Too Much to Bear, My Love Chapter 575 - 578

Chapter 575 Not As Inhuman As You

Amelia Winters broke the awkward atmosphere by saying, "Amelia Hutton, Mrs. Hutton, you guys should head back now. Don't hesitate to call me if you guys need any help. I'll do my best to be of help."

Only then did the smile on Amelia Hutton's face resurface. "Amy, please don't take it the wrong way. I'm very grateful to you. Once everything is settled in the Hutton family, I'll treat you to a meal as well. It's about time we have a catch-up session as sisters. Ever since Beshya, we rarely get to meet each other. I miss you." One could tell she was just pretending to be nice.

"I'm not blaming you for anything," Amelia Winters replied.

After exchanging some pleasantries, Amelia Hutton helped Eleanor to the car. Eleanor had a long face on while she was in the car.

When Amelia Hutton sensed the distant aura, she asked her in puzzlement, "What's up with you, Mom?"

Eleanor glanced at her and asked, "Amelia, be honest with me, okay? Are you into Oscar?"

Amelia's expression froze for a moment when she heard that. Her eyes then lit up, and she asked with a tinge of guilt, "Mom, what are you on about?"

"Since I'm the one who gave birth to you, I can tell just by looking at your face. You can fall for anyone else but Oscar. He's your brother-in-law."

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Anger flashed through Amelia's eyes, and she grumbled, "Mom, so what if I like him? Since he's such an outstanding man, I'm sure every woman would fall for him. I'm just going along with my instinct."

"Nonsense." Eleanor was getting angry. "He's your brother-in-law! You can't fall for him."

The more Amelia thought about what her mother said to her, the more her anger brewed. "Mom, what's wrong if I like him? It's not like I'm confessing my feelings to him. I'm not even acting coquettishly with him. Why are you so against me having a crush on him? Is it because of that daughter you haven't seen in twenty-odd years?" Amelia retorted.

Eleanor was rendered silent in an instant.

"Mom, can you not be so biased?" Amelia complained.

In response, Eleanor answered nonchalantly, "Amelia, that's not what I meant. It's just that I don't want you to fall for someone you shouldn't fall for. Oscar is your sister's partner. Can't you see how happy their family of three is?"

Amelia glared at her mother furiously and said, "Mom, you're afraid that I might be a home breaker, aren't you? Do you really think so lowly of me?"

Eleanor's lips twitched, but she could not bring herself to say a word.

"Mom, you've indeed changed a lot. You're willing to jeopardize your relationship with me for a long-lost daughter you don't even know. You're afraid that she might get hurt, aren't you? To be frank, I don't think she cares about you one bit. I really don't understand what's going through your mind. How could you leave the Hutton family for her? Are you even sure that she wants you in her life?" Amelia did not hold back on her remarks, and her words hit right on Eleanor's sore spot.

At that moment, Eleanor suddenly felt her throat tightening. As she tried to open her mouth to talk, she realized she could not do so.

While waving her hand, Amelia added angrily, "It's okay. As one of the younger ones in the family, I know I shouldn't say much about your affairs. I don't care if you want to divorce Dad. All I know is that no matter what we do, we can never compete with your eldest daughter, who hasn't done anything for you."

The two of them remained silent throughout the car ride, and the atmosphere in the car was rather awkward.

Even after they had arrived at the Hutton residence, they were still not talking to each other.

When they got into the living room, Benjamin rushed toward Eleanor and hugged her. "Eleanor, I'm sorry. I'm so sorry. I will never do that again. Please don't walk out on us again, okay? We're not getting a divorce anymore. From now onward, I won't force you to do something you don't want to do."

Eleanor's body remained stiff as he hugged her. She then asked calmly, "Are you going to acknowledge Lia?"

In an instant, Benjamin let go of Eleanor.

He looked at her with a complicated expression and asked, "After so many days, is that all you can say the moment you come back?"

Eleanor lowered her head. "You can either acknowledge her, or we can get a divorce."

Immediately, Benjamin's face contorted.

Seeing that, Sean faked a cough and reminded, "Dad, Mom has just gotten back." He was trying to warn his father. If she gets angry and runs away again, we might not be able to bring her back again.

Benjamin tried his best to calm himself down and said, "Eleanor, have a seat first, okay? We can talk about that later. I'll have no objection if she wishes to come back to the Hutton family. However, don't you think we should discuss with her first regarding this? We should at least find out what she thinks about the idea of coming back. We might cause her trouble if we were to act on our own wishful thinking."

Eleanor looked at him suspiciously and asked, "Are you saying yes to it?"

