not, or she would have to take her own cab back to the hotel. Though that would actually be fine, since Sam was upset and needed time alone, there was no telling if he would go to the hotel, and if he did not answer his calls on top of that...

Either way, she was worried about his present state of mind.

Sam waited as she got in before telling the cabbie to head to their hotel, and the journey there was silent.

Sam stared outside at the streets without saying anything.

Though Quinn tried to muster her courage to talk to him a few times, she remained silent as she watched his cool demeanor from behind.

Sam might prefer some silence at that moment, after all.

Eventually, they arrived at the hotel.

As Quinn followed Sam into their room, he suddenly turned to face her before she could speak. "Yell at me all you want, and don't hold back. Once you're done, I'm going to sleep."

"What?" Quinn did a double take, wondering what he was talking about just then.

"You don't know me, and Ryan's condition is unknown because of me, but I can sleep as if it's no big deal. You might not believe it, but I'm being honest here-people can die if they suffer too many sleepless nights."

"I'm here to sleep with you, Sam," Quinn said. "I didn't sleep well last night myself, and I'm also worried you won't sleep well now since you might be stressed."

Sam was left staring at Quinn-this was going differently from what he imagined.

He thought she would...

Quinn read his mind right then. "You thought I'm upset with you too?"

"Aren't you?" Sam asked self-deprecatingly as he turned away.

"Ryan would eventually find out," Quinn said bluntly.

Sam smiled dolefully at that-so she was convinced that he told Ryan about his amputation too?!

He had no plans to explain, but that was when Quinn suddenly added," Ryan's smart. He found out without you telling him, didn't he?"

Sam paused and turned to look at her.

"I'm right, aren't I?" Quinn asked.

Sam stayed silent, and Quinn took that as a yes.

“I had a hunch even while we were at the hospital,” she continued. “Ryan’s been smart since he was a kid, and he’d be asking about his condition as soon as he wakes up, even probing for the answers he wants every way he can. If it wasn’t you today, it’d be someone else the next. It’s not your fault, so don’t blame yourself, Sam.”

“I’m not,” Sam said magnanimously, though it still upset him that neither of his parents trusted him.

“Why don’t you explain to your parents?” Quinn asked.

“What’s there to explain? Who’d believe me?” Sam snorted.

“That’s still better than staying silent. It’s no different from admitting to the guilt,” Quinn said bluntly.

Sam shook his head, not inclined to stay on that issue.

“Perhaps you’re letting your parents vent their stress?” Quinn suggested. Sam pursed his lips.