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## Too Much to Bear, My Love Chapter 495 496

### Chapter 495 Poor Table Manners

After staying in the hospital for five days, Tony was finally discharged. When he arrived at their apartment in the city, many visitors came to see him.

“Tony, I was only sent to Saspiuburg for five days and this happen to you. Oh, my poor boy! You’ve lost weight!” Before she had time to drop her luggage, Eva hurried over to give Tony a hug.

Laughing uncontrollably from her tickles, Tony pushed her away. “Aunt Eva, it’s ticklish!”

Eva stopped and gave him an earnest look. “Tony, tell me who did this to you. I will strangle them!”

Before Tony could respond, Amelia replied with a nonplussed tone, “Eva, Tony’s still a child. So, please mind your words.”

Pursing her lips, Eva wasn’t offended. Instead, she whispered into Tony’s ear, “Tony, your mommy is pretending to be civil.”

Tony replied in an equally soft voice, “Aunt Eva, don’t speak ill of Mommy.”

Eva gave his forehead a light flick and smiled. “I’m surprised that you know how to protect your mommy at such a young age. You really take after me. For that, I can’t praise you enough.”

Just when the two of them were fooling around, the doorbell rang. When Oscar opened the door, he saw Olivia, Owen, and Stephanie outside.

“Dad, Mom, come in.” Oscar stepped aside to welcome them.

When the Clintons saw that the living hall was filled with people, they furrowed their brows in response. Nonetheless, they quickly regain their usual dignified poise.

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“Who are you?” Stephanie asked as she pointed at Eva condescendingly. “You dressed so weirdly that you look just like a shampoo girl.”

Eva had always been a feisty character. When she was suddenly ridiculed while playing with Tony, she got to her feet and shot back, “Why don’t you tell me who are you instead? By insulting someone the moment you step in, you have just shown how rude you are. Didn’t your mom teach you not to hurl random derisive comments at others?”

Amelia had wanted to stop her but was too late given how fast Eva retorted.

After pulling Eva behind her, Amelia smiled awkwardly. “Mom, this is my cousin. She has recently come to Tayhaven for work. Given her straightforward character, she speaks her mind freely. So, I hope you’ll forgive her.”

After staring thoughtfully at Amelia, Olivia replied plainly, “Amelia, my children have never been accused of being rude before, and now, your cousin is the first. Despite being married into the Clinton family for so many years, I have never seen your side of the family, to the extent I thought that you were an orphan. Now that it turns out that you’re not, why haven’t I seen any of them before this? It’s obvious to me that you’re hiding a lot from us.”

As Amelia’s expression changed slightly, the smile on her face turned awkward.

Just then, Oscar walked over and gave Tony a look. Given how sharp Tony was, he quickly caught on. With his arms outstretched, he hugged Olivia’s legs and called out in his squeaky voice, “Grandma, you’re finally here to see me! I was just asking Mommy about you. She told me that you have prepared a mysterious present for me. So, where is it?”

At that moment, the icy expression on Olivia’s face melted. Picking Tony up, she sat down on the sofa. After that, she took out an exquisite-looking pendant and put it on Tony. “Tony, this is a lucky charm that I got you. It will protect you from sickness and evil.”

Even though he didn’t fully comprehend the meaning of Olivia’s words, he looked at the pendant with interest and asked curiously, “Grandma, it feels cold to the touch and very comfortable in my hands.”

Tousling his hair, Olivia couldn’t contain the affection she felt for the boy. “I got this specifically for you, do you like it?”

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Tony nodded convincingly before leaning in and planting a kiss on Olivia's cheek. He declared sweetly, "Grandma, you are really nice to me. I have decided that other than Daddy and Mommy, you are my next favorite person."

Intoxicated by Tony's flattery, Olivia's anger disappeared entirely.

Watching the events unfold, Stephanie was filled with jealousy. Ever since Amelia and Anthony emerged, she felt neglected within the Clinton family. After all, she was the apple of her mother's eye before Tony came along. But now, her mother seemed to have forgotten about her own daughter.

Used to being at the center of attention, Stephanie felt exceptionally bitter when the limelight was stolen from her by Amelia and her son.