Benjamin heaved a sigh and answered, "Eleanor, I've been thinking things through when you were away over the past few days. Indeed, I haven't been fair to her prior to this, so I'll try to

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accept her. We're not getting any younger, Eleanor. I don't want to be a sixty years old single man, and I want to be able to talk casually with my wife."

Eleanor's eyes lit up, and she asked happily, "Do you really think so?"

"Of course!" Benjamin pretended to give in to her. "Don't worry. If she wishes to come back to the Hutton family, I won't stand in the way."

Tears immediately welled up in Eleanor's eyes. It's happening! I've been looking forward to a moment like this for over twenty years. Finally, my family of five will be reunited!

"That's great! Thank you, Darling!" Eleanor said sincerely.

Benjamin was stunned for a moment. He could not help but tear up a bit as he looked at Eleanor intently. "Eleanor, this is the first time you've addressed me so ever since our eldest daughter disappeared."

"Our family is going to be perfect once Lia comes back," Eleanor uttered.

"Yes, everything will be perfect. Head upstairs and sleep, okay? When you wake up, we'll go and find her. We shall acknowledge her officially."

"No. I'm not tired. We can go over right now."

"What's the hurry? I still have to prepare some gifts to bring along. We have to give her a good impression after being apart for twenty-odd years, right? You don't look like you're in a good state, Eleanor. Here, drink a glass of milk and take a good rest. When you feel better, we'll visit her. In fact, I'm quite curious about how my son-in-law looks. I'd like to see if he's worthy of our daughter," Benjamin said lovingly.

Eleanor was tricked into drinking the glass of milk given to her. After a while, her eyelids became heavy, and she gradually fell asleep on the couch.

Upon seeing that, Amelia rushed toward her father and asked, "Dad, what did you give to Mom?"

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"Don't worry. I only added a sleeping pill. Now, she's going to get a good sleep after drinking it."

Benjamin then asked two of his housekeepers to carry Eleanor upstairs.

As Amelia Hutton was watching them carrying Eleanor, she asked angrily, "Dad, why did you give Mom a sleeping pill?"

"Well, do you want an outsider to come into the Hutton family?" he questioned.

Amelia was stumped. After hesitating for a while, she said, "No. There should only be four members in our family."

Benjamin's lips curled into a smirk. "Amelia, go and look after your mom. Sean and I will go and meet the woman who managed to even fool you. I'd like to see if she's that good. Otherwise, how did your mom end up losing her sense of logic?"

"Dad, what if Mom finds out about this? She's going to throw a tantrum again."

"Well, she doesn't need to know about it, does she?"

"Dad, what if Amelia Winters tells her?"

Benjamin narrowed his eyes and answered, "Since we're all adults, I don't think anyone would be so childish to do such a thing. Your mom is the only person who thinks so highly of familial bonds. Amelia Winters is just a commoner from a middle-class family, and yet, she managed to get married into the Clinton family. Only fools would think she's not a cunning person, and only your mom would believe her innocence."

"Dad, do you know everything about her?"

"I've already gotten someone to look into her background. She's just a promiscuous girl, and she's not worthy of being a part of the Hutton family."

Amelia Hutton trembled a little subconsciously when she heard that. Indeed, her father was truly a control freak who could go overboard with his acts. His possessiveness was terrifying enough to make one shiver.

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"Go on, Amelia. Look after your mom upstairs. I'll go and see Amelia Winters," Benjamin instructed.

"O-Okay. I'll go up now." Immediately after that, Amelia went upstairs.

"Sean, let's get going. Let's go meet this legendary sister of yours," said Benjamin.

The both of them left the Hutton residence and arrived at the five-star hotel Oscar and Amelia Winters were temporarily staying at.

When Amelia Winters saw Benjamin showing up out of the blue, she greeted him politely, "Hi, Mr. Hutton. Hasn't Mrs. Hutton gone back already?"

Benjamin faked a smile. "Ms. Winters, could we find somewhere we can sit down and talk? I'd like to thank you for saving my wife. What you did stopped me from making a mistake. Hence, I'd like to thank you."

"That's not necessary, Mr. Hutton," Amelia answered. He must be up to no good. Otherwise, why is he suddenly being so nice? I bet he's here to say something harsh to humiliate me.

"Ms. Winters, do you want an elderly like me to beg before you'd be willing to have a conversation with me?" Benjamin asked nonchalantly.

Amelia was nonplussed as she found his words amusing. The Hutton family was the one being overbearing all this while. How did I end up being in the wrong?

Right then, Oscar was walking toward them. When he saw the father and son from the Hutton family, he was startled momentarily before going up to them casually.

