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Too Much to Bear, My Love Chapter 372 - 373

Chapter 372 She Is Not My Daughter

On the flip side, after Eleanor pulled her son and husband indoors, she remarked, "Benjamin, I will not let you harm her. If you touch even a strand of hair on her head, I will shoot myself before you."

Benjamin studied his wife with narrowed eyes. "Eleanor, am I really as cruel as what you make me out to be?"

"Am I wrong?" she cried shrilly. "Our daughter went missing at so young an age back then. Not only did you not call the police, but you also forbade anyone from talking about her. It still haunts me as though it happened last night. How could you possibly imagine that I would think of you as a good man?"

Benjamin clenched his fists at her unexpected insolence.

Clearing his throat, Sean tried, "Mom, please calm yourself. Dad is only worried about your health and that you might be swindled. Your only children are Amelia and me, remember? I have never heard of a missing sister."

The elder woman glared at Sean. "Are you trying to insinuate that I'm insane, Sean? That I'm hallucinating, perhaps? Maybe this missing sister of yours is a figment of my imagination, isn't it?"

Hearing that, Sean sighed. "That's not what I meant, Mom. I just wanted you to calm down. You're too uptight. I'm just afraid that your illness would act up again. Dad and I are worried about your health, that's all."

"Enough!" Eleanor lost her temper. Puffing her bosom out in a rage, she took her frustration out on her son. "She's your sister too, Sean. I will not permit you to speak about her like that. I will really be furious if you do."

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Sean pouted sulkily, but fell silent.

Benjamin did his best to remain patient. "Eleanor, calm yourself. I have seen the girl, and I must admit that she bears an uncanny resemblance to you. However, the world is a big place. Having doppelgangers is not as rare as it sounds. We can have it verified through a DNA test if you suspect that she's our daughter. We'll see what the test says before taking any further action."

Eleanor glared at her husband with scathing disbelief. After being married to him for decades, she was familiar with his tactics of delay. Besides, no one knew how much her husband disliked their eldest daughter better than her.

"Benjamin, I am not doing a DNA test," she said flatly before changing tacts and adopting a more cooperative tone. "The young lady you met earlier was not our daughter, I promise you. Amelia and I are just here in Beshya for a vacation. I will return to Saspiuburg with you. Just leave the girl alone. She's innocent." Knowing Benjamin, he is going to make things difficult and cause the girl that I have sought after with so much difficulty to slip through my fingers again. Being subservient to him is my only chance.

Regarding the matter of having Amelia be reunited with the family, Benjamin would never allow it, even if she were to threaten him with her life. In some ways, Benjamin can be so much crueller than I could ever imagine him to be.

To her surprise, Benjamin collected himself and sat on the couch with both hands on his thighs. "There's no rush for that, Eleanor. I will be here with you to keep you company until you are ready to depart, then we'll return to Saspiuburg together. Amelia told me that the young lady next door has been good to her. She even treats our daughter like her own sister. Imagine that! I would like to pay her a visit. I had Sean prepare some gifts that these younger folks would like."

Upon hearing his words, Eleanor looked positively alarmed at that. "What are you planning on doing, Benjamin?" she cried. "I've already told you she's not our daughter! I said I'm willing to return with you. What else do you want from me? Will you not rest until you see me safely within the walls of an asylum?"

Gazing at his wife placidly, Benjamin uttered, "What is it that you're afraid of, Eleanor? If she really is our daughter, do you think I would be wicked enough to harm her?"

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Eleanor drew deep, calming breaths before speaking.

“Let’s have a private chat, Benjamin,” Eleanor stated curtly, pointing at the door.

“Fine.”

With that, the couple entered the study. Eleanor shut the door before sitting down on the couch, arms crossed in front of her in a defensive pose.

“Benjamin, do not harm that innocent girl. I will return to Saspiuburg with you.”

“I think you are mistaken, Eleanor. I have no intention of doing such a thing. I would just like to see the girl who you’ve grown so fond of and find out how it is possible for her to uncover a twenty-year-old family secret and use it to gain your trust.” Benjamin’s voice dripped with malice.

“Leave her alone, Benjamin. I’m begging you.”

“She has no relations to me whatsoever. Why would I harm her? It’s illogical.”

Eleanor’s eyes grew red again. She half-kneeled in front of her husband and gazed up at him. “We’ve been married for so many years, Benjamin,” she whispered. “If you’ve ever loved me, leave that girl alone. She had disappeared because of our negligence. After two decades of suffering, she finally managed to build a home of her own. I will promise you I’ll never tell her the truth, but please, allow me to visit her every now and then. That is the only thing I will ask for from you ever again. I’m afraid I might not survive it if you tear me away from her again.”

Staring down at her, the elder man sneered. “This is the first time after her disappearance that you have spoken to me with such gentleness. I think it’s ironic that you are appealing to my love as your husband on behalf of that bastard daughter of yours. Somehow, your begging doesn’t make me feel as good as it should.”

Eleanor’s face turned deathly white.

“What do you mean, Benjamin?”

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"Isn't the girl a product of an affair you had? Did you know that her existence remains a giant thorn in my side all these years? On the day she was born, I had to fight the impulse to strangle her on the spot."

Staring at Benjamin in horror, Eleanor stood up and backed away from her husband, who was suddenly unrecognizable to her. Her lower lip trembled for a long time before she choked, "You think she is a product of my infidelity?"

Benjamin's silence was as good as a confession.

At that, Eleanor suddenly wailed in mirthless laughter. She had never understood why her husband had harbored such a dislike for their eldest daughter over the years. In her confusion, she made the assumption that he felt resentment at the fact that his firstborn was a girl. Never in her wildest dreams could she have concocted such a possibility.

Though she could not proclaim as having been completely loyal, she would not cheat on him as long as he did not cheat on her. After over twenty years, it was the first time she had heard the mention of infidelity in their marriage.

"Even though we could never be as deeply in love as other couples," whispered Eleanor, her voice hoarse from exertion. "I thought we had at least shared a degree of trust between us. I didn't expect you to harbor such suspicions toward me. Your excuse hurt more than a knife in my heart."

Benjamin glared at her with disdain. Getting to his feet, he walked slowly toward Eleanor. "You're right, we have had a long marriage. I don't care if you have been unfaithful all those years ago. Let us forget about the bastard girl and pretend that she was never born."

Eleanor stumbled backward, as she suddenly felt terrified at the man who shared her bed. He even went as far as to disown his own flesh and blood based on his delusional suspicions. Sure, we can do a DNA test, but he is just going to ignore the report, even if the facts are staring him in the face. A man with an ego as large as this is truly something to behold.

She had thought that he merely disliked their eldest daughter, but never could she have imagined that he would think of the child as being a product of her infidelity.

An accusation like this hurts even more than a stab to the chest.

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“Benjamin, you’re out of your mind!” Eleanor screamed, looking quite deranged. “She is your daughter, I assure you. I have never been unfaithful. I have always done my duty by keeping my distance from other men. I don’t know who has been planting ideas in your head, but I have never done anything I shouldn’t have. She is our daughter, and I am proud to tell the world that. Anybody who lays a finger on her will suffer my full wrath. You completely disappoint me, Benjamin.”

As Eleanor strode toward the door, Benjamin lunged forward to grab her by the arm.

“Let go of me!” Eleanor threw herself free of his grip.

“Our only children are Amelia and Sean,” repeated Benjamin grimly. “The addition of another child will only bring chaos to the Hutton household.”

Hearing that, Eleanor chuckled bitterly. Nobody in the world could possibly understand how it feels to have a husband who refuses to embrace his own daughter.

“Benjamin, I’m so disappointed in you,” declared Eleanor quietly. My own husband has been suspecting me of infidelity for over twenty years.

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Chapter 373 Conflict Arising

Eleanor waved a hand dejectedly. “Benjamin, we’ve been at odds long enough. If you think I would be unfaithful to you with other men, we shouldn’t even remain married. Let’s get a divorce.”

At that, Benjamin’s features hardened.

“What did you say?”

“Let’s get a divorce,” she repeated. “I didn’t have the courage to say this to you twenty years ago, but I do now. I don’t understand you at all, and I don’t see the necessity of keeping this meaningless marriage going.”

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Benjamin's lips twisted into a cruel smile. "Eleanor, your illness is acting up again. I'll have Dr. Perkins take a look at you when we get back to Saspiuburg. Your poor brain must be addled with imbalances for you to be spewing so much nonsense."

Eleanor glared at him lividly.

"Benjamin, this child has been the cause of the wedge between us for over twenty years. You hate her, and I feel guilty about her. We will never be able to reconcile our opposing stances regarding her." Her head drooped sadly.

Placing both his hands on her shoulders, Benjamin remarked, "Calm down, Eleanor. You are not well. When we return to Saspiuburg, I will have Dr. Perkins give you an examination."

Eleanor stared at her husband, her mind racing with emotions she was too tired to identify.

The next moment, she smacked his hands aside and strode quickly toward the door before turning around. "Benjamin, I am extremely disappointed in you."

Without another word, she exited the study and left him alone inside.

Benjamin clenched his fists, and his knuckles cracked menacingly. Moments later, Sean knocked on the door. "Dad."

Looking at his son grimly, Benjamin ordered, "Sean, find out where that woman came from. I would like to see the woman brazen enough to swindle your mother like that."

Sean entered and shut the door before approaching his father. "Dad, that girl does look a lot like Mom. If she really is our long-lost sister, why can't we have her back in the family? It would make Mom really happy."

"Don't you forget who the patriarch of this family is." Benjamin scowled at his son. "You will do as I say, you understand? Lest you forget, you and Amelia are my only children."