Isabella is right. Amelia and Anthony are a threat to me. With them around, I would never be the focus of everyone's attention. Instead, I would be sidelined and gradually fade away from everyone's minds. No, I cannot let this happen to me! I must always remain the center of attention and be adored by everyone!

Having noticed the hostile look on Stephanie's face, Oscar shot her a discreet glance before walking to her side. There, he stood in between her and Tony.

When Stephanie raised her head in reflex, her eyes met Oscar's gaze which seemed to be warning her off. Feeling a chill down her spine, her senses quickly returned to her.

"Oscar," Stephanie greeted her brother fearfully.

"Come to the kitchen with me," Oscar ordered before walking away.

Despite feeling reluctant, Stephanie had no choice but to comply. At the same time, Olivia, who was playing with Tony, glanced at them but didn't interfere.

"Oscar, what is it?" After entering the kitchen, Stephanie subconsciously kept her distance from Oscar.

"Are you trying to harm Tony?" Oscar asked, narrowing his eyes.

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"Of course not! He's my nephew, for goodness' sake. How can you think that of me?" Stephanie laughed wryly.

"With regards to the yogurt, I have no evidence that you did it as the Walker siblings took the blame on your behalf. Even so, don't you dare feel smug about it, for you have narcissistically destroyed what's left of our sibling bond. Therefore, don't blame me for being cruel when the time comes," Oscar warned with a threatening gaze.

Frozen stiff by his words, Stephanie tried to eke out a smile but failed.

"Stephanie, I'm warning you, if you harm either of them, I will have your life. Don't let your overestimation of your own intelligence be the death of you." Just as Oscar finished, he strode out of the kitchen.

Overwhelmed by fear, Stephanie remained inside. She was cognizant of how serious Oscar was. In fact, she was relieved that Tony got away unscathed. Or else, she would have already lost her life.

After Oscar came out of the kitchen, Olivia looked at him and asked, "Where's Stephanie?"

"Inside."

"Did you make things difficult for her?"

"Mom, she's about to get married. I'm just teaching her how to cook. Or else, it will reflect badly on her if she doesn't know a thing. After all, cooking is one of the skills expected of a woman," Oscar cooked up an excuse.

Obviously, Olivia didn't buy it.

When Stephanie came out of the kitchen, she was visibly quieter than before. After all, she still feared Oscar and didn't dare to challenge his authority.

"Mrs. Clinton, why don't you stay back with Mr. Clinton for lunch? Molly will be returning soon from grocery shopping, while Derrick and James will be coming over in a while," Amelia invited.

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Looking at Tony in her arms, Olivia nodded.

Soon, Molly returned with a whole bunch of ingredients. After greeting Olivia and Owen, she brought the groceries back into the kitchen.

“Stephanie, I heard that you and Noah are about to get engaged, so go into the kitchen and learn how to cook from Molly. The last thing you want is to not be able to tell the salt from the sugar at the Walker residence,” Oscar ordered.

When Stephanie looked in Olivia’s direction, Olivia responded, “Your brother is right. A girl needs to know how to cook. Go on and help Molly with the cooking. Hopefully, you’ll pick up a thing or two doing so.”

Left without a choice, Stephanie went into the kitchen. Nonetheless, the rage she felt intensified her resentment toward Amelia and Tony. It had planted a seed of hatred that would continue to grow with time.

“Eva and I will help too. Oscar, you and Tony stay here with your parents.” Pulling Eva along, Amelia headed into the kitchen.

After Stephanie was kicked out of the kitchen for breaking a couple of dishes, the meal was finally ready.

While the dishes were being served, Derrick, Tiffany, and James arrived.

When Olivia saw Derrick and James, she welcomed them warmly.

After everyone took their seats, Eva was the first to dig in when lunch started. Initially, she held herself back in the presence of Olivia and Owen. However, halfway through the meal, she began to wolf down her food and looked inelegant doing so. Upon seeing her behavior, Olivia and Owen furrowed their brows.

Given their illustrious background, they place significant emphasis on decorum since they were young. Consequently, they were upset to see someone behaving rudely. Nevertheless, they didn’t say a word so as not to be rude.

Amelia tugged at Eva gently. “Eva, slow down, or you’ll choke.”