He held Amelia's waist and uttered coldly, "These two must be Mr. Hutton and his son, right?"

Benjamin threw the legendary Oscar a glance before reaching out his hand for a handshake. He then faked a smile and said, "I guess you're Mr. Clinton, the famous heir of Clinton Corporations in Tayhaven, right? You're indeed very young and impressive. What a talent for the new generation. An old man like me is nothing compared to you youngsters."

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Oscar ignored his outstretched hand and smirked. "Oh, don't say that. I'm nothing compared to you, Mr. Hutton. You're a person who will even lay your hands on your own wife! I'm not capable of such an inhuman act."

Benjamin's face fell when he heard that, and the smile on his face vanished in mere seconds. He then answered, "You have a good sense of humor, Mr. Clinton."

"Oh, no, Mr. Hutton. It's just that I prefer to speak honestly and bluntly. That's why my words might turn out harsh at times."

When Amelia heard that, a laugh nearly escaped her. Oscar is rather good at sarcasm nowadays.

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Chapter 576 In Vain

Oscar said calmly, "Mr. Hutton, my son is kicking up a fuss for not being able to see his mommy, so I'm afraid Amelia and I can't stay at Saspiuburg any longer. I'm sorry about that." However, he did not look apologetic at all.

With his hand quivering in anger, Benjamin had never imagined that Oscar would disrespect him this way.

Benjamin growled, "Mr. Clinton, I would only need your wife for half an hour. Can't you spare me such a short time?"

However, Oscar responded with a smile, "Mr. Hutton, I'm sorry, but I've booked our air tickets. The plane is taking off in another two hours, so we can only make it in time if we depart now. Sorry, but we'd have to make a move now." With that said, Oscar threw his arm around her shoulder and left.

Benjamin clenched his fist so tightly that his knuckles emitted a cracking sound.

Staring at Oscar's and Amelia's retreating figures, Benjamin almost exploded in a fury.

Meanwhile, Sean watched them with piqued interest. After they took a turn and disappeared from his sight, he readily admitted, "Dad, it seems like Mr. Clinton is more domineering and unyielding than what the rumors portray him to be."

Benjamin glared at him and barked, "Go home."

His face contorted with anger by the humiliation Oscar inflicted upon him, and a gnawing pain grew in his chest.

In the car, Sean asked, "Dad, so what's your plan now?"

Benjamin replied frustratingly, "What else can I do? Now that they're heading back to Tayhaven, even if the Hutton family is almighty in Saspiuburg, we can't do anything about it. Tayhaven is the Clintons' territory, and creating trouble in other's territories would not do us any good."

"Dad, are you planning to give up then?"

A cold glimmer flashed across Benjamin's eyes. "I'm not giving up. It's just that I'll have to employ other methods."

"Dad, I'm actually interested in competing against this legendary Mr. Clinton. The business circle in Tayhaven claims that he's a prodigy. It makes me wonder how amazing he is to be so highly regarded." Narrowing his eyes, Sean appeared intrigued.

He believed that if he had collaborated with Oscar, he might have a good chance of taking control of the Hutton family.

Benjamin sneered and huffily replied, "He's merely an unscrupulous spoiled brat who's from a prominent family. The business circle is full of praises for him simply out of respect for the Clintons. I can't believe he actually sees himself as a prodigy. What an insolent and ignorant brat!"

Benjamin was seething with anger after getting offended by Oscar.

At the sight of that, the corners of Sean's lips curled into a smirk.

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The more Benjamin despised Oscar, Sean would stand a better chance of getting Oscar to side with him. As the old saying went, the enemy of an enemy was a friend. He was planning on taking advantage of the fact that Amelia was his sister.

Previously, he did not know that Amelia was Oscar's wife. Fearful that she would return to the Hutton family to fight for her inheritance, Sean was willing to ally himself with Benjamin. However, the situation had changed. Currently, Amelia had the support of the Clintons, who was one of the most prominent and affluent families in Tayhaven. Unlike his stubborn father, he was not planning on wasting a golden opportunity to forge a friendly relationship with the Clintons.

With a contemplating look, Benjamin asked flatly, "Sean, what are you thinking about?"

Regaining his composure, Sean realized that he must have gotten carried away and immediately tried pulling himself together.

He played dumb and inquired, "What's wrong, Dad?"

Benjamin warned, "Sean, don't even think about it. I can see right through you."

Sean flashed an innocent smile in return. "Dad, I think you've misunderstood me. I'm simply trying to figure out a way to explain to Mom now that Amelia has left."

"It better be." Benjamin snorted coldly.

Snapping out of his thoughts, Sean dared not reveal his impetuosity anymore.

