

Chapter 46

Everly muttered, "Look how dumb I am. My ears are already acting up at this age, haha. I actually heard you say you have stomach cancer. The anger I feel for that bastard must have gone to my ears."

Olivia pressed her palm to the back of Everly's hand and said gently, "Eve, you have to face reality."

Everly stopped what she was doing and looked up at Olivia through blurry eyes. "You're kidding, right?"

However, Olivia's eyes were dead serious. "You know I never joke around. I was going through chemotherapy when I cut my hair short last time."

Everly fought back her tears to no avail. She grabbed Olivia's hand tightly, still unable to fathom it. "It must be a misdiagnosis! You're so young and strong as a bull. How could you have stomach cancer?!"

Olivia sat her down and explained everything.

Everly's face was covered in tears. With them both being so young, she had always taken their good health for granted. She couldn't comprehend that such a terminal illness had hit so close to home. Everything happening around her now felt surreal, like a dream.

"N-No worries . The medical field is very advanced now. I'm sure you'll be fine if you work with the doctor on your treatment."

Everly wiped her tears using the back of her hand. " I'm sorry. I didn't know you went through so much. I will tag along for your chemotherapy sessions . I'm doing well financially now, so I can afford to not work for a year. I'll be with you until you get better."

Olivia gently shook her head as her eyes gazed out the window lifelessly. "Eve, let's go and enjoy the aurora together."

"Okay. Once you get better , that is. And not just the aurora. Even if you want the stars in the sky, I'd pluck them just for you." 1

"Someone once said they would pluck the stars for me too."

Everly wanted to smack Olivia's head. "You hopeless romantic. He doesn't want you anymore. Why are you still thinking about him? Get better soon and date around to get back at him."

"Eve, you can't blame him. He's sick too."

"He has cancer too? I hope it's at the later stages. You can stay with him for a little longer, and then his inheritance will become yours once he dies."

Olivia was unsure whether to laugh or cry. "Come, let me tell you everything."

They finally laid down on the bed as Olivia explained everything to her from the beginning.

Her voice was sweet. It was like the light breeze on a summer evening, blowing one's worries away.

Everly was silent after listening to everything. "So, he is blaming you for his sister's death? And he cheated to get back at you? Isn't he even more of a scum now?"

Olivia rebutted, "I can understand the care and guilt he feels toward his sister. If it happened to me, I wouldn't sit there and do nothing, either. He is suffering more than we could imagine."

"Liv, you can't just cook up excuses for his shitty behavior because he's suffering too! Quit being a hopeless romantic for him. Since he is letting you go, then go your separate ways. Take his alimony and leave."

"Eve, have you gotten over Josh yet?"

Everly fell silent.

It was not easy letting go of a relationship of many years.

"I need time. Time heals everything . Even the vows you made when you were madly in love could be washed away by time until there's nothing left, right? No love lasts in this world."

"But I have no time anymore," Olivia muttered.

"Don't give up on your treatment."

"Eve, do you know what chemotherapy feels like? It feels like someone sucks everything in your body dry. I'm in pain. Everywhere hurts, and I have no strength. I'm so useless. This is only the first stage. They will put the chemicals into my bones in the later stages. It's going to be so painful."

"My father is still unconscious in the hospital , and my mother remarried a long time ago. The only man I've loved in my life has found his happiness too. I have nothing to live for anymore. Eve, can you be with me in my last days?"

Chapter 47

As a former medical student, Everly was very aware of the side effects of chemo, and she expressed her understanding of Olivia's decision.

Moreover, a lot of patients died from the side effects rather than the cancer itself, which was a torturous way to go. She could never selfishly request Olivia to endure the pain.

She hugged the latter from behind before she started to weep. "Okay. I'll stay by your side."

Olivia's pajamas were soaked with Everly's tears. Everly said, "You must have been through so much pain. Sorry for not knowing this earlier."

"I've been doing better in the past two days. Eve, thank you. I don't want to leave the world alone. I had wanted Ethan to keep me company, but look at how things turned out. He and I are probably done for."

Everly fumed at the mention of Ethan. "Liv, you said that someone damaged his sister's grave, and there was footage of you with a hammer in your hand. Could you have been framed?"

"Marina must have been behind this. No one else could have done that to me." The incident happened a

month after Ethan agreed to keep her company. Marina must have had something to do with it.

"If you knew it was her, how can you be so calm about it?"

"She has pulled a lot of tricks since last year to get us divorced, and to be honest? She wasn't the most tactful. Ethan knew what she was up to, but he always sided with her. At first, I'd stand up for myself, but I realized that the truth wasn't important at all. What mattered was that he'd chosen her over me."

Everly tried to hype up the dejected Olivia. "But this time, it's different. If she was the person who defaced Leia's grave, you should hold her accountable even if you get a divorce."

"Eve, Marina isn't the obstacle in my relationship with Ethan. He's troubled by the death of his sister. There's no way to resolve his grudge unless we somehow revive Leia. And even if we put behind all the grudges, our relationship is over."

"I get what you mean. But Liv, you shouldn't let him step all over you just because you think your family is to blame! He shouldn't be using Leia's death as an excuse for his infidelity.

"Ultimately, he has betrayed you and is heartless for abandoning you and your baby to save Marina! I

admit that he was good to you in the past, but it's time for you to move on," Everly patiently advised her friend.

She continued, "Liv, you only live once. Even if your dad is responsible for Leia's death, it is not your burden to bear. You do not have to accept punishment for wrongdoings that were not even your own.

"You asked if I have gotten over Josh. And my answer to that is: one day, I will. As for you, you have to live your remaining days for yourself, even if that means only for a day."

"Live for myself ..." All of a sudden, Olivia seemed to have gotten out of her rut.

She still struggled to sleep well that night, for she'd have nightmares of a devilish Ethan grabbing at her throat.

She woke up a few times in the night. It was already dawn the last time she woke up.

She sat up in bed and blankly touched the area of her neck that Ethan gripped in her dream. Even if they could not spend their lives together, she would hate to be enemies with him.

She looked at Everly, who was sleeping soundly, and tip-toed her way out of the room to wash up before

leaving the house.

The city was a sight to behold, covered in a blanket of snow. Even the vast ocean was calm under the sunlight as it palpitated peacefully in the form of small waves.

A few seagulls soared in the sky, braving the chilly winds. Some distance away, ships blared their horns as they set sail.

The world moved on even after Ethan left her, as if nothing had changed.

She came to a decision and texted Ethan. This time, they met each other as promised. She showed up with every inch of her skin wrapped tightly under a white down jacket, a fuzzy beanie, and a pair of snow boots.

It seemed like she was unable to stand the cold, and Ethan wondered if she had always been like this. His eyes traveled to the delicate and smooth skin on her neck, where even a slight pinch would instantly leave a red mark.

She wrapped her neck in a thick knitted scarf. Standing under a snow-covered pine tree, she looked as pure as a fairy.

He was concerned about the bleeding on her arm yesterday. Did it get better?