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When Eva gave Amelia a blank look, Amelia explained calmly, "There's still a lot of food, and we have elders at the table. I think it's better if you don't eat too fast."

After swallowing the food in her mouth, Eva gave the elder Clintons an apologetic look and smiled. "Mr. and Mrs. Clinton, I'm really sorry. I used to be in the army and built a habit of eating quickly. I hope I didn't scare you by doing so."

When Olivia saw the vegetable stuck in between Eva's teeth, she lost her appetite right away.

Nevertheless, she replied warmly, "It's a blessing to have a good appetite."

Oblivious to Olivia's feigned politeness, Eva remarked with a smile, "Thank God I didn't scare you." With that, she continued chomping down her food.

As a result, Olivia lost her appetite after barely eating a few mouthfuls.

## Too Much to Bear, My Love Chapter 496

### Chapter 496 Just Get Married

After lunch, the atmosphere remained tense. Hence, Derrick and the others made an excuse and took their leave, leaving only the Clintons behind.

Stephanie declared in a voice loud enough for everyone to hear, "Given how brash the Winters are, we are lucky to only have one here today. If all of them showed up, the Clintons would be disgraced by this bunch of poor and uneducated relatives. It's indeed a blessing for us that they never showed up before."

Amelia was rattled by Stephanie's words.

When Oscar shot Stephanie a glare to warn her, she pursed her lips and replied, "Oscar, what I say is true. Look at how Eva was eating just now. She looked as if she hasn't eaten for ages when she wolfed down her food. It was so unbecoming that Mom and Dad lost their appetite. I think Amelia must have invited her over to pretend to be her cousin so that she can disgust Mom and Dad."

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Taking a deep breath, Amelia desperately reminded herself not to hold it against Stephanie.

“Stephanie,” Oscar called out to warn her.

Cognizant of where his threshold was, Stephanie stopped her insults.

Olivia glanced at Amelia and commented, “Amelia, it’s not my place to judge your family and friends, for we are no longer related. Nevertheless, Tony is my grandson, and I don’t want him to be in the company of such uncultured characters. Considering how she dyed her hair and her inappropriate outfit, I’m sure Eva isn’t someone proper. Thus, I don’t like her and neither do I want my grandson to be close to her. I hope you know what to do.”

After the three Clintons left, Amelia fell silent.

Tony was then brought out of the kitchen by Molly.

Letting go of Molly’s hand, Tony ran up to Amelia and raised his head. “Mommy, what’s wrong? Are you upset?”

Amelia scooped her son into her arms and answered, “I’m fine. Did you let Molly wash your hands and face?”

Spreading his hands, Tony replied in glee, “Look, Mommy, aren’t they clean?”

Amelia gave him a peck on his cheeks. “They’re really clean. You’re indeed the cutest kid there is.”

Tony burst into laughter.

“I’ll get Molly to take you upstairs for your nap, all right?” Amelia asked in a consultative tone.

After pondering a moment, Tony opened his arms for Molly to carry him.

Picking Tony up, Molly remarked, “Mr. and Mrs. Clinton, I’ll be taking Tony upstairs for his nap then.”

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When Molly and Tony were gone, Oscar hugged Amelia by her shoulders and murmured, "I'm sorry."

Well aware of his intention, she lifted her head with a smile. "I'm fine."

"Eva is an easy-going person. Unfortunately, Mom and Dad can only accept someone that's proper in their eyes, who must sit with poise and not speak while eating. That's why they're unsettled by her. I hope you don't take it personally," Oscar comforted Amelia.

She replied with a smile. "I don't blame Mom, really. That being said, even though I know this is a trivial matter, I still can't help but feel agitated by it."

"Don't overthink it. Mom is the kind that when she likes someone, her feelings won't change even if you insult her. On the contrary, if she resents you, she will still nitpick on your weaknesses, even if you have done everything perfectly."

Amelia couldn't help but smile. "Since when does a son talk about their mother that way?"

"Are you happy now?"

"I've always been happy."

"That's good then."

