

## **N Destiny 1991**

### Chapter 1991

Which part of her is better than me? Unbeknownst to Jenna, love was not just visual for Ethan; he needed it to come from the heart. Ethan went back to his room and closed the door, then he called Josephine. "Your mom didn't get mad at you, did she?" Josephine asked, worried.

"She didn't. She's just exhausted after the flight." Ethan knew his mother didn't like Josephine, but that was because she didn't understand her. She'll grow to like her.

Actually, Josephine wasn't really that worried, but she couldn't tell Ethan that. It was obvious Ethan's mother didn't like her. Ethan could've introduced her easily tonight, but she refused to see her.

Suddenly, someone opened the door, and Jenna came in uninvited. She noticed Ethan talking to Josephine on the phone, and the b\*tch said, "Ethan, I got you some water." Ethan frowned. "Why are you here?"

"Just worried you might get thirsty. My, your bedroom's big." She sat on the bed and happily said, "Your bed's so soft. I bet it's good to sleep in."

"I'm on a call. Leave now." Ethan covered the microphone on his phone so Josephine wouldn't hear them. He knew Jenna was trying to cause a misunderstanding.

Indeed, Josephine's eyes went wide. Jenna's in his room, and at this hour? Why is she there? "I won't get in your way. I'll just stay quiet." She lay on Ethan's bed without his permission and shot him a look of allure. Ethan's face fell. "Jenna, leave."

Not afraid of his angry gaze, Jenna sat up and said loudly, "Oh my gosh, the wind's so strong. I'm not wearing enough layers, I guess. I'll need your shirt, Ethan."

She walked to the closet swiftly so Ethan couldn't stop her, but what was more important now was how Josephine was feeling. "Let me explain."

Josephine heard everything. She knew Jenna was in Ethan's room wearing nothing but a nightdress, and she could see that image in her mind. 'I'm fine.' Josephine held her jealousy back. "Why is she there?"

"Just here with my mom. She's not sleeping. with me but in the guest room on the second floor," said Ethan. "Please don't take this the wrong way." Josephine smiled. "I won't."

Jenna came back out with a white shirt. "Do I look good in this?" She spun around. Josephine heard that. What is she doing? Is she trying to seduce him? "You should tend to your guest. I need to take a shower." Josephine wanted to chat, but since Jenna was around, she couldn't do that. "Joey..."

"I'm fine. Take care of your mom." Josephine tried to stay calm, but she was obviously jealous. "I'll explain this tomorrow," said Ethan. "No. I trust you," said Josephine seriously. And then Jenna gasped. "Can you help me up, Ethan. I fell."

Josephine wanted to roll her eyes. What is she doing? If she wants me to be jealous, it worked. Josephine was really jealous. She was imagining what was happening in Ethan's room -Jenna standing in front of Ethan wearing nothing but a nightdress and then falling down. What kind of position did she end up in? How much did she reveal?

Josephine hung up and took a deep breath. She told herself to stay calm and trust Ethan, but she failed. She couldn't just pretend nothing had happened. Jenna was a model and her body was smoking hot. Any man would want to sleep with her. Now, she was standing right in front of her boyfriend, flirting with him. Even if Ethan didn't get any ideas, it was still infuriating.

## Chapter 1992

Ethan hung up and told Jenna, "I have to go." "Where are you going?" Jenna asked. "When are you coming back?" "The bar. My friend's waiting for me." Ethan went downstairs.

Jenna went with him. When she saw him actually taking his car key, she was secretly annoyed. All of a sudden, she thought of an idea and pleaded, "Can you take me along?"

"No. My friend doesn't like strangers." Ethan quickly left the house and drove into the night. Jenna stood at the doorway, gritting her teeth in fury. She knew Josephine must have said something to make Ethan leave. Damn her.

Noticing the commotion, Donna came down as well. She saw that Jenna was wearing nothing but a nightdress and her son's shirt. "Where's Ethan?"

"It's Josephine. She told him to go see her," Jenna lied. She was going to slander Josephine as much as she could. "What? She did?" "Yeah, she knew you were here, and yet she did that anyway. | bet she doesn't care about you."

As expected, Donna got frustrated. Is she trying to take my son away? She won't even let me stay with him for a night? How unreasonable can she get?

Ethan drove straight to Josephine's house after making up an excuse to leave. He knew that Josephine was angry and he needed to explain himself.

After Josephine took a shower, she climbed into her bed and held her pillow. All she could think of was how Jenna was seducing her boyfriend. She told herself to calm down, but she couldn't. Suddenly, her phone rang, and to her delight, it was Ethan. "Hello."

"Come out. I'm outside," said Ethan. "It's late, so | don't want to wake your folks," "What?" Delighted, she darted to the window and pulled the curtains open. Standing outside her house was a black off-road vehicle, and its headlights were blinking.

All the frustration and anger she felt earlier. disappeared, and a happy Josephine went. down holding her phone. Oh, I'm only wearing my pajamas. Ah, who cares? She wanted to see him right now.

Josephine came out and got into his car. Noticing what she was wearing, an amused Ethan asked, "Why didn't you change?" "Because | couldn't wait to see you." Josephine looked at him closely as if she was trying to look for something. "What are you looking for?"

"Kisses," said Josephine. | knew it. She took it the wrong way. He turned on the lights and stared at her. "Don't worry. | won't let any other woman touch me." Amused, Josephine chuckled, and she nodded. "I trust you."

“Get changed. I'll take you on a stroll,” said Ethan. “No. You should go back. Your mom came all the way here just to see you. You can't just leave her alone. What would she think?” Josephine said. “Aren't you mad?” Ethan didn't want to go home. He wanted to stay with her.

“Nope. Not when you came all the way here just to cheer me up,” said Josephine. “I'm fine. You shouldn't make your mother sad, so go home.” She wrapped her arms around his neck and kissed him, then cheered him up. Ethan was convinced and nodded. “Sure. I'll go home right now.”

“And don't force your mother into a meetup. She can see me when she wants to,” said Josephine. She was sure Jenna had ruined already her image by now.

### Chapter 1993

She must take this slowly. Ethan nodded. “I can do that. Don't worry, I'll do my best. My mom will love you.” Josephine nodded. “I'll try my best to keep this relationship alive.”

“You won't try your best. You will keep this relationship alive, corrected Ethan. Josephine smiled. “Sure. You should go home now.” She stood outside her house and bade him goodbye, then she went back inside.

Donna was really mad. She had just arrived, and her son was already leaving her just to see a random woman. It hurt her heart. Jenna was sitting with her, trying to cheer her up as well as smearing Josephine..

Ethan parked his car outside in case the humming of the engine woke his mother, then he came in through the side door. Just when he was about to enter the living room, he heard Jenna talking to his mother.

“It's alright, Mrs. Quarles. I'm here. | can't believe Josephine would tell Ethan to meet up with her, and at this hour too.” And then Ethan harrumphed. “Do not slander her, Jenna.”

Jenna was shocked, and she raised her head. only to see Ethan standing at the doorway, and she got nervous. How long has he been there? An angry Donna asked, “It's late. Where have you been?”

“A friend wanted to meet up with me, so I went to the bar and said hi,” said Ethan. He didn’t tell her he met Josephine since he knew Jenna must have slandered his girlfriend.

Donna looked a little happier, while Jenna looked sheepish. Okay, so that was awkward. “You shouldn’t drink at this hour. Get to sleep,” Donna said. “Jenna, it’s late. You should catch some sleep as well.”

Jenna was a little disappointed. He obviously met up with that woman, so why did he come back so soon? Did Josephine actually let him go? Unbeknownst to her, Josephine was that kind of woman, and thanks to that, Jenna’s lies failed to get through, so she went back to her room. Donna looked at her son. Not even a hint of alcohol from him. He lied. “So where did you actually go?”

It was quiet outside, making it a perfect chance for a good talk. Since Jenna was jealous of Josephine, Ethan knew she would try to slander her as much as possible so Donna would think badly of Josephine, and he wanted to talk about that. “I met up with Josephine.”

“Then why did you come back?” Donna asked. Josephine told me to. She said you must be exhausted from the flight, so you need me,” said Ethan. Donna was a little surprised. Is that so? Well, she’s an understanding girl, I guess.

“Don’t judge her before you meet her, Mom. You should get to know her yourself, not through someone else. Not through rumors.” Ethan looked at his mother solemnly. He knew his mother was not an unreasonable woman. She was respected in the company and a great helper to his father.

Donna knew what Ethan was trying to say. Jenna did speak badly of Josephine, and now that she thought about it, those rumors might be the fabrication of her own personal feelings. “Hook us up then.” Donna would like to meet Josephine and find out what kind of woman she was herself. “Sure. I can do that. How does tomorrow sound?”

Unbeknownst to them, Jenna was hiding behind the guardrail on the second floor, listening in. When Donna said she wanted to meet Josephine, Jenna felt all the strength leave her. One word from Ethan, and his mother changed her opinion.

Ethan went back to his room and texted Josephine. 'My mom wants to see you tomorrow. Do you have time for that?' 'Not if my boss doesn't give me a day off,' texted Josephine cheekily. 'You got your day off. Tell me if you want more.'

Josephine was in her bed, feeling sweet. Feels good when your boss is your boyfriend. 'Get some sleep and look perfect tomorrow. I want my mom to think you're a goddess,' said Ethan. Josephine chuckled. 'Oh, he's nervous. He's worried his mom might not like me.' 'I know. I'll go to sleep now.' 'Night.'

'Good night.' Josephine picked up her earplugs and read through a novel as she fell asleep. She had a habit of going through history texts before going to sleep. They worked well to put her to sleep, and she drifted to the land of dreams in a moment.

Morning came, and Josephine put on some makeup, then she left. Heidi was watering the flowers, and she asked, "So when's the wedding?" Josephine blushed. "Mom, we're still dating."

"Make sure you don't lose him, alright? He's a good man." Heidi liked Ethan. Josephine was filled with motivation, and she drove away. She worked for a bit and waited for Ethan to call her. About ten thirty, he called. 'I'm at work. Where you at?'

"My mom and I are coming to the company. Go to my office in a bit."

"Sure." Josephine was surprised they would meet at his office. Donna heard all about how her son courted Josephine, and she was surprised he was the one who initiated it. 'I wonder, what's so magical about her? Why does Ethan like her so much? If she is as materialistic as Jenna says she is, Ethan would never have fallen for her.'

Donna should trust her son more. It was her first time seeing her son love someone so much. He would never treat her like that if she was just another gold digger that constantly orbited him.

Once at the company, Ethan took Donna on a tour around the lobby. Donna thought the station was running well, and then she glanced through the employees of the month board. When she reached the bottom, she noticed a familiar face Josephine?

She checked the name, and sure enough, it was Josephine. Accompanying it were all her achievements, and the sight of that made Donna change her opinion of Josephine..

They went to Ethan's office, and Donna sat on the couch, waiting for Josephine. Josephine was standing in front of the bathroom's mirror, straightening herself up and reapplying her makeup. She then nervously got into the elevator.

Ethan got a call from the company, and he left. Donna wanted to look around, so she got out and entered the elevator, then it stopped at Josephine's floor. The moment the doors swung open, Donna was met with the sight of Josephine. She took a closer look, but Josephine didn't know that this woman was Ethan's mother.

What an elegant woman. Josephine saw Donna but thought Donna would be accompanied by Ethan and would never show up alone. Donna wanted to put her through a test, so she held her forehead and gasped. Josephine quickly held her. "Are you alright, ma'am?"

"Can you take me to the hospital, miss?" Donna asked. "Of course, Give me a second. I'll call 911." "It's alright. Just take me there yourself." | have to meet someone though, but this seems urgent. Sorry, Mrs. Quarles. Josephine agreed to it, "Okay."

## Chapter 1995

Donna said, "You seem to be in a hurry. You don't have to help me if you can't." "It's alright. | can take you to the hospital," said Josephine quickly.

"My head hurts. | might faint if | don't get any medical attention," said Donna. "My car's in the parking lot. I'll take you to the hospital. Josephine put everything aside and took the lady to the hospital.

Donna looked at her. She seems genuine. That kind of kindness cannot be faked. She got into Josephine's car, and Josephine drove away. "How may | address you? Where do you live? You might want to call your family, madam..."

"Finch. Yes, I've called my family. Just take me to the hospital." Josephine's phone rang, and it was connected to the car. Donna noticed that the call was from her son, and Josephine took the call. "Hey, Ethan."

"Where are you?" Ethan was waiting in the corridor. He wanted to go to his office with Josephine.  
"Sorry, but I need to deal with something. Can you give me fifteen minutes?"

"You're driving? Where to?" Ethan noticed the hum of a car engine. "A lady needs to be taken to the hospital, but I'll be quick. Tell your mother I'll be there soon."

"Sure. I'll explain it to my mom," said Ethan. "I'll make it back ASAP." Josephine hung up. Donna looked at Josephine, and she thought a lot better of this girl now.

Ethan went back into his office only to notice that his mother was missing, much to his confusion. Is she in the bathroom? Or did she go around? I should look for her.

Josephine was stuck in traffic, much to her chagrin. She looked a little panicked. "Sorry for wasting your time, miss." "It's alright. Nothing important, so don't worry. We'll be there soon," said Josephine. "Ah, I'm alright. Was that your boyfriend?" A hint of love appeared in Josephine's eyes, and she nodded.  
"Yep."

Donna paused for a moment. Josephine answered without hesitation, and her eyes were filled with happiness. Genuine happiness. Donna could see that she wasn't putting on an act, nor did Josephine realize the woman she was talking to was Ethan's mother. "Do you love him?"

"Yes, I do," Josephine said without hesitation. And then, seemingly reminded of something, Donna said, "Oh no. My bag's at your company, and I don't have my phone. Can you take me back, miss?"

Josephine was a little surprised, but she didn't lose patience or get upset, so she nodded. "Sure. I can turn around just ahead. Shouldn't take more than twenty minutes." Josephine turned back, and Donna was keeping a close eye on her. Josephine was getting nervous, but she decided she would take this lady to the hospital before she would see Ethan's mother.

And then a pedestrian decided to flout all traffic laws and crossed the road. Josephine slammed on the brakes and waited for the pedestrian to cross. Most people would've started cursing, but Josephine waited for the pedestrian to cross.

Ten minutes later, she came back to the building, and Ethan searched the whole place. He was at the entrance and about to call his mother when he saw Josephine's car coming into the picture, and he heaved a sigh of relief. Josephine's back.

## Chapter 1996

As Josephine's car pulled over, Ethan walked over to greet her. However, he saw a familiar silhouette coming out from the front passenger seat and his eyes widened. It was his mother. Ethan finally realized that the person Josephine took to the hospital was his mother who was most likely testing her.

Josephine looked up and spotted her boyfriend standing at the entrance. "What are you doing here?" she asked in surprise. "Aren't you supposed to be with your mother right now?" Ethan cleared his throat a little awkwardly before pointing at the lady behind Josephine. "She's my mother."

Flustered, Josephine quickly whipped her head around and saw Donna standing behind her with a smile. Josephine immediately let go of Ethan's hand as she was afraid Donna would take issue with it.

"I do apologize for getting to know you in this manner, Josephine. I hope I didn't scare you," Donna said. Josephine turned red and stammered, "It's fine, Mrs. Quarles." Ethan put his arm around Josephine's shoulder and made the introductions. "Mom, this is my girlfriend Josephine Jacobson."

"Please don't take it to heart, Miss Jacobson. It was just a spur-of-the-moment idea of mine. I wanted to get to know you." Donna was apologetic. She knew that her attempt at secretly getting to know Josephine's personality could make the latter feel uncomfortable.

"It's fine! It's perfectly fine, Mrs. Quarles. I hope I didn't disappoint you." Josephine was worried that her performance might not have been up to Donna's standards.

"Not at all. I can tell that you're a lovely young woman with a warm, helpful heart," Donna declared. She turned to Ethan and said, "It's time to eat. Let's have a meal with Josephine."

Ethan took in Donna's expression and exhaled in relief. From the looks of it, she was pretty pleased with her assessment of Josephine. In any case, Ethan firmly believed that Josephine was a very likable person. "Sure, Mom. I'll make the reservations right away," Ethan replied.

“My bag is still in your office. Help me bring it down,” Donna instructed. Ethan went to get Donna’s bag while Josephine stayed with Donna, though she felt a little pressured. When she didn’t know who Donna was, she simply thought of Donna as a friendly older lady, but she now sensed a strong and commanding aura from Donna that made her nervous.

Earlier on, she loudly admitted that Ethan was her boyfriend. What if she doesn’t like what | said? How embarrassing! Donna even asked whether or not she loved Ethan, and she remembered how confidently she answered that question! Ahhnh! It's so awkward!

Josephine kept her eyes on the ground. She was tensed as she tried to find something to talk about. “Mrs. Quarles, you said you felt dizzy earlier, but you're not actually dizzy, right?” she quickly checked. “If you are, we should head to the hospital.” Donna chuckled. “I'm fine. | was just pretending.”

“That’s good,” Josephine said with flushed cheeks. Donna took a closer look at her. Josephine was dressed in clothes made of ordinary material that didn’t seem to belong to any major brand. However, she was dressed decently and presentably. Her features were pleasant as well. She had a bright and cheerful kind of prettiness about her.

Donna recalled what Jenna had said in the past and realized that everything had been lies. She began to question herself for trusting Jenna’s words. Her malicious actions had to have hurt Josephine. She even told Ethan to send Josephine away last night. She must've been hurt by that.

“I'm sorry about last night. | had personal reasons for not meeting you,” Donna said. “It's fine, Mrs. Quarles. I’m sure you were exhausted from the long trip.”

“I've been here for a few days now. | didn't arrive yesterday,” Donna readily admitted. Just then, a deliveryman who seemed to be in a rush checked his watch and failed to notice Donna in front of him. He was on the verge of running into her.

Josephine noticed this and quickly pulled Donna away. Donna was startled at first, but she soon saw the man who had been behind her. She would've been hit if Josephine hadn't saved her. Donna gave Josephine a grateful look as Josephine quickly let go of Donna out of fear that the older woman might feel offended.

Donna sensed how cautious Josephine was. She must be worried about me not liking her! In reality, Donna now had a favorable impression of Josephine. Based on personality alone, Josephine was the kind of young woman she was fond of.

Donna found Josephine to be a frank and unpretentious young woman with a bright and cheerful personality. Even her looks were exactly to Donna's taste. She looks like someone open and gentle.

It's no wonder Ethan likes her and keeps saying that she's special. Although Donna couldn't tell what was special about Josephine just yet, she believed that Josephine was someone worth getting to know better. Ethan quickly came back. "Let's go, Mom!"

Just then, a car pulled up in front of them. Jenna had rushed over thinking that she would come in time to have lunch with Ethan and Donna. She didn't expect to run into them in front of the building.

Jenna got out of the car. She was all dolled up and fairly attractive under the sunlight. When she spotted Josephine, she figured it was a good time for her to show off her relationship with Donna. Thus, Jenna had a brilliant smile on her face as she walked over to Donna. "I came to look for you, Mrs. Quarles!"

Donna had the genial smile of an elder as she watched Jenna coming over, but by now, she knew what Jenna was truly like. Why didn't J realize sooner that Jenna's the type of person who stabs people behind their backs?

After thinking about it for a moment, she supposed it was because she never had the opportunity to see the other side of Jenna. Thanks to the situation with Josephine, she finally had a clear understanding of Jenna's true nature. She was very thankful that she realized this in time. Otherwise, she would've been supportive of having Jenna as her daughter-in-law. "You're here, Jenna. We were just heading out to have lunch together. Come with us!" Donna invited.

It went without saying that Jenna would never refuse such an invite. "I'd love to!" she quickly agreed. "I came over thinking to have lunch with you guys," she added. She took Donna by the arm as if they were the best of friends and gave Josephine a smug look. Just then, Donna turned to Josephine and asked, "You don't mind, right, Miss Jacobson?"

“No. Not at all.” Josephine smiled. Ethan minded, but since his mother and girlfriend both said they didn’t mind, he didn’t want to go against them. Furthermore, he could tell that Donna did like Josephine, so he didn’t. have to worry about that anymore.

“Take Josephine with you, Ethan. I’ll ride with Jenna, Donna said. Jenna wasn’t pleased with the arrangement, but she had to go along with it anyway. She would’ve preferred it if Donna went with Josephine and arranged for her to ride with Ethan.

After getting into the car, Jenna seized the chance to start badmouthing Josephine again. She assumed that Donna and Josephine ran into each other in the lobby and had no clue the two already met earlier. ‘Mrs. Quarles, do you think Josephine is seducing Ethan to get to his money?’

She’s at it again. Donna went along with it and asked, “What do you think?” “Of course, she is! Look at the way she dresses. It’s so plain! It’s obvious how poor her family is. She’s trying to seduce Ethan so that she can elevate her status in society! You have to stop them from being together, Mrs. Quarles.”

Donna chuckled. “You seem to understand Josephine very well, Jenna. Have you had a lot of dealings with her?” Jenna had a lofty look in her eyes as she said, “With some people, you don’t even need to get to know them before you know what they’re like. | can see right through her.”

“Well, | think there are some people whom you need to spend more time with before you realize their true nature, Donna said while casting a meaningful glance at Jenna.

However, Jenna didn’t notice that Donna was mocking her. She was busy thinking to herself, Does that mean she wants to get to know Josephine better first?

Meanwhile, over in Ethan's car, Josephine was patting herself on the chest with one hand. while fanning herself with the other. “That was such a fright! | had no idea she was your mother! What a fool | am. Why didn't | notice it sooner?”

Ethan chuckled at how adorable she was being. “Isn't it better this way? My mother got to see your real, natural self.”

“I was supposed to meet your mother today. If I had chosen not to take her to the hospital or got someone else to do it instead, then her impression of me would’ve been ruined.” All the possibilities were racing through Josephine’s mind right now. She was afraid she wouldn’t be able to make a good impression.

On the other hand, Ethan had total faith in her. He knew she was a kind person through and through. “Hey, now. Don’t dwell on these thoughts anymore,” he said comfortingly. “My mom likes you a lot.”

“Hey, did you know? When you call me earlier, your mother even asked me if that was my boyfriend! Do you know how proud I was when I answered her?!” Josephine’s cheeks were still a little warm from the thought of that!

Ethan laughed. “It’s just as well then. My mom now knows how much you like me.” Josephine smiled. She couldn’t help but look at him with love-filled eyes. At the restaurant.

Jenna and Donna were the first to arrive. Soon, Ethan and Josephine came over hand-in-hand. Jenna immediately glanced at Donna to check her reaction as she thought to herself, She must be furious that Josephine and Ethan are being so lovey-dovey in front of her!

However, Donna showed no sign of anger at all. In fact, she had a faint smile on her face. Jenna was completely taken aback. What’s going on? Did Josephine manage to get Mrs. Quarles’ approval in just a single morning?

Josephine and Jenna ended up sitting right opposite each other. Jenna fiddled with her cup of tea as she eyed Josephine critically. Josephine had very little makeup on today, but her simple, easygoing look only added to her attractiveness.

On the other hand, Jenna was all dressed up and covered in heavy makeup as if she were about to attend a formal event. The bright lights in the restaurant only served to highlight the flaws of her cakey makeup.

“Here. Pick what you want, Josephine.” Donna passed the menu to Josephine and added, “Go ahead and order whatever you like. Don’t pay any attention to the prices.” Once again, Jenna glanced at Donna with a stupefied look.

“Yes, Mrs. Quarles.” Josephine took the menu and shared it with Ethan. The server handed another menu to Jenna. As she glanced through it absentmindedly, her eyes kept roaming over to Josephine and Ethan who were huddled together.

As Donna took a sip of tea, she couldn't stop herself from observing Josephine too. There was something about the young woman's confident and poised manner that she couldn't help but adore. Jenna told Donna that Josephine was a shallow and materialistic woman, but she saw no sign of that. She noticed that Josephine was using an inexpensive bag. Her phone wasn't the latest model and it even had a crack on the screen which Donna spotted across the table.

If Josephine is truly a materialistic girl, why wouldn't she at least get her screen changed? It goes to show that she lives a busy, fruitful life and doesn't dwell on these petty matters.

“Please excuse me while I head to the washroom, Mrs. Quarles, Josephine said as she rose from her seat. “I'll come with you!” Jenna immediately stood up with a friendly smile. Josephine smiled back at her. ‘Sure. Let's go.’”

As soon as they entered the washroom, Josephine heard a snide voice sneering, “Josephine, do you really have no sense of self-awareness at all?”

Josephine knew from the start that Jenna was only tagging along to humiliate her. She turned around and smiled. “What kind of self-awareness am I lacking?”

“Considering how much Mrs. Quarles detests you, you shouldn't even be upsetting her with your presence.”

“This is my first time meeting Mrs. Quarles. Why would she detest me?” Josephine asked. “Could it be that you've been badmouthing me behind my back, Miss Langley?”

Jenna had an unpleasant expression as she scoffed. “Why else would someone like you set your sights on Ethan and the Quarles Family if not for his money?”

Josephine abhorred being labeled as a money-worshipping gold digger. She was never someone who cared about material things. She frowned and refuted, "Do you think every other woman in the world is just like you?"

Jenna turned scarlet with rage. "What kind of nonsense is that? My family's rich. I don't care about money; unlike you who comes from such an impoverished family." That made Josephine chuckle. "I would rather be poor and unashamed of it than be a vile and jealous person like you."

Chapter 1999

Once again, Jenna's expression contorted in fury. "As long as I'm around, don't you dare even think about marrying into the Quarles Family!" she threatened.

Josephine wanted to roll her eyes. Jenna thinks so highly of herself. "When did you, an outsider, get to have a say in the Quarles Family's matters? Josephine retorted.

"I'm not an outsider. Mrs. Quarles chose to me be her daughter-in-law when I was still a little girl!" Jenna crossed her arms and declared with confidence.

Josephine didn't want to continue this conversation. She had the impression that Donna was someone wise and reasonable. I'm sure she can tell what kind of person Jenna is.

Therefore, Josephine simply washed her hands and left. Jenna looked into the mirror and saw her jealousy-filled expression, but the jealousy she displayed on the exterior was only the tip of the iceberg of what she truly felt. From Mrs. Quarles' reactions, it doesn't look like she detests Josephine. Did Josephine manage to win her over in just a few hours?

No! I won't allow it! Jenna had been eyeing the position of Ethan's wife ever since she understood what it meant. She wasn't going to let anyone take the title of Mrs. Quarles away from her quite so easily.

When Josephine returned to the table, Donna and Ethan had just finished their conversation. Josephine glanced at Ethan and saw that he seemed to be fairly relaxed. I guess his conversation with his mother went well.

Just moments ago, Ethan told Donna all about Josephine's situation. Although the Jacobsons weren't rich, they were elites in the political scene. A person couldn't be judged based on wealth alone. Oftentimes, a person's family environment contributed greatly to their character.

Donna gained a deeper understanding of Josephine, and at the same time, she felt even more disappointed with Jenna's character and prejudiced views. Regardless of the situation, she hoped Jenna could be a decent person. In her eyes, being upright and kind was the key to a good life.

Jenna returned to the table as well. Once she sat down, she looked at Josephine and asked with a smile, "Josephine, if you and Ethan stay together, will you be moving to Dansbury to live with the rest of the Quarles Family?"

She purposely brought up an issue that was very important to Donna, and that was whether or not Donna's only son would be moving to a different country. I'm sure she won't be happy if she doesn't get to stay with him in her old age!

"Also, are your parents supportive of you marrying someone and moving so far away? Will they choose to come and live with you in the future?!" Jenna tossed out yet another one of her supposed bombs. She wanted Ethan to know that if he married Josephine, her entire family would be tagging along with her. A man like him would be depressed by the prospects of that, right?

"That's our business, Jenna. You stay out of it." Ethan gave Jenna a warning look. "I'm just asking a few questions!" Jenna pouted innocently.

Donna could tell that Jenna was trying to cause trouble for Josephine on purpose. "Jenna, I've been in the country for a few days now and I quite like it here. I think it wouldn't be a bad thing to live out the rest of my days here."

Jenna and Josephine were both stunned by Donna's declaration. Josephine was deeply touched. She had a feeling that Donna was saying it for her sake.

Meanwhile, Ethan knew Donna well. If she liked Josephine, everything else could easily be settled. Even the two questions Jenna asked wouldn't be a problem. Jenna quickly tried to talk Donna out of it. "It's nice here, Mrs. Quarles, but your family's roots are in Dansbury! That's your home!"

Donna smiled and said, "My mother came from this country. I spent a few years of my childhood here too! I do feel fond of this country." "You've lived here before, Mrs. Quarles?" Josephine was taken aback.

"I did between ages five to twelve. You could say that I spent the happiest years of my life here," Donna said. Her most precious memories of her childhood consisted of her time in this country. Jenna's expression was a little stiff. "Oh!" she chuckled awkwardly. "I didn't know you lived here as a child, Mrs. Quarles."

Just then, the server brought their food over. Ethan immediately began filling Josephine's plate for her as he instructed, "Eat up. You'll need your energy."

It was a perfectly ordinary expression of concern, but Josephine turned bright red. Even the tips of her ears were red. Ethan's words sounded like a double entendre to her.

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Donna understood the double entendre, but she pretended not to know, while Jenna caught the meaning and felt as if a boulder were crushing down on her chest.

"Okay. You don't need to serve me. I'll do it myself. Josephine lowered her eyes in embarrassment. Once lunch was over, Donna took Jenna by the hand and said, "Go for a walk with me, Jenna!"

Jenna smiled and said, "Let's get Eeth to come with us!" "He still has work to do, so let's not bother him. You can accompany me. There's a church nearby that I'd like to see. Let's head over there."

Jenna was sorely disappointed that Ethan wouldn't be coming with them, but since Donna had extended a warm invitation to her, she couldn't refuse. She had to force herself to perk up and do something she didn't want to do.

Josephine was still staring in a daze as Donna left. Ethan put his arm around her waist and sighed in relief. "Well, we survived my mom's trial." Josephine blinked. "It's over? Just like that?"

"Yeah. My mom likes you." She did sense care and kindness from Donna. She hoped Donna would recognize Jenna's true nature and stop believing her words.

Donna and Jenna arrived at the church. Donna sat down on one of the pews and closed her eyes in prayer. On the other hand, Jenna was bored out of her mind. She eyed her surroundings listlessly and scorned the aged look of the place. When Donna opened her eyes again, she saw Jenna's restlessness and said, "Let's walk around, Jenna."

Jenna quickly took Donna's arm, and the two walked around the grounds for a bit. At last, Donna sat down on a bench and began to study Jenna so closely that the latter started feeling uneasy. "Why are you staring at me, Mrs. Quarles?"

Jenna had to ask. "You're a good girl, Jenna. I hope you don't stray off the right path." Jenna couldn't quite understand what Donna was saying. "Before I came here, you told me a lot about Josephine," Donna continued. "You said she was a materialistic, money-worshipping woman who's rude and spoiled, but I didn't see any of that from her."

"Mrs. Quarles, you mustn't be fooled by her act! It's only natural that she acts like a Goody Two-shoes in front of you," Jenna swiftly cautioned, her eyes filled with concern.

"Jenna, I know about your feelings for Ethan, but matters of the heart can't be forced. If Ethan truly finds the person he loves, I will give him my support."

Hearing this, Jenna realized that Donna had seen right through her lies. She turned scarlet as she stammered, "M-Mrs. Quarles... I-I really like Eeth so much."

"I know, but relationships need to be a two-way street. Perhaps, Ethan only sees you as a younger sister. You'll find someone better, Jenna," Donna advised.

Jenna teared up. She immediately tried to convince Donna otherwise. "No, Mrs. Quarles. Please just give me a bit more time. I'm certain Eeth will fall in love with me."

"Jenna, you're an attractive girl from a good family. It'll be easy for you to find a man who's even better than Ethan, Donna consoled. Jenna's eyes flashed with resentment. What did Josephine do?! How did she get Mrs. Quarles to accept her so easily?! I won't allow this! I refuse to lose to Josephine just like that! Ethan's a responsible man. If he ends up in bed with me, will he take responsibility for it just like he did with Josephine?"

"I understand, Mrs. Quarles. I wish Eeth and Josephine the best, too. I was wrong for what I did, but it was only because I loved Eeth. But I'm mature enough to know when I should let go. I won't try to disrupt their relationship anymore," Jenna said with a look of shame and remorse. She had to maintain her facade of being a decent and sensible woman as she didn't want Donna to shun her.

"That's good. I'm glad you're able to see things this way. I'm worried about your future, you know! After all, I've known you since you were a little girl and watched you grow up." Donna was genuinely glad Jenna was able to be mature about the situation.

As Donna got to her feet, Jenna's eyes flashed with discontent and malice. Who said I'm giving up? As long as Ethan isn't married, I still have a chance. There's no way I'd lose to Josephine.