When they returned to the Hutton residence, Amelia Hutton came downstairs, and Benjamin asked, "Is your mom awake?"

Amelia shook her head.

After removing his coat, Benjamin walked past her and headed upstairs. "I'll go upstairs and have a look."

Only then did Amelia Hutton strode toward Sean and ask, "Sean, so how did the discussion go after meeting with Amelia?"

Taking a seat on the couch, Sean shook his head and furrowed his brows, looking worried.

"Sean, what's wrong?" Wary of his reaction, Amelia took a seat right next to him.

Sean snapped back to his senses and shook his head. "Everything's fine."

Shooting him a suspicious look, Amelia probed, "Sean, you're hiding something from me. I'm your sister. Can't you be honest with me?"

Sean immediately changed the topic. "Is Mom still sleeping? I'll go upstairs and take a look at her."

Amelia grabbed his hand, refraining him from leaving.

She insisted, "Sean, I'm your sister. If you're facing any difficulty, can't you just be honest about it with me? I simply want to know how the discussion between the three of you had gone."

Sean lowered his head and revealed helplessly while staring at Amelia, "She has gone back with Oscar. Dad and I didn't even manage to speak much with her. So what do you want me to tell you?"

"She left?" Amelia was in disbelief. Initially, she was planning on paying a visit to Oscar. However, she did not expect that he would be leaving so soon.

Disappointment crept into Amelia's heart.

Casting a confused glance at her, Sean remarked, "You seemed concerned about them."

After some slight hesitation, Amelia blurted, "Sean, if I tell you that I've fallen in love with my brother-in-law, will you help me?"

Sean's eyes instantly lit up, but they dimmed at the next moment. "Are you planning to snatch your sister's husband?"

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Raising her head, Amelia declared, "True love disregards one's appearance, and it overpowers any nationality and language barrier. Oscar is an outstanding person, so it makes sense for me to fall in love with him."

Sean lifted his hand and smacked her forehead as he advised, "Oscar is indeed an excellent man, and there's nothing wrong with you falling in love with him. As your brother, I definitely hope that you find your true love and that he'd be an outstanding person. But Oscar is Amelia's husband. If you interfere with her marriage, I'm afraid Mom will not let you off easily. So you better think it through."

Amelia's expression darkened as she clenched her teeth. "Sean, Mom feels guilty about the way she had treated that woman, and that's why she's so biased toward her. As her children, we should be trying to guide her to the right path instead of standing by and watching her lose herself further."

Upon hearing that, Sean turned pensive.

Amelia played her trump card. "Sean, look at how similar her appearance and mine are. If Oscar takes a liking to her, that means there's a chance for him to fall in love with me as well. By then, all you have to do is side with me. With the help from the Clintons, I believe our company can easily infiltrate the market of Tayhaven."

"As long as you're able to make him like you, I'll side with you. But on one condition, don't make things difficult for Mom. It has been a tough life for her."

"Sure."

Eleanor came downstairs with Benjamin behind her.

Sean shot up from his seat and hurriedly greeted her, "Mom, you're finally up."

Rubbing her head, Eleanor felt as if something had slipped her mind, as she had no memory of how she had fallen asleep.

Her head throbbed with pain. "Sean, how long have I been sleeping?"

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"Mom, you've been asleep for almost three hours. You must be really exhausted to have slept so long."

Subsequently, Eleanor's eyes widened in response. "I've been asleep for that long? That's not good. I'd have to make a call to Amelia and tell her that your dad and I are paying a visit. Your dad has finally agreed to acknowledge her relation to us, and I can't possibly let this opportunity slip by."

Amelia quickly caught Eleanor before she collapsed. "Mom, calm down. Amy is around. If she's sincere about it, she'll definitely agree to it, so don't worry about it, all right? More than twenty years have passed, so there's no need to be so anxious about it, right?"

Inhaling deeply, Eleanor nodded.

After changing her clothes, Eleanor urged Benjamin to follow her to the hotel where Amelia and Oscar were staying at. However, when she knocked on the door, no one answered.

After making a call to the hotel receptionist, Eleanor was informed that Amelia had checked out.

With trembling hands, Eleanor hung up the phone and gave Amelia a call but realized that the latter's phone was switched off.

"What's going on? Why did she suddenly check out? I can't reach her phone. Did something happen to her?" Eleanor worked herself into a frenzy as she went on, "No, this can't be happening. I must call the police right now. They're not familiar with Saspiuburg at all. What if they run into some bad guys? Yes, the police. I must make a police report right away."

Although Benjamin was displeased, he feigned the appearance of a gentle husband.

