Too Much to Bear, My Love Chapter 621 - 630

Chapter 621 Being Mean On Purpose

As intense discussions continued on the Web, Derrick organized a press conference.

Amelia accompanied Tiffany to attend it. Oscar and Derrick were there too.

Amelia asked, "Tiff, are you nervous?"

"I'm not nervous. I've been to all kinds of author fan meetings and am long used to it. Therefore, a few reporters do not bother me," Tiffany answered confidently. She had enough of being pushed around by these persistent reporters for the past few days. Therefore, she was eager to teach them a lesson.

Amelia helped Tiffany smoothen the wrinkles on her skirt and said, "Still, it is better to be cautious. These reporters are sly and skilled at creating headlines to grab the public's attention. Thus, you have to be careful with what you say."

"I know. I will catch these reporters unprepared," Tiffany replied confidently.

Once everything was ready, a coordinator came to them and said, "Ms. Winters, it's almost time. You can enter the press conference whenever you are ready."

"Sure." Tiffany tidied her skirt and walked onto the stage as the host introduced her. She answered questions from the reporters calmly.

Amelia stood and watched below the stage. She said with a smile, "Tiff has grown up. I have never seen how she was at work. Now, I finally saw her charismatic side."

Oscar wrapped his arms around her waist and replied, "There are good reasons why she became a best-selling author. She is sharp and thinks quickly on her feet. Although she seems clumsy, she is skilled in dealing with work and people."

Amelia looked up at Oscar with a smile. "Oscar, Tiff would be elated if she hears you praising her like this."

Oscar smirked and did not comment.

The press conference went on for an hour. The reporters kept posing all kinds of questions to Tiffany. They asked whether she plagiarized her novel and posed questions about Oscar and Julian's investment in it. Then, they asked about Tiffany's love life.

Tiffany answered their questions professionally. Concerning the question about her love life, she smiled and said, "My boyfriend is the employer in my present company. He was the one who discovered my writing talent and is also a strict employer with me. He is also the boyfriend that had been with me since the beginning. Our relationship is strong, and we have plans to get married soon. I hope everyone will celebrate the wedding with us."

The reporters in attendance quickly wrote down what they heard and followed up with many more questions. Tiffany answered them one by one.

After the reporters left, Tiffany walked down from the stage. Derrick went to her and kissed her on her lips as if no one was around. "Tiff, you finally willing to admit that I am your boyfriend."

Tiffany hit his chest playfully.

"Tiff, you are amazing." Amelia came over and complimented Tiffany.

"Babe, thank you for staying here for me." Tiffany thanked Amelia sincerely.

Amelia wanted to reply something, but a loud commotion sounded from behind her.

Amelia and Tiffany glanced in the direction of the noise and saw Kate.

Kate was a beautiful woman. Her beauty exceeded most actresses. Furthermore, she usually kept a low profile. Therefore, her sudden appearance stunned the reporters who were packing their things. The other staff on the scene also stopped what they were doing and stared at Kate walk in like a queen.

Tiffany clenched her fists unconsciously. Her heart was beating rapidly.

Derrick held her clenched hand and quietly channeled his strength to her.

Tiffany glanced at him and looked into his eyes. She instantly understood what he wanted to tell her.

Lam here. Don't be scared.

Tiffany's heart calmed instantly.

Kate came to them and smiled. "Oscar is here too. Seems like a lively press conference."

Oscar gave her a polite nod.

Derrick asked, "Mom, what brings you here?"

Kate smiled and replied, "I just wanted to look at the woman who plagiarized her novel. I was curious about how she could get the heir of Clinton Corporations and a young man from the Hayes family to help her. Of course, let's not forget my silly son's unconditional assistance."

Derrick furrowed his brow.

"Mom, I have reserved a place for dinner. Why don't you join us? We can talk then," Derrick said.

Thankfully, Kate did not cause a scene. She nodded and said, "Sure, let's have dinner. I do feel a little hungry."

Then, they headed to the restaurant Derrick reserved. The hostess led them to a private dining room.

Then, the hostess brought three menus. Oscar passed his menu to Amelia, while Derrick gave his menu to Tiffany. On the other hand, Kate took a menu and said icily, "My son still doesn't know the food I like even after all these years and only cares about another woman. It seems I have failed quite badly as a mother."