While Amelia had demonstrated her magnanimity, Stephanie, who had just left with her parents, couldn't help but rant, "Mom, just look at Eva. She's neither pretty nor comes from an illustrious background. Moreover, she's dressed in such an outlandish manner. Her hair and makeup can even frighten someone into having a heart attack. If Tony continues to spend time with her, I'm afraid that he will end up becoming as boorish as her. When he grows up, how is he going to take over Clinton Corporations?"

Olivia expression darkened in response.

All this while, she placed great importance on everything that was related to Tony. She could tolerate anything except putting Tony's education at risk. Since he was only two, he lacked the ability to tell right from wrong. Whatever the adults did, he would likely follow. Consequently, she was worried that Tony would be influenced by someone like Eva.

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At that moment, an insidious glint flashed in Olivia's eyes.

"Owen, I think we should bring Tony over to our side. After going to Beshya, Amelia seems to have interacted with all sorts of characters. I'm concerned that Tony would pick up bad habits while staying with her," Olivia remarked with a frown.

Owen held her hand and reassured her, "Amelia seemed to be doing a good job raising him. Previously, he wasn't keen on approaching us. But after a few days, he gradually warmed up to us. It's obvious that even though he still feels reluctant, he tries his best to bring us joy. I think Amelia must have been working behind the scenes to improve our relationship with Tony. Besides, other than leaving with Tony back then in a huff, she has been trying hard to fit into our family. As a result, you should stop worrying unnecessarily. Didn't you promise me that you won't interfere with their lives? Are you planning to go back on your word?"

Stunned, Olivia had nothing to rebut Owen with.

"But Dad, what about Eva? Can you bring yourself to allow Tony to interact with someone like Eva?" Stephanie exclaimed.

"Stephanie, you should know your place and watch that mouth of yours. Your mom and I will monitor Tony's upbringing. As for you, you had better focus your attention on Noah instead of sticking your nose in this matter. If you're unsatisfied with him, you should tell him earlier. With regards to what happened to Tony, your mom and I have our suspicions about Noah. If you no longer want to be with him, you should just break up," Owen admonished his daughter with a grim expression.

"Tony this, Tony that, it's always about Tony," Stephanie thundered. "It's true that he's your grandson, but I'm your daughter too. What gives him the right to interfere in my relationship? Dad, don't you think that you and Mom are being unfair to me? Ever since Amelia and Tony appeared, I have been treated as an outsider. When will you ever stop playing favorites?"

Owen and Olivia stared at her at the same time.

"Stephanie, you're being too emotional," Olivia asserted.

Panting heavily, Stephanie sneered, "You're the ones who did this to me. All you care about is Tony. Have you ever spared a thought for me instead? How long have you not asked about Noah and me? Why is Noah blamed for Tony's poisoning and forced to break up with

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me? Don't you think that's too selfish of you? From the beginning, you have never taken my feelings into account."

Silence descended upon Olivia and Owen.

After a long while, Olivia asked, "Stephanie, is this really how you see me?"

Stephanie continued to scowl at her mother.

With a sullen expression, Olivia retorted, "Stephanie, after doing so much for you, all I get in return is your distrust. It feels as if I have brought up an ungrateful child. If you weren't my daughter, I would have strangled you instead of allowing you to rattle at us like that."

Stephanie was stumped.

Rubbing her temple, Olivia added, "I know I have been too focused on Tony and neglected your feelings lately. However, you're a grown woman now with your own future ahead of you. Soon, you will be married and have your own family. Thus, you have to take on the responsibility of a wife and mother instead of competing with a child for attention. Or else, you'll only end up as a laughing stock."

Briefly stunned, Stephanie could feel the humiliation well up within her. To her, Olivia seemed to be warning her that once she was married to Noah, she wouldn't be considered a Clinton anymore. Going forward, her responsibilities would lie with her husband, and she was as good as being kicked out of the family.

Rattled by Olivia's words, Stephanie began to sulk.

With that, Olivia didn't say anything further.

At that moment, Stephanie got the driver to drop her off at a junction. "Dad, Mom, I'm going off to see a movie with Noah. Bye."

Olivia nodded in acknowledgment.

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After alighting from the car, Stephanie gave Noah a call. Once she got through, she asked, "Where are you? I'll meet you at the cafe on the third floor of Century Tower. Can you be there in an hour?"

After hearing Noah's reply, Stephanie's tone turned cold. "Fine, I'll wait there for you, but don't let me wait for more than an hour." She ended the call once she was finished.

Meanwhile, Noah had an equally gloomy look on his face.

The next instant, a woman with a stunning figure hugged him from behind. She remarked with a coquettish voice, "Noah, didn't you promise to spend the day with me?"

The woman was Noah's true love. However, between love and ambition, Noah chose the latter. No matter how much he loved her, she was still second in his life. As a result, she ended up as his mistress who was hidden away from the public eye.

"Be good, and I'll come back to stay the night with you." After he turned around to hug her, he pushed her away heartlessly before getting his jacket and leaving.

With regards to the woman left in the room, her eyes sparkled with rage. As a devious look descended upon her face, she watched as Noah closed the door behind him.

After arriving at the agreed cafe fifty-nine minutes later, Noah straightened his jacket and entered calmly. Unlike other men, he would never brag to Stephanie about how he desperately made it in time to see her. In front of her, he would always be someone gentle and composed.

After baiting and reeling her in, he had caused her to let down her guard. Right when she was at her most vulnerable, he managed to get her to fall head over heels for him.

It was a tactic that he had honed over the years. Or else, he wouldn't have been able to get Stephanie, who hated him at the beginning, to be his girlfriend after two years of courtship.

When it came to executing his plans, he had always been patient, just like a fisherman waiting for the fish to willingly take the bait.

"Stephanie," Noah called out as he adjusted his glasses.

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When the exasperated Stephanie saw him, she scowled. "What took you so long?"

As if he was a magician, Noah pulled three roses from the air. He replied attentively, "To my beautiful goddess, these three roses represent my love for you."

After she received the roses, the frustration on her face began to ease.

Taking a seat, Noah asked with a smile, "My princess, who made you angry this time?"

"Other than Amelia and Tony, who else can it be?" Stephanie fumed as she pursed her lips.

Breaking out into a gentle smile, Noah remarked apologetically, "Did Mrs. Clinton admonish you over the yogurt incident?"

Stephanie fell silent, indicating a tacit confirmation.

"Don't be angry, as it's also my fault. I shouldn't have bought the yogurt in the first place. If it makes you feel any better, you can vent your frustrations on me. I'm tough enough to weather any beating you give me," Noah suggested jokingly.

Rolling her eyes at him, Stephanie snapped, "Noah, can you stop being so gentle and be more masculine instead?"

Unfazed, he broke out into a devilish smile. "Haven't I already shown you how manly I can be?"

The moment she heard his response, Stephanie blushed and didn't rebut him further.

Her feelings toward Noah have always been complicated. Even though he had always behaved like a chivalric gentleman, he was exceptionally domineering in bed. If he hadn't pressed her against the wall to kiss her and forced her to sleep with him, she would never have agreed to be his girlfriend.

Evidently, she had masochistic tendencies. She didn't like it when men were too nice to her. However, when a totally submissive man turned into a beast in bed, she would be mesmerized by his masculinity.

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"Noah, do you truly love me?" Stephanie suddenly asked.

Noah looked at her affectionately. "Stephanie, don't you already know that I forcibly kissed you two years ago because I couldn't contain my feelings for you?"

"Fine. Let's get married then." When Stephanie uttered those words, she was filled with defiance. The more Olivia wanted to interfere with her marriage, the more Stephanie wanted to foil her mother's plans.

Noah was stunned for a fleeting moment before being filled with ecstasy. Nevertheless, he kept his composure. "Stephanie, did Mrs. Clinton say something to trigger you?"

"Do you want to get married or not? If not, let's just break up," Stephanie threatened.

Noah continued to look at her with a dotting gaze.

"Be a good girl and stop throwing a tantrum. Didn't Mrs. Clinton tell us to take a break for a while? She says that it's for our own good," Noah added.

"Do you want to break up with me then?" Stephanie glared at him.

"Stephanie, why would I do that?" Noah continued in a gentle tone. "I just think that getting married now would only anger your mother further."

"Are you afraid of my mom?"

"No, I just respect her. Every woman, regardless of their age, deserves to be respected. That's how a gentleman should behave."

Despite frowning in exasperation, Stephanie didn't press the matter further.

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