Benjamin comforted, "Eleanor, calm down. I think they might have rushed back to Tayhaven by plane because of some urgent matters. From what I've observed, Oscar is quite a dependable and excellent guy. So don't worry about it."

Eleanor lifted her gaze and looked at him as she questioned while sounding uncertain, "Is that so?"

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"Besides this, I can't really think of any other reason for their abrupt departure. They're not children anymore. They must have some pressing matters to attend to back home. Otherwise, it's impossible for them to leave in such a rush that they didn't manage to send you a text."

Eleanor finally heaved a sigh of relief as she sat pondering.

A few seconds later, she raised her head and cast a doubtful glance at Benjamin.

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Chapter 577 The Winters Family

"Say, did you visit Lia when I was asleep?" guestioned Eleanor.

Benjamin's smile faded slightly at her query. He replied in displeasure, "Eleanor, I'm trying to convince myself to accept her for you. Why the harsh words? Do you want me to despise her instead?"

Eleanor crossed her arms against her chest. "Don't be angry. I'm just worried about her. I'm afraid that you will act differently behind my back by putting them in a dilemma. Saspiuburg's your territory, after all. Sorry for hurting your feelings."

Upon hearing that, Benjamin's expression softened.

"Let's head back, Eleanor. I'm in the wrong too. Initially, I wanted you to consult the psychiatrist to forget about your so-called daughter. However, I realized that I nearly lost you in that way. You never know how important you are to me. I would acknowledge Amelia Winters than lose you. She's my daughter, and I know that well. I'm so sorry for my stubbornness that put you in guilt for the past twenty years. I promise that I will not do so in the future," he uttered sincerely.

Eleanor couldn't help but feel touched. "Do you mean it?" she asked in disbelief.

"Are you suspecting me after all I've done for you?" Benjamin glared at her.

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Eleanor took a step back and replied in frustration, "I don't know. You are not willing to give in in the past twenty years. It's weird that you change your mind within a few days of my absence. What are you planning? And what are your motives? Old habits die hard, you know. I won't know if you are merely putting up an act."

Benjamin snorted in response and scoffed, "Don't you think you are too much, Eleanor? Is that what you think of me after all my efforts for you? Am I such an unworthy person in your eyes?"

She moved her lips, hoping to say something. However, she couldn't come up with a word to retort him.

He sighed. "Eleanor, I hate to say this, but have you ever thought that Amelia Winters never wanted to acknowledge you as her mother?"

Eleanor's face instantly turned a nasty shade of white – her mind went blank at his words.

"No. No! It couldn't be!" she denied as she shook her head furiously.

With that, Eleanor retreated another few steps and turned to run away. However, Benjamin grabbed her in time. "Eleanor, you should face the truth."

"No! It's impossible for her to do so. She's just flustered as we gave her too little time to think of it. I shall give her another few days to make up her mind. She'll be able to accept me then!" Eleanor tried to explain herself.

"All right. She will. Calm down first, okay? Don't panic. Just give her some time. I will not stop you if she really wants to acknowledge you," Benjamin consoled. It was rare for him to be so gentle.

In the past, he stubbornly assumed that Amelia Winters was just an illegitimate child, resulting in his fight with Eleanor for twenty years. Their relationship worsened so much that they nearly divorced each other. Hence, he was surprised that she was willing to reconcile with him when he approached her with a different strategy.

I will not be so stubborn if I know how easy things are.

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After comforting Eleanor, he took out her phone secretly and blocked Amelia Winter's phone number. He then deleted it and replaced it with a similar number, not forgetting to save it as "Lia." Following that, he placed the phone back into her bag indifferently.

Eleanor emerged from the restroom after washing her hands. She then said, "Let's go back."

She wasn't in high spirits as Amelia Winters left her without a word. Her face was pale, and she looked tired.

That day, Eleanor kept holding her phone in her hands. Once she confirmed that the airplane Amelia Winters boarded had arrived at Tayhaven, she called her phone number. However, no matter how many times she called, the only thing she heard was the robotic voice of a lady stating that the phone number was unavailable.

Her hands trembled vigorously. She then borrowed Amelia Hutton's phone and dialed again but to no avail. "H-How could this be?" she mumbled in disbelief. "It can't be unavailable! I must have dialed the wrong number. Why didn't I memorize her number in the past?"

Eleanor was so frustrated she started pacing in circles, nearly scratching her head. Amelia Hutton felt heartbroken seeing her in such a state. However, that feeling dissipated when she recalled Eleanor's determination to abandon the entire Hutton family just for Amelia Winters – a familiar person, yet a stranger to them.

"Mom, calm down first. Perhaps you dialed the wrong number. Let me call her for you," she suggested.

Eleanor passed her phone to Amelia Hutton immediately. However, the latter failed to reach Amelia Winters too.

She frowned. "Mom, she may have changed her phone number."

Eleanor turned pale at her words, and her chest was heaving.

"No. Lia wouldn't do that to me," Eleanor mumbled softly.

"Mom, don't be worked up. I've told her before that you are her mother. Perhaps she doesn't hope to acknowledge you in the meantime. That is why she changed her phone number to

give everyone some time to figure things out. She just needs time, Mom. You will be scaring her off if you keep pursuing her," Amelia Hutton consoled as she faked a worried look.

Eleanor lifted her gaze and looked at her. She replied helplessly, "Is that so?"

"Mom, don't you trust me?"

"Okay. I will wait for five days. If she still refused to call me, I would look for her. I will confront her face to face."

"Mom, just calm yourself down! Can't you see that she has no intention of meeting you now? What do you plan to do when you arrive at her place? To ask her the reason she changed her number? Or why is she avoiding you? Isn't the answer apparent? Just relax, okay? I'm not against you visiting her. However, I advise you to play dumb for the moment," Amelia Hutton persuaded.

Eleanor fell into silence.

Amelia Hutton shot Sean a look. The latter understood her at once and approached Eleanor. "Mom, how about going out for a walk with me to lift your moods? We shall give Amy some time. Or else you will scare her if you keep pursuing her. After all, it isn't easy for her to accept that she is an adopted child. It must be hard for her too, right?"

Eleanor raised her hand and supported her head. "No, thanks. I shall rest upstairs."

Seeing her going up the stairs weakly broke the siblings' hearts.

"Dad, is it the right choice to do so? Mom looks sad," Amelia asked as it was unbearable for her to see her mother tearing up.

"You want that brat back?" Benjamin asked in return.

Amelia fell silent.

"Amelia, go and keep your mother accompanied," he said as his heart softened.

"All right, Dad." She then went upstairs.

Sean waited for her to leave. He then questioned Benjamin, "Dad, you know that Mom will insist on going to Tayhaven, no? If so, what is the point for you to do so?"

"It doesn't matter if she goes or not. I have various methods to ruin their relationship," Benjamin said confidently.

"Dad, you better know your limits. There is no going back once you break Mom's heart." Sean went upstairs without looking back as soon as he said that.

With that, Benjamin was left alone. His gaze darkened intensively after hearing Sean's words. It was after a few minutes before he gathered himself and walked away.

Meanwhile, Amelia Winters and Oscar arrived at Tayhaven. The former turned on her phone as she asked, "Oscar, should I give a call to Mrs. Hutton to announce my arrival?"

"Yes, you should. Otherwise, she may think that you are an impolite girl," he replied.

Amelia called three times to Eleanor. "Sorry, the number you have dialed is engaged at the moment." The female robotic voice was all she heard from her phone.

She hung up and said with a smile, "The line's busy."

"Well, let's go then. She will call you back later," Oscar uttered.

They then entered the chartered car waiting for them outside the airport. Suddenly, Oscar's phone rang. After answering it, he replied, "Okay. I will be there shortly."

Once he hung up the call, he said to Amelia, "Something's wrong with one of my project's contracts. I need to attend to it. Sorry that I can't accompany you back."

She answered, "If so, let the driver send you there. I can go home on my own."

"There's no need. Let me ask someone else to pick me up. You shall go back first. I will be back to accompany you and Tony as soon as I wrap things up."

Amelia nodded in response.

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Oscar leaned toward her and kissed her deeply. He then said in a coarse voice, "Be careful on your way home. Just call me if anything happens, understand?"

Amelia nodded.

Once he left, she received Molly's call.

"Mrs. Clinton, a couple claiming that they are your biological parents came to visit you," said Molly over the phone.

Amelia tightened her grip, which was holding her phone. A flash of emotion flickered through her eyes.

"Mrs. Clinton? Hello?" Molly called out as she didn't get any response from Amelia.

The latter returned to her senses and replied, "I'm heading back now. Molly, be sure to host them well. I will be reaching home soon."

"Sure, Mrs. Clinton."

Amelia's hand grabbed tightly to her phone even after she had hung up the call. She found it hard to calm herself down as she felt ripples going through her heart.

It had been some years since she met the Winters couple. Back in her days as a university student, they never invited her to stay back at their place during any festival. All they did was send her living expenses. When she married into the Clintons, none of the Winters family bothered to attend her wedding. Although they were her family, they treated her like an orphan. Nobody wanted her or loved her. It was Tiffany's support that helped her through those years.

That was why she had complicated feelings toward the Winters family. It wasn't true to say that she had never hated them before. After all, they were the ones being cruel to her.

Those tortures they gave her were not physical but mental. Since she was young, they always wore the same cliquish attitude toward her. Under such an atmosphere, she might have stepped on the wrong path and become less than the person she was at the present moment if it wasn't for her positive attitude.

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Chapter 578 Cruel Parents

Amelia initially thought she would be emotional to meet the Winters family. Yet, contrary to her expectation, when she saw Dominic and his wife – with their hair grayed and faces wrinkled by age – she felt no swinging of emotions except for her burning eyes.

On the flip side, the Winters couple did not wear the usual stern and cold expression that Amelia remembered as a child.

"Amelia." Dominic rose to his feet, rubbing his hands together and greeting her uneasily.

As she stared at the man who had brought her up, Amelia found the tall and burly figure in her memory had aged a lot since their last encounter more than a decade ago. His back had bent, his figure had shrunk, and his hair had grayed. He looked like an ordinary old man who hadn't seen the world.

"Dad, why have you and Mom came?" asked Amelia. The moment the word "Dad" escaped her lips, she realized with a start that her hatred for the couple was mixed with love. After all, Dominic and his wife had fostered her and given her a home to shelter her from cold wind and harsh rain. In spite of that, members of the Winters family had nonetheless mistreated her.

Perhaps not good at lying, Dominic continued rubbing his hands, his face reddened with embarrassment.

"Amelia, I don't want to lie to you. Actually, Mr. Hutton called and asked us to come. I know we hadn't treated you well, and we don't deserve to be your parents. So, it sounds rather hypocritical to say that we've come to visit you. I can't even bring myself to say that," uttered Dominic shamefully.

Amelia laughed in response upon listening to him.

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Dominic remained the same as her memory of him – straight to the point with his words. Back then, he had told her frankly not to please them, as they were obliged only to feed and clothe her but not to like her.

As a child, Amelia couldn't comprehend the profound meaning behind his statement. It wasn't until after she had learned everything did she come to understand what Dominic meant.

Nevertheless, what she didn't understand was the rationale behind Benjamin's decision to go through all the hassles by giving his own daughter away and even faking her disappearance. At the end of the day, was there truly a hatred so deep that could drive a man to abandon his daughter?

Sorrow whirled past Amelia's heart as she lamented the fact that both the Winters and the Hutton families were not willing to admit she was their daughter. Had she not married Oscar, she would probably still drift around like a rootless dandelion.

In the end, the rejection of both families had wounded her. Their indifference had hardened into a dagger and made a hole in her again.

"Dad, have you guys eaten? Why don't I ask Molly to make something for you?" Amelia grinned and changed the topic.

Dominic shook his head and replied, "Your mom and I have eaten. We came to see you today because Mr. Hutton had instructed us to speak with you."

The smile hanging on the corners of Amelia's lips slowly faded.

"Dad, so you knew about the Hutton family from the beginning?" she inquired.

Dominic nodded without hesitation.

"Yes. That year, a man in a suit held your hand and led you through the entrance of the Winters residence. It was when we needed a large sum of money to treat your mom's cirrhosis. He declared he would pay for all the medical expenses as long as I was willing to adopt you. Your mom's body was growing weaker and weaker with each passing day. We had no choice but to accept you into our home," explained Dominic.

"Why don't I remember anything about this?" Amelia was surprisingly calm, as though she was inquiring about something of little importance.

"You didn't cry or throw tantrums when you were first brought to us. Your eyes were dull, as if you were dumb. We thought we had adopted a halfwit. However, you resumed normal three days later, though you seemed to have forgotten everything that had happened and treated Melanie and me as your biological parents. We assumed you might have been traumatized beforehand, although we considered it a good thing too. At least you wouldn't bawl for your parents," recalled Dominic.

"If you'd promised the Huttons to adopt me, why had you treated me so coldly?" queried Amelia in bewilderment.

It was what she wanted to know most. Prior to the revelation, she had wanted to ask the couple before her if she was their biological daughter.

When the truth was unveiled and confirmed that she was indeed not their daughter, she couldn't help but wonder the reasons why they had treated her with such apathy and disregard. Above all, shouldn't there be at least some sort of affection after all those years of raising her?

"Actually, it was Mr. Hutton... By providing us money to treat your mom, he had two conditions to be met. The first condition was to adopt you, whereas the second condition was to not be too nice to you. Mr. Hutton saved your mom's life. He still offers us financial support from time to time. We'd wanted to dote on you, but we couldn't break our promise to him. As time passed, we became used to ignoring you. Before we realized it, you'd already grown up. We didn't know where to start, even if we wanted to treat you better, so we chose to act our usual way. We were glad that you went to university and didn't come home much because you reminded us of our past callousness, and we couldn't bear the guilt," answered Dominic as he gradually lowered his head.

Amelia smirked out of the blue in response.

She suppressed her anger and retorted, "Dad, aren't you feeling guilty? Then, why have you appeared before me ten years later? Do you really intend to rip me of my chance to reunite with my biological mother just for a mere word from your savior?"

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Dominic lowered his head. The hunch of his back deepened, his gray hair strikingly glaring in broad daylight.

"I'm sorry," he murmured.

Startled, Amelia gazed at the severe, terse man with mixed emotions. The towering valor imprinted in her mind began to dwindle bit by bit.

"Dad, are you truly sorry for what you'd done to me?" She smiled bitterly.

Melanie, who had remained silent until then, opened her mouth. "Amelia, please don't blame your dad. With the weight of favor on his shoulders, things were hard for him. He had to act aloof toward you for my sake, and I had felt bad watching. Why don't you put the blame on me? I was the one who dragged the entire family down. I've no right to ask for your forgiveness, but I've to implore you not to disturb the Hutton family. This is the only thing I beg of you, is that okay? Mr. Hutton is our savior. I'd hate to see the Huttons troubled and disturbed because of you. As long as you're willing, the Winters residence will always be your home."

Amelia eyed Melanie calmly, reflecting with irony on the limitless immorality of the couple. So much for feeling guilty for what they did to me, huh? Everything they have done up till now is inhumane. I guess Eva is the only person with a piece of humanity in her among the entire Winters family.

Melanie promptly knelt before her and wept. "Amelia, please, I beg of you. Don't disturb the Hutton family. They have their own lives."

Feeling her heart aching again, Amelia stared at Melanie as swirls of emotions engulfed her. Unable to repress her anger any longer, she finally exploded. "Mom, have you ever admitted that I'm your daughter? Just now, when Molly called me, saying that you guys were here, I actually looked forward to it, you know? I'd hoped you came to see me. Instead, what have you done? You open your mouth not to tell me you miss me or ask whether I have a good life. You don't even care if my husband treated me kindly after getting married. Every sentence you spit out is about the Hutton family. How much money exactly has the Huttons shoved into you to the point of treating me so callously like cold-blooded animals? You can ask me for money if you need it. Why don't you care about my feelings at all? Do you even have a heart? Hmm? Hmm?"

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Amelia losing her temper caused the Winters couple to stagger in shock.

Meanwhile, Molly rushed across the room and held Amelia closely in her arms. "Mrs. Clinton, please calm down. This is your home, and nobody can hurt you unless you allow that. I've phoned Mr. Clinton. He'll be back soon," she consoled.

As she spoke, Amelia regained her composure little by little.

She leaned against Molly's body and muttered softly, "Molly, send them off. I don't want to see them now."

"Okay. All right. It's all my fault. I'll ask them to leave now," assured Molly.

"Mr. Winters, Mrs. Winters, please get out. Guests with wicked intentions are not welcomed here." Molly subsequently gave an icy order of dismissal.

The couple rose at her instruction; their expressions flickered with embarrassment.

"Amelia, please, I beg of you. Please don't disturb the Hutton family," beseeched Melanie.

Still resting in Molly's arms, Amelia glanced at Melanie wearily. Her lips twitched a little, and she mumbled listlessly, "Mom, I originally didn't want to get involved in the Hutton family's matters. However, since you've forced me into a corner, I must return to my biological family, and I'll stir the entire Hutton family to utter chaos. Didn't all of you find me despicable? I'll show you, the worthless garbage in your eyes is an invaluable gem in someone else's."

Melanie stared at Amelia for a moment and suddenly pounced on the latter as though she had lost her mind. Alarmed, Molly quickly let go of Amelia and blocked Melanie's attack.

Despite her old age, Molly flung her arms with incredible strength, pushing Melanie away with a single thrust.

"What do you think you're doing, behaving like a brute in other people's home? Mrs. Clinton is kind enough not to take any actions against you. But I'm a mother too. I find your selfishness absolutely abominable. I've never seen anyone as shameless as you. So what if Mrs. Clinton is not your daughter by birth? Was there not a bit of affection in all those years that you'd brought her up?" questioned Molly sharply.

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With Melanie in his arms, Dominic peeked at Amelia with mixed feelings and whispered, "Amelia, your emotions are running high. We'll leave first. Your mom and I will visit you again on another day."

As soon as they left, Amelia, no longer able to control herself, finally burst out crying.