Hearing Kate, Amelia and Tiffany turned to Kate at the same time.

Tiffany said, "Mrs. Hisson, I remember you liked black pepper steak. Let me order it for you."

Kate replied, "Tiffany, I don't know whether you have done this intentionally. I have weak digestion. The doctor advised me to avoid spicy food. Yet, you wish to order something spicy for me. What are you getting at?"

Tiffany turned pale.

Amelia tried to salvage the situation and said with a smile, "Mrs. Hisson, Oscar and I have dined here before. The duck casserole is quite nice. It is fragrant and flavorful. If you would like to try it, I can order one."

Kate smiled and replied, "Amelia, you're the best. No wonder Oscar loves you so much. You are kind and thoughtful. If I have a daughter-in-law like you, I would never complain." In other words, it meant she disliked having Tiffany as her daughter-in-law.

Tiffany took the menu back mutely and looked down at it.

Meanwhile, Amelia's smile stiffened slightly. "Mrs. Hisson, you're too kind."

Then, she remained silent too.

After ordering the food and giving instructions to the server, the private dining room sank into silence for some time.

After a minute of silence, Kate chuckled and said, "Oscar, I heard you have invested in the film adaptation of Tiffany's novel. People said that she plagiarized other people's work for this novel. There is an uproar about it on the Internet. How magnanimous of you to have invested in such a trashy and plagiarized novel. I'm quite impressed."

Tiffany's hand trembled on the table. Her expression darkened.

Derrick's eyes flashed with anger as he said, "Mom!"

Kate smiled at Derrick and said gently, "What's wrong?"

Derrick frowned and said, "Mom, I published Tiff's novel and knew the story better than anyone. Therefore, I assure you that there is no plagiarism. Furthermore, she is a talented author. Otherwise, how is she able to impress numerous readers? She is now a best-selling author. As her boyfriend, I am proud of her. If I marry her, I would have no regrets."

Kate's smile faded slightly.

She sent Derrick an inscrutable gaze. Then, her expression fell as she turned to Oscar and Amelia.

"Derrick, are you saying I am deliberately causing her trouble?" Kate said indignantly.

Kate's sudden accusation made everyone tense.

Suddenly, the hostess served the food and eased the tension in the air.

Once the food had arrived, the hostess said, "Ladies and gentlemen, please enjoy your meal."

After the hostess left, Kate smiled as if she did not lose her temper just now.

"Derrick, have some baked cod. I remember you loved this." Kate suddenly behaved like a gentle and loving mother.

Amelia and Tiffany exchanged glances and saw the frustration in each other's eyes.

Kate smiled and said, "Oscar, this plagiarism issue must have caused you many problems. Please don't blame Derrick. It is the fault of certain talentless someone who insists on taking others as their own. My son, Derrick, is an extremely patient man. Otherwise, he couldn't have started a company by himself."

Oscar replied briefly, "It's not a problem."

Kate ignored his disinterest and continued cheerfully, "Oscar, you are an outstanding man. That is why you have the beautiful Amelia as your wife. I hope Derrick will marry a daughter from a wealthy family. However, he refuses to listen to me and keeps infuriating me."

Oscar put some food on Amelia's plate before turning to Kate and saying, "Mrs. Hisson, are you saying my god-sister is nothing compared to others? Tiffany is like a sister to me. I won't stand and do nothing if something happens to her. Perhaps, are you saying that the Clintons are unworthy of the Hissons?"

Kate blinked in disbelief. "Oscar, are you joking?"

"I don't think this is something that one should joke about. Don't you agree?" Oscar replied.

Kate's smile faded, and the atmosphere in the room instantly became tense.

For the rest of the dinner, everyone had something on their mind. Thus, the dinner was awkward.

Kate checked her delicate fingers and smiled like a noble lady. "Oscar, Amelia, I enjoyed the dinner with you tonight. Let's meet up for a meal again one day."

After that, she turned to Derrick and said, "Derrick, can you send me home? I haven't had the chance to talk to you properly for a long time. I missed spending time with you."

Derrick immediately turned to Tiffany.

Tiffany said, "Derrick, you should send Mrs. Hisson back. I can go back with Amelia and Oscar."

"Be careful. Remember to call me once you are home, okay?" Derrick could not help but worry and reminded her.

Kate's expression darkened as she watched Derrick and Tiffany's interaction.

"Derrick, it's time to go." Kate entered the car straightaway. Thus, Derrick had no choice but to get in the car too.

Meanwhile, Tiffany watched Derrick's car moving away and sighed defeatedly.

"Tiff, don't worry. We are here with you." Amelia went to Tiffany and comforted her.

"Let's leave too." Tiffany headed to the car and sat in the backseat.

Amelia said helplessly, "Oscar, let's go."

Then, Oscar and Amelia got into the driver seat and front passenger seat respectively.

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Chapter 622 An Injury To The Head

Tiffany slumped against the backseat and said, "Amelia, can you send me home first?"

Amelia looked at Tiffany worriedly. "Tiff, are you okay? You don't look so good."

Tiffany placed a hand to her chest and replied, "I'm just a little panicky and furious. I will be fine in a while."

"You mustn't let what Mrs. Hisson said bother you. She is Derrick's mother, so don't think about the harsh things she said," Amelia advised Tiffany.

"I'm not angry with her. Instead, I'm angry with myself. If she were not Derrick's mother, I wouldn't have been able to control my temper. I would have beat her up. When we were having dinner, I could not stop myself from imagining what it would be like to beat her up. I fear that I might lose control one day and punch her. That would have felt nice." Tiffany was still able to crack a joke.

Amelia chuckled in amusement.

"Don't think about it. Mrs. Hisson will eventually realize what a good person you are. Time will reveal a person's true character. As long as you treat her well, she will eventually see how much you and Derrick love each other and relent," Amelia continued.

"I hope that is the case. However, Mrs. Hisson hates me too much. It is difficult." Tiffany did not hold any hope that Kate would change.

Amelia did not know what else to say to comfort Tiffany. During dinner just now, Kate kept verbally attacking and mocking Tiffany. Thus, Amelia predicted that Tiffany and Derrick would have to put in a lot of effort for their relationship to succeed.

It may even end in a tragedy.

Oscar sent Tiffany back to her neighborhood. Tiffany got out of the car and said goodbye to Amelia before entering her apartment block.

After Tiffany disappeared into the building, Amelia turned to Oscar and looked at him lovingly, "Oscar, I suddenly realized that I am fortunate. Although your parents were not

completely happy with me, at least they did not cause us trouble. I am truly thankful for that."

"Don't worry. The Hissons will eventually accept Tiffany. Old Mr. Hisson is a shrewd businessman. He would not simply let go of the chance of a deeper alliance with the Clintons," Oscar explained calmly. "Tiffany and Derrick will get married eventually, so don't worry about it."

Amelia looked at Oscar puzzledly. "How are you so sure?"

"Old Mr. Hisson is not an idiot," Oscar replied. "He is an intelligent man. Thus, he would naturally want to have a closer relationship with the Clintons and ally with us."

"The news that you accepted Tiff as your god-sister had gone out long ago, but Old Mr. Hisson hasn't done anything. Furthermore, Mrs. Hisson continued to look down on Tiff. Are you sure Old Mr. Hisson would accept Tiff?" Amelia asked doubtfully. When it concerned Tiffany, it was difficult for Amelia to rely on her logical mind to determine who was more advantageous in this situation.

"Honey, trust me. I am confident that Old Mr. Hisson is following the situation from afar. He is trying to determine how much influence Tiffany has over us and see if I would help her. I have helped Tiffany with the past few difficulties she faced. That would show Old Mr. Hisson that I valued her as my god-sister," Oscar said.

Amelia considered it for a while. There were still things that she did not understand.

"Oscar, has anyone told you that you look incredibly handsome when you are serious?" Amelia remembered a pick-up line from the Internet and put it to use.

"Are you saying that I don't look handsome on normal days?" Oscar teased.

"You're always handsome, but I feel you are most handsome today," Amelia replied.

Amelia and Oscar continued to tease each other. Suddenly, Amelia received a call from a hospital.

She pressed to answer it and went pale. "What happened? How did someone hit Dad's head? Is he okay? Okay, I will head there now. Please take good care of him."

Then, Amelia hung up and said with a frown, "Oscar, we have to go to the hospital. Someone injured my father's head. I'm worried about him."

"Sure." Oscar sped up the car and brought them to the hospital in half an hour.

Amelia rushed into the hospital and took the elevator.

After coming out of the elevator, she continued to run until she saw Melanie. "Mom, what happened? Why did someone attack Dad?"

Melanie looked at Amelia as if she had found her pillar of support. She grabbed Amelia's hand and cried, "Your brother is an insolent fool. Your father criticized him a little. Then, he lost his temper and threw something at your father. It hit your father's head and knocked him out. Your father is being treated in the operating room. Why is my life so unfortunate? My son is ill, and my husband is knocked unconscious by our son. If anything happens to your father, how am I to live?"

Amelia frowned and forced herself to calm down and comfort Melanie.

"Mom, please calm down. We are at the best private hospital around. There is James and other outstanding doctors, so Dad is in good hands. Don't frighten yourself. Oscar and I will be here. We won't let anything happen to Dad," Amelia said.

"Amelia, you must save your father. I think Spencer didn't mean it, so don't blame him," Melanie pleaded.

Amelia felt uncomfortable when she heard that. Even now, her mother still protected Spencer and disregarded her husband's well-being.

Amelia did not know whether to feel anger or pity that her mother valued her son so much and disregarded everyone else.

Since the importance of having a son to pass down the family name was deeply ingrained in Melanie, Amelia realized it was pointless to scold her for covering up for Spencer.

Suddenly, the light over the operating room door went out, and a doctor came out of the operating room. Amelia rushed to him and asked, "Doctor, how is my father?"

"There is nothing serious. We have bandaged his wound," the doctor said.

Amelia breathed a sigh of relief.

Then, Dominic walked out of the operating room with the support of two nurses. Melanie rushed to him and asked, "Dominic, are you all right?"

Dominic's head hurt badly, so he replied softly, "I'm fine. Don't worry about me."

Then, he noticed Amelia and Oscar and forced himself to smile. "Amelia, Oscar, you're here."

Amelia said, "Dad, I hired two caretakers to keep watch on Spencer. You and Mom should stay in a hotel for a while. It is too tiring for you to take turns watching him in the hospital."

Melanie became afraid that Amelia would do something to Spencer. Therefore, she said urgently, "There's no need for that. Your father and I can do it. You don't have to concern yourself with this."

Amelia smiled and did not press the matter.

On the other hand, Dominic was overwhelmed by the pain in his head and said, "Thank you, Amelia. I would like to have a good sleep in a bed. I have enough of that useless son."

"Dominic, are you crazy? How can you let Amelia hire caretakers for Spencer? What if they do something to him?" Melanie said urgently.

Dominic glared at her furiously.

Amelia did not seem bothered by what Melanie said, but Oscar narrowed his eyes and was displeased with Melanie.

Melanie realized that she had misspoken and smiled awkwardly. "Amelia, I didn't mean it. Please don't take it to heart."

Amelia shook her head.

"Dad, I had someone arrange a presidential suite for you to rest. You will feel better after a good sleep. I think Mom can stay here to watch Spencer. Then, she wouldn't have to worry about me sending people to harm him," Amelia said calmly.

Melanie turned pale upon hearing her.

"Oscar, let's send Dad to the hotel," Amelia said.

Oscar nodded.

He and Amelia supported Dominic on each side and entered the elevator. However, Melanie remained on her spot and glared at them as they disappeared into the elevator.

"Amelia, this hotel is too grand. It must be expensive. Why don't we change to a simpler place to stay." Dominic looked at the exquisitely decorated suite and became frightened by the cost

"Dad, don't worry. Oscar invested in this hotel. Therefore, we can use the presidential suite for free," Amelia said.

"Really?" Dominic remained uncertain.

Amelia nodded and calmed Dominic.

"Amelia, please don't mind what your mother said just now. She was worried about Spencer," Dominic explained apologetically.

"I'm fine. Don't worry. Dad, didn't you and Spencer get along? Why did he suddenly throw things and hurt you?" Amelia asked.

Dominic instantly fell silent.

"It's okay, Dad. You don't have to tell me if you don't want to. Anyway, you should have a good rest. Oscar and I will keep guard outside the room. We will leave when you are better," Amelia said.

Dominic's eyes flashed with guilt. He opened his mouth as if wanting to say something but stopped himself.

"Dad, you should go to bed. Oscar and I will be right outside," Amelia reminded.

Dominic looked at Amelia and nodded.

Too Much to Bear, My Love Chapter 623

Chapter 623 Unappreciated Affection

After Dominic fell fast asleep, Amelia and Oscar purposely went to the hospital, wanting to ask James about Spencer's condition. Who knew that they would stumble upon him being forcefully kissed by a woman, none other than Eva, in his own office.

Amelia was shocked to the core by the unexpected sighting, popping her eyes wide open.

It was beyond what she could've ever imagined!

Oscar let out a cough that jolted James out of the moment, and the latter quickly pushed Eva away. He immediately tried to explain the situation. "Oscar, it's not what you think it is. She and I are not in a relationship whatsoever. This woman had gone mad and literally threw herself on me."

Eva, on the other hand, appeared unruffled. "Hey, Amelia. When did you and Oscar get here?" she asked with a smug smile.

"We just got here, actually. I wasn't expecting to see such a fiery scene, though," Amelia teased.

Eva shrugged and there was a rare tinge of meekness in the way she looked at the man she had just kissed.

"James, since both Amelia and Oscar saw us kiss, be a responsible man and marry me, will you? I don't know what else you could do other than that." Eva's assertiveness clouded the meekness she had.

However, James repelled himself away from her as if she was some sort of contagious disease and diverted the topic she was on. "Oscar, Amelia, I believe you are here to have more understanding about Spencer's current condition, right?"

Eva wanted to sit next to James, but the latter was eager in keeping her at a distance. "Stay right where you are!" He almost screamed.

Seeing that James resisted her, a trace of sadness clouded her eyes. Despite that, she shrugged her shoulders and acted as if she wasn't at all affected.

"James, aren't you too shy for a guy?" She tried to dissipate the awkwardness.

James was absolutely speechless. He genuinely didn't like a woman too brazen and not ladylike. Although he was a foreigner, when it came to his partner of choice, he preferred a lady who was gentle and temperate in mannerisms. Eva's androgyny and tomboy behavior, not forgetting how she forced herself onto him, wasn't something he was comfortable with.

"Amelia, Spencer is in a stable condition. He shall undergo the operation when my mentor gets in next week. Bear in mind that a certain level of risk is to be expected from cirrhosis operations. The success rate is going to be at seventy percent tops even if my mentor and I worked together as Spencer was being injected with some sort of medicine that worsened his cirrhosis. If that didn't happen, I could be almost certain that the operation was going to be successful." James put on a grim look and gave his thought on the matter.

"I believe you," Amelia responded. "Also, I was wondering if Spencer's ailment would change his temperament drastically?"

"Yes. Not only will he lose weight day by day, but the excruciating pain he has to go through will also be so bad that even painkillers won't help. Anyone's temperament would be affected if they were going through what Spencer was in. By the way, I heard that Mr. Winters was beaten up. I'll talk to Spencer regarding that as I believe he would somehow listen to a doctor."

"Thank you, James." Amelia expressed her gratitude.

"You're most welcome."

Eva was lost in their conversation. "What do you mean by being beaten up? Spencer hit Uncle Dominic? When was this? How come I knew nothing about it?"

Amelia then gave Eva a rough picture of the incident.

Slam! Eva smashed her hand onto the table and stood up in fury. "How dare Spencer do such a thing! Uncle Dominic emptied his every asset to pay for Spencer's medical fees, and Spencer repaid him by hitting him? This is unacceptable! I have to teach him a lesson or he would assume that he can get away with such atrocity."

Eva was someone who was extremely fast in realizing her actions, and by the time she finished her sentence, she was already at the door.

"Stop, Eva!" Amelia called out to her, and Eva did come to a halt.

"Yes, Amelia?" She was confused, though.

"Look. You're going to give him a beating, and my Mom is going to stop you. Are you planning to beat her up too?"

"Don't be ridiculous. Do I look like that kind of person?" Eva frowned.

"Since you're not going to get her out of your way, how are you going to beat Spencer?"

A moment of silence ensued before Eva came up with another plan. "How about I sneak into his ward in the middle of the night and do what needs to be done?"

"And how are you going to explain the situation if complications arose in the process?" Amelia threw her another question.

"Em..." Eva didn't have a solution for that and sat herself back down on the chair.

Amelia turned toward James, and again, thanked him for all he had done for Spencer thus far.

James nodded.

Eva then skipped her way and plunk herself in front of the doctor. "James, I'm counting on you for my happiness in the future too." She gave a cheeky grin.

"Eva, please, stay away from me." James bounced backward as he muttered those words.

"Come on, James. What's there to be shy about? I know you like me," Eva laughed, and that vexed James.

There was no way he could fall in love with someone as bold as brass. In his opinion, a girl like that was too immodest for his liking.

Amelia noticed James' scrunched-up face and tried to prevent things from getting worse. "Eva, stop making fun of James. Oscar and I are going home now, so come with us. Tony is missing you already."

"Indeed. Eva, go home with Amelia. I still have one more operation to go, and you'll be bored by yourself here alone." James went with the flow and asked Eva to leave although the latter didn't really want to.

Eva looked at him with the saddest puppy eyes, which sent chills down his spine.

"Okay. I'll go back with Amelia. Remember to eat the food I made for you. I went to the farmer's market early in the morning to get all the ingredients and all your favorite dishes." Eva reminded him about the food she had packed for him.

"Sure. I will."

Eva's pulled-down lip corners went back up, and she left with Amelia. "Oh, I left my phone at James' office. You and Oscar can wait for me downstairs. I'll be down in a jiffy." While waiting for the elevator, Eva made an excuse to go back to James' office and dashed before Amelia could respond.

Carefully, she opened the door and popped her head into the room silently as she wanted to give James a surprise. What knocked her out of her whimsical mood was the content of the trash can—the food she made for James. That man had heartlessly thrown the food, which was made with so much love, away.

Glumness took over her, and she couldn't help but wallow in sadness as she stared at the wretched scene. She would've landed blows on any man who dared treat her effort like trash and made sure they'd be more respectful in the future, but she couldn't do it to James.

She exited the office and closed the door behind her.

Thoroughly disheartened, she took the elevator down and got into the car.

"Hey, Eva, are you alright?" Amelia checked on the dispirited Eva.

"I'm okay." It was rare to see Eva losing her vigor, and that was a bad sign.

"Did James bully you?"

"Him? Bullying me? He should be thankful that I didn't bully him as he's no match for me," Eva huffed.

"Good to hear that everything's in order." Amelia didn't prod further as she thought it'd be a better idea to get home, sit Eva down, and talk about how the latter should go about wooing men. The way she was doing would only chase men away.

When they got home, Tony, who was playing with Molly, chucked his favorite toy aside and ran to Amelia. He hugged her calf tight and let out a sweet whine. "Mommy, I miss you."

Different from her usual reaction, Eva didn't go up to hug Tony when she saw the interaction between the mother and the son. Instead, she started imagining a similar scene for herself in the future.

"Aunt Eva, are you okay?" Tony looked up at Eva with his clear round eyes in the most adorable way.

Eva responded by stroking Tony's peachy cheeks. "I'm just wondering when I'll have a cute son like you."

Amelia glanced at her, slightly surprised.

"You're going to have a very cute baby after you get married, Aunt Eva." Tony words were so innocent.

"I do want to get married." Eva sighed and blurted. Provided that he's willing to.

"Aunt Eva, you look weird, but I believe that someday, a very brave hero riding a broomstick will marry you."

Tony's sincere hopes tickled Eva pink and drove all her sadness away.

She lifted the young boy and galloped her fingers under his armpits, sending him into a frenzy of giggles. "H-H-Haha! Stop, Aunt Eva! Stop! Forgive me. I'll never say that you look weird ever again!"

"Say that Aunt Eva is the prettiest woman on earth," Eva commanded.

"But I think Mommy's the prettiest."

Eva went on tickling Tony and his laughter got louder and louder.

Tony was a smart boy, but he was just a child. It was only natural for him to like anyone who was playing with him.

After the tickles and the giggles, Eva asked Tