

THE DIVORCE PRESCRIPTION

Chapter 541

In truth, Lucy's feelings for Hayden were a mix of love and resentment.

She loved Hayden.

Lucy, a classic Josonan beauty, had always longed for romance. But coming from a poor background, she chose stability over love and married a wealthy businessman, Aaron, despite having no feelings for him. Life as a rich wife was comfortable, and Aaron adored her, giving her everything she wanted.

Yet it still wasn't enough.

Then, she met Hayden, a college graduate who had returned home.

In that era, college graduates were rare. Hayden was a romantic intellectual who perfectly fit Lucy's idealized image of a man. She fell for him at first sight and soon tumbled headfirst into love.

However, Hayden didn't love her. To him, Lucy was nothing more than a free nanny. He married her only because Carly liked her.

Hayden married her to provide Carly with a suitable stepmother.

Hayden had only ever loved one woman in his life. He was obsessed with her, devoted to her, and spent his entire life protecting that woman's daughter.

Lucy knew all of this, and she resented him for it.

So, years ago, she came up with a bold plan to switch Celine and Carly at birth.

As she looked at Hayden, Lucy sneered inwardly. She had succeeded. She had taken revenge on everyone. If Hayden ever found out that he had been protecting the wrong person all along, the look on his face would be priceless.

Not only that, but she had also ensured that her own biological daughter became the heiress of the world's richest man. Lucy was proud of what she had accomplished.

But now, it seemed her actions had come back to bite her. Carly no longer acknowledged her as her mother.

"Why are you so quiet?" Hayden asked, looking at her suspiciously. "Lucy, you seem off. Are you hiding something from me?"

Lucy's heart skipped a beat, but she forced a calm smile. "Of course not. You're overthinking it."

"You'd better hope I am. Lucy, don't get any strange ideas. Mr. Hampton is here now, and he's taking Carly

the Capitol. Don't cause any

baden warned.

Lucy sneered inwardly but nodded obediently. "I understand, Hayden. I haven't done anything. Let's go back to our room. Carly got a new card from Mr. Hampton today, and I have to take her shopping tomorrow."

Hayden nodded. "Alright."

The next day, Carly, accompanied by Lucy and Tracy, arrived at a high-end shopping mall. Today, Carly was going on a shopping spree.

Carly

and pointed at several that led into a luxury boutique

"This one, this one, and that one.

"I'll

them all. Wrap them up for me."

The sales associates' eyes lit up. "Of course, Ms. Tate."

Carly smiled faintly. "From now on, don't call me Ms. Tate."

The sales associates were puzzled. "Why not?"

Tracy chimed in, "That's because Carly is changing her last name to Hampton."

"Hampton?" one of the sales associates remarked. "That's a powerful name. Isn't that the same last name as the world's richest man?"

"That's right," another chimed in. "I heard he's been searching for his long-lost daughter for years."

"Some people are just born lucky," a third associate mused. "Imagine finding out you're the heiress to the wealthiest family in the world."

Chapter 542

The sales associates were well-versed in the gossip of the upper class, so they had heard about Nigel. Now, they were buzzing with excitement.

Carly lifted her chin proudly. "Let me tell you all something-I'm the long-lost heiress of the world's richest man!"

The sales associates gasped in shock. "Oh my god, really? You're the Hampton heiress?"

Lucy beamed. "Of course, it's true. Mr. Hampton is staying with our family right now. He's here to take Carly back to the Capitol."

Carly handed the sales associate the sleek black card with gold lettering that Nigel had given her. "Go ahead and charge this."

The sales associate took the card and noticed the gold-embossed name on the back-Hampton. Their eyes widened in astonishment.

"Oh my god, this is Mr. Hampton's card! She really is the Hampton heiress!"

"I can't believe the Hampton heiress is shopping here! I need to take a photo and post it! This is something I'll brag about for the rest of my life!"

Carly basked in the flattery. She had always been vain, and now, she reveled in the attention and admiration.

Just then, Tracy suddenly spoke up. "Celine, what are you doing here?"

Carly turned and spotted Celine standing at the entrance with Hailey.