Sean felt the urge to ask a question that had been burning in his heart for many years. "Dad, as early as I recall, you don't like our sister. Why?"

"She isn't your sister," snapped Benjamin. "If I hear you calling her that one more time, you will be disowned."

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Sean hung his head. "Yes, Dad. I will remember that."

"Go on, then. I want everything you have on her by tonight."

"I'll get it done, Dad."

Benjamin waited for Sean to leave before striding over to the window, his thoughts imperceptible behind his steely, unperturbed gaze.

To his credit, his son carried out his task with unbelievable speed. Within half a day, he had managed to gather all the available information there was to find regarding Amelia Winters.

"Dad, these are the information you asked for." Sean placed the freshly printed pages on a table before his father with a respectful bow.

Benjamin studied the pages, and when he arrived at the column detailing Amelia's parents, his gaze darkened. It's the exact same family I'd sent the brat to all those years ago. How meddlesome it is for her to come drifting back after sending her away all those years ago!

In a rage, Benjamin tore up all the papers.

"Get me your sister," he demanded.

"Dad," Sean pleaded, "Amelia acted out of the goodness in her heart. She is not aware of the grudges you have held. Please don't get her involved in this?"

"Get her in here," Benjamin repeated quietly.

"Yes, Dad." With that, Sean strode out, defeated.

After fifteen minutes, Amelia shuffled in reluctantly. "Daddy," she greeted him from afar.

"Why did you bring your mother to Beshya?"

"Daddy, Mom told me it has been a long time since she had come to Beshya for a vacation. That was why I brought her here."

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"Tell me the truth," he demanded.

Amelia hesitated. "Daddy, Mom became ill over fretting for our sister over the years. Her condition became so dangerous that she was almost admitted to the asylum. As the disappearance of her daughter had been the cause of the illness, why should she be denied the opportunity to meet her? It was no small feat to locate our sister."

"Rubbish!" Benjamin slammed the table with his hand, causing his daughter to jump backward in fright. "Amelia, I have indulged you too much and, as a result, encouraged this wayward behavior. It was you who told me you have found your sister, was it not? It was also you who was going around spreading rumors about having a sister. Only you and your brother are the heirs of the Hutton family. If it was for this reason that you had your mother travel all this way to Beshya and cause her condition to worsen, you are in deep trouble, young lady. Come back to Saspiuberg with me at once. You have a lot of life choices to rethink once we get back."

Growing indignant, Amelia refuted, "Daddy, why are you being difficult? You know Amelia is my sister! I have even taken samples of her and Mom's hair for a DNA test, which concluded that they have a similarity of ninety-nine point nine percent! Only a fool would deny that she is your daughter! How are you this hard-headed to ignore hard evidence laid before you?"

"Do you think that this test result is sufficient as evidence that the girl is mine?" Benjamin snarled. "For the last time, there are only two heirs of the Hutton family. If you keep feeding your mother with your fanciful ideas, you are going to have to start paying your own expenses."

Amelia could not believe the extent of her father's denial of refusing to recognize her long-lost sister as his daughter and even banning the servants from mentioning her.

"Daddy, she is your daughter," Amelia insisted. "Why are you—"

"Still on the subject, are we? Do I have to whip you for the message to sink through your thick skull?"

Amelia stood petrified, unable to answer.

"You are not to speak of such nonsense to your mother again. Is that understood? She will have an appointment with her psychologist once we arrive back at Saspiuburg."

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“Daddy, how could you be so mean to Mom?” Amelia wailed. “It took her so much effort to finally locate her daughter!”

Benjamin’s face turned purple with rage. Leaping out of his chair, he strode over to Amelia and stood dangerously close to her. “Say it again.”

Amelia recoiled in fear and stumbled backward.

“Daddy,” she pleaded.

“You are a Hutton, Amelia,” proclaimed Benjamin. “If you speak the name of somebody who should not exist once more, consider yourself disowned from this family.”

Amelia’s eyes widened in shock.

“Daddy...”

“If you want an older sister so badly, you can forget about having a father. I am done dealing with your insubordination.”

“Why, Daddy? She is your own flesh and blood, for God’s sake! You know as well as anyone that Mom had almost descended into madness for her long-lost daughter. How could you-”

Slap!

Clutching her cheek, Amelia gaped at her father, horror-struck.

“How could you hit me, Daddy?” she choked. In less than a week, I’ve had both my parents slap me across the face!

“You’re grounded when we get back,” Benjamin remarked. “If you continue to be this obstinate, you can forget about having any pocket money to spend! Clearly, shopping has turned you into an idiotic little girl.”

“Daddy, you are so unreasonable!” With that, she turned her tear-soaked cheeks away and ran out of the study.

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Benjamin looked murderous. His chest was heaving as if he had sprinted a mile. Clenching his fists, he once again sank into a reverie.

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