

## Chapter 220 He Was Willing To Set Her Free

---

Waylen couldn't dodge at all.

A slender rivulet of crimson blood trickled down his countenance...

Undeterred, Mark positioned himself before Waylen and uttered with a quivering voice, "Waylen, have you pondered upon the repercussions of your actions? Can Rena endure it? What if... What if... If the baby really perishes, there will be no way back for you, Waylen. You will be doomed."

Waylen slightly closed his eyes and replied, "I know. I am well aware."

Waylen found himself without alternatives.

Rena's loathing towards him was intense. He couldn't offer her anything. He could no longer bear witnessing her agonizing in pain either. If she had even the slightest chance recovering in a different setting, he was willing to... He was willing to... set her free.

Mark maintained silence for an extended duration.

However, Waylen understood that Mark concurred.

Waylen wiped the blood from his brow, rose to his feet and departed.

As the door shut, Mark's anger erupted in solitude. He forcefully shoved the papers to the floor and berated, "He is insane. If he truly loved her, why did he inflict so much harm upon her before?"

While venting his frustrations, Mark dejectedly took a seat.

His eyes were bloodshot.

In truth, he knew this course of action could, at the very least, save Rena's life.

Waylen returned to the ICU ward.

Rena remained fixated on the baby. He couldn't determine if she slept more than three hours a day.

She was gradually expending her life for the sake of this child.

Following Waylen's decisive choice, he felt a tinge of sorrow. It was an emotion he had never experienced before but now he comprehended it.

He was a husband and a father.

Yet, he had failed in all his duties.

He had caused his wife to endure such suffering...

He embraced her.

Perhaps it would be the last time he could hold her so unabashedly.

Naturally, Rena resisted.

Waylen clung to her tightly, his chin resting on her shoulder, and whispered, "Allow me to hold you for a while. Just this once, Rena... Please don't push me away."

She lacked the strength and simply allowed him to embrace her in silence.

He couldn't perceive her warmth.

Nevertheless, he pressed close to her neck, inhaling her scent,

evoking countless cherished memories of their time together.

It was evident that he loved her...

She was the first woman he had made love to.

He kept her by his side, showering her with various gifts to please her, engaging in battles with Harold for her sake, and feeling jealousy towards Tyrone, Robert and Zack...

Every time she shed tears, he fretted over her, and every time she left him, he regretted it deeply.

Clearly, he loved her...

Waylen kissed her hair and whispered with a tremor in his voice, "Rena, I love you."

Rena stiffened.

It mattered not to her anymore whether he harbored love for her or not.

No response came from her. He sealed his eyelids shut and clasped her with increased intensity, as though he intended to expend every ounce of his strength. The pressure inflicted upon Rena caused her great pain and discomfort. In a raspy voice, she uttered, "You're hurting me."

"I am in pain. Rena, I am hurting."

In the past, she had always worried about him but, now, no matter how much he suffered, she remained indifferent.

The nurse entered, bearing medication, but was overwhelmed by the scene.

Subsequently, the nurse placed the medicine down and hurriedly departed.

Waylen gazed at the two pills resting on the tray. Rena had previously taken antidepressant pills but, today, those two pills

had been replaced by sleeping pills.

Should Rena consume them, she would succumb to a slumber lasting at least ten hours.

Slowly, Waylen released his hold on her.

His voice quivered slightly as he said, "Rena, it is time for you to take the pills."

Rena did not refuse the medication. She acknowledged her illness and was willing to undergo treatment. Soon enough, she ingested the two pills with warm water.

Drowsiness gradually enveloped her...

She experienced an unprecedented weariness, as if she could slumber for an eternity.

"Waylen... Why do I feel an overwhelming desire to sleep?"

Rena began to feel a pervasive weakness throughout her body. Then she found herself cradled within his embrace.

He gently placed her upon the bed and observed her silently.

Prior to giving birth, she weighed about 110 pounds, yet now she had dwindled to a mere 80 pounds. She had become nothing but skin and bones, her delicate visage evoking deep concern.

Waylen tenderly caressed her face, assessing her temperature.

After a considerable duration, he removed the necklace from around her neck.

Adorning it was a ring he had bestowed upon her.

Only when she was ensconced in slumber could he delicately slide the diamond ring onto her ring finger.

He and she had finally become a genuine couple.

Waylen reclined, cradling her within his arms, and buried his face in the curve of her neck. In an instant, her neck was moistened...

He yearned to freeze time in this very moment.

Alexis was surviving.

He and Rena remained a devoted couple...

\*

Rena slumbered for a full 24 hours.

She gradually opened her eyes. At first, her mind was a blank canvas, but then she rose from the bed and hurried towards the glass window.

Alexis...

How was she?

When Rena beheld the other side, she was struck with astonishment.

The incubator room stood empty, all equipment removed, leaving only an abandoned quilt that once cradled Alexis...

The girl named Alexis had vanished.

As realization dawned upon Rena, tears streamed down her face. She pounded upon the glass door and called out for Alexis...

"Alexis... Alexis... Mommy is here. Alexis... Where have you gone?"

A warm body enfolded Rena's trembling form. Waylen held her tightly, pressing his lips against her hair, desperate to shield her from further anguish. In a hoarse voice, he informed her, "Alexis is no longer with us."

Rena stood frozen in disbelief.

Her eyelids fluttered, tears welling up and distorting her vision. The world before her appeared hazy and indistinct.

She couldn't fathom it.

She had merely dozed off. How could Alexis vanish into thin air?

Desperation consumed her as she pounded the glass relentlessly. Her palm grew swollen, yet she refused to surrender...

It all seemed like an illusion, a haunting reverie.

If she could awaken from this slumber, Alexis would undoubtedly still be there.

Rena commenced a frenzy of destruction. She believed that the shattering sounds would surely rouse her from this bewildering dream... It had to be a dream.

Waylen held her tightly amidst the chaos. The ward lay in ruins.

His arm was streaked with crimson...

Gazing upon the wreckage before her, Rena gradually succumbed to the stark reality that Alexis had truly departed.

Alexis had vanished from the world.

Waylen clung to her, his embrace a refuge of solace. He uttered, "Rena, please calm down."

Rena struck him repeatedly, her cries filled with hysteria. "Waylen... Alexis is gone. She's gone."

Waylen endured it all.

He understood that Rena harbored immense animosity towards him, yet he could only endure it.

He held her.

He held onto the last remnants of tenderness between them...

He held her for an eternity...

Rena found herself in a daze. She murmured softly, "Where is she? I need to see her."

Alexis was so young, surely frightened without her mother by her side.

Waylen didn't want Rena to go, fearing it would trigger further distress. "Give it one more day. You need to rest now."

But Rena persisted.

"I must go. Waylen... She is my child. I need to see her."

As twilight descended, within the Fowler family cemetery, the earth lay cloaked in the shadow of towering trees, the sun sinking beyond the horizon.

Adjacent to Betty's tomb stood a small grave.

Rena stumbled out of the car, her steps unsteady.

When she caught sight of the diminutive tomb, she froze, her weakened legs giving way as she knelt on the ground, her trembling hands scooping up a handful of fresh, moist soil.

It clung to her palms, revealing tender buds...

In that moment, the harsh reality finally sank in.

Alexis was truly gone...