Seeing Celine, Carly's smirk deepened. "Oh, you're here? Last night, my father gave me this card and told me to shop to my heart's content. Since we know each other and now that I'm the Hampton heiress, why don't I buy you something?"

Tracy laughed. "Carly, you're so generous."

Carly shrugged. "Of course. I'll just consider it charity."

Lucy feigned disapproval. "Carly, how can you say that? Celine might feel bad. After all, you're the Hampton heiress."

Then, she turned to Celine and said mockingly, "Celine, isn't it funny how fate works? You worked so hard to become the genius of Haffard University and earn the title of Dr. C, but what does it matter? Carly is the Hampton heiress."

"Whether you're a genius or a doctor, you'll still end up working for the Hampton family. Carly was simply born lucky. Some people are destined for greatness while others just have to accept their lot in life."

Lucy's words were laced with venom, deliberately aimed at Celine.

Hailey was furious, but there was no denying Carly's newfound status. "Carly, your status as the Hampton heiress saved you. Otherwise, you wouldn't be standing here talking so smugly."

Carly smirked. "That's right. With my dad around, none of you can touch me."

Tracy sneered, "That's right. In fact, Mr. Hampton personally assured my grandmother last night that as long as he's here, no one can lay a finger on the Tate family. If you were hoping to avenge your father Celine, you can forget about it."

Hailey's anger flared. "You-"

Celine stopped her. "Hailey."

Hailey bit her tongue, swallowing her frustration.

Celine stepped forward, looking at Lucy. "How did my father really die?"

Lucy met Celine's eyes and smiled smugly. "Do you really want to know? If you insist, I'll tell you."

She leaned in, lowering her voice to a whisper. "Your father was poisoned. Hayden, Wayne, Hazel, Sonia, and I were all there. We personally sent him on his way."

Hearing the truth about her father's death, Celine's slender fingers clenched into fists.

"Your father struggled so hard. It took all of us to hold him down. Then, Sonia came, and suddenly, he stopped struggling. She was the one who poured the poison down his throat."

Lucy chuckled. "Oh, and one more thing. Your father loved you dearly. Even as he died, he refused to close his eyes. He just kept calling your name."

Chapter 543

Celine clenched her fists so tightly that her nails dug into her palms, breaking off in the process.

Her clear, sharp eyes turned red with a mix of shock, anger, heartbreak, and searing pain. Emotions intertwined within her heart, leaving her with an unbearable ache.

She had already suspected that Aaron had been murdered by these people, but hearing the truth still shook her to the core. It was the Tates. They had conspired to kill him, but what made it even more devastating was that these weren't just strangers-they were Aaron's own family.

Although Aaron had been adopted, he had always treated Sonia as his real mother.

When Sonia arrived, Aaron had stopped struggling. But it was Sonia who had personally poured the poison into Aaron's mouth.

The thought of Aaron's final moments-how much pain and hopelessness he must have felt-was almost unbearable. In his final moments, he had called Celine's name.

Tears welled up in Celine's bloodshot eyes.

She didn't know what Aaron had been thinking in his final moments. She had not seen him at his last moments. Trembling, her long lashes fluttered, and tears fell freely down her face.

Lucy watched Celine's pain with a twisted sense of satisfaction. This was the child of that woman, the burden that Hayden had sworn to protect. Seeing her in agony, Lucy felt an overwhelming sense of accomplishment and fulfillment.

Lucy smirked, "Celine, I'm not afraid to tell you all of this. Even if I do, there's nothing you can do about it."

Celine stepped back, but Hailey quickly caught her.

Hailey asked with concern, "Celine, are you okay?"

Celine shook her head. "I'm fine."

Hailey shot Lucy a furious glare. "You monster! None of you are human! Karma will catch up to you!"

Lucy sneered, "Karma? Where's it? We've been living just fine all these years. The Tate family is thriving, while you? Celine, you were abandoned in the countryside as a child. Carly stole your identity as Adam's savior, and now, she's the Hampton heiress.

"If anything, you're the one suffering from karma! The idea of justice? It's nothing but a comforting lie for the weak."

Hailey was speechless. She had never met anyone as vile as Lucy.

Celine slowly closed her eyes, concealing the pain beneath her lashes. When she opened them again, all that remained was icy determination.

With a cold, mocking smile, she declared, "Karma isn't a lie. It's just a matter of time. And when that time comes, I won't let a single one of you who killed my father escape."

Carly stepped forward with a sneer. "Enough of this nonsense, Celine. Do you think you can touch us? With my father here, I dare you to even try!"

As soon as she finished speaking, a deep, authoritative voice cut through the tension.

"Carly, what's going on here?"

Celine turned around, and there stood Nigel.

A team of black-suited bodyguards flanked him, clearing a path through the crowd. Dressed in a tailored black coat, he exuded an air of absolute power and control. His butler followed closely behind, and

Nigel's sheer presence caused a stir.

Carly's eyes lit up as she ran toward him. She eagerly linked her arm through his.

"Dad, what are you doing here?"

Nigel looked at her with affection. "I came to check on you."

She smiled. "I'm fine, Dad. Don't worry."

The sales associates gathered around, excitedly whispering to each other. "Is that

Mr. Hampton, the world's richest man?"

"He's so charming!"

The sales associates were practically swooning. In his early 40s, Nigel was in the prime of his life. With his wealth, status, and influence at their peak, he was the ultimate temptation, especially for young women.

Nigel gazed at Carly with affection before lifting his eyes to Celine.

They met again.

Celine had just cried, and the sheen of tears made her clear, doe-like eyes glisten even more. She was looking at him too.

Just then, Tracy spoke up. "Mr. Hampton, you arrived at the perfect time. Celine was bullying Carly again."

Carly said softly, "Dad, let it go. I'm your daughter now, and Celine must be jealous and upset. If it makes her feel better, I don't mind letting her take it out on me."

Nigel turned his gaze to Celine. "I don't know what kind of grudge you have against my daughter, and I don't care. But there's one thing I want to make clear— I hope you'll stop bullying Carly from now on."

It was a warning.

Celine met his eyes. "Mr. Hampton, maybe you should worry about Carly's heart condition instead. Otherwise, I'm afraid you'll lose her just as quickly as you found her."

At the mention of her illness, Carly immediately clutched her chest in discomfort. "Dad, my heart hurts. Celine is the only one who can perform my surgery."

Nigel looked at Celine. "Name your price. What will it take for you to operate on my daughter?"

Celine stepped forward and coldly said, "Mr. Hampton, aren't you powerful enough to protect Carly and the entire Tate family? Surely, you can find a way to treat Carly's heart condition yourself."

With that, she turned to leave.

Nigel let out a short, incredulous laugh. People were usually terrified of him. Even Carly treated him with both reverence and fear. Yet Celine never seemed intimidated by him.

Nigel reached out and grabbed Celine's slender arm, stopping her in her tracks. Celine halted but showed no fear as she looked back at him. "Mr. Hampton, let go of me."

Nigel raised a brow. "I'm afraid I can't do that. Since you're the only one who can treat my daughter, I'll have to insist you come with me."

He was determined to take Celine with him.

Just then, a familiar deep voice called out. "Mr. Hampton, I'm afraid you won't be taking Celine anywhere."

Celine looked up to see Adam arriving on the scene. Adam was dressed in a sleek black suit, exuding an air of noble elegance.

Hailey's eyes lit up. Finally, Adam

was here. She quickly rushed to him, whispering, "Adam, Mr. Hampton wants to take Celine away to

perform surgery on Carly. You can't let him. Celine is still pregnant."

Carly, who had always harbored feelings for Adam, called out to him sweetly, "Adam..."

Yet Adam didn't even glance her way. Instead, he strode confidently to Celine's side and grasped her other arm.

Adam looked at Nigel and firmly said, "Mr. Hampton, let her go."

Now, Celine was caught between Nigel and Adam, each holding one of her arms.

Nigel found the situation amusing,

st

"Adam, by all accounts, I should be your father-in-law. You're my future son-in-law, and yet you're fighting me over a woman?"

Adam glanced at Celine before turning his sharp gaze back to Nigel. "Mr. Hampton, you're mistaken I'm not fighting you for her. You're the one trying to take my woman away."

He declared it outright-Celine was his woman.

Celine's clear eyes shifted to Adam's handsome, dignified face.

Nigel's expression darkened slightly. "Adam, if Celine is your woman, then what about Carly? You're engaged to her."

Chapter 545

Adam looked directly at Nigel and said, "Mr. Hampton, let me make this clear once again—I will not marry Carly. The person I love is Celine!"

Carly's face crumpled with hurt and indignation. "Adam!"

With a firm tug, Adam pulled Celine free from Nigel's grasp. Celine's delicate frame stumbled into Adam's warm, solid chest. He wrapped his strong arm around her slender waist and asked in a low voice, "Celine, are you okay?"

Celine shook her head. "I'm fine."

His gaze softened. "Let's go."

She nodded. "Alright."

She intended to walk on her own, but before she could take a step, Adam swept her into his arms in a bridal carry.

Celine blinked in surprise as Adam instructed, "Hold onto my neck."

She obediently wrapped her arms around him, and Adam carried her away.

Hailey glanced at Carly and stuck out her tongue playfully. "Well, well, being the daughter of the richest man doesn't mean much if you can't even keep your fiancé."

Carly's face turned red with anger. "You-"

Hailey quickly cut her off, saying, "Oh, don't get mad now. Remember, you have a heart condition. If you get too worked up and collapse, my Celine definitely won't save you."

Carly was left speechless.

Hailey stuck out her tongue again before turning to run after Adam. "Mr. Alvarez, wait for me!"

Carly had been in a great mood earlier, but now, she was fuming. Clenching her fists, she turned to Nigel. "Dad, did you see that? Celine refuses to perform my surgery! What am I supposed to do?"

Nigel looked at his daughter and said calmly, "Carly, once we return to the Capitol, I'll arrange for a thorough medical examination. I'll find the world's best doctors to treat your heart condition. Celine isn't the only skilled surgeon in the world. Trust me, I'll make sure you get the best treatment."

Hearing this, Carly finally relaxed. With Nigel's influence and resources, finding a doctor on par with Celine wasn't impossible. Once she recovered, she wouldn't have to be at Celine's mercy anymore.

Lucy was overjoyed. "That's wonderful, Mr. Hampton! Carly finally has hope for recovery!"

However, Carly was still troubled. "Dad, what about Adam?"

Nigel's expression remained composed. "Carly, I've seen enough today. Adam clearly doesn't have feelings for you. His heart belongs to Celine. Forcing a relationship won't bring happiness. Marriage is a lifelong commitment, and want you to be happy.

"Let Adam go. I'll find you another suitable match. Any eligible bachelor in the Capitol is yours to choose from."

Carly's eyes flickered with dissatisfaction. "Are they better than Adam?"

Nigel shook his head. "No. Adam isn't just the most outstanding heir of the Alvarez family; he's also a rising star in the business world. He's young now, but in ten years, his achievements could rival mine."

Carly knew this all too well. She had met many men, but none could compare to Adam.

He wasn't just a business genius; he possessed an unmatched charisma and maturity, as well as impeccable character.

Carly clenched her fists. "Dad, I don't want anyone else. I only want Adam!"

Nigel frowned. "Carly..."

Carly clung to Nigel's arm and pleaded, "Dad, if you really want me to be happy, then help me win Adam over. Our families already have a marriage alliance. Adam was supposed to be mine from the start."

There was no way she would let Celine take him.

A woman's greatest victory lay in marriage. She might have been born the wealthiest heiress, but if Celine married Adam, she would still be beneath her. When Adam dominated the business world in ten years, she would still be beneath Celine. Content belongs to

She would never allow that to happen.

Lucy added, "Mr. Hampton, you may not know this, but Carly and Adam have known each other for years. She loves him so much that no one else can ever replace him."

Nigel saw the determination in Carly's eyes and finally relented.

"Alright," he said. "If this is what you want, then it's what I want too. Don't worry, Carly. Adam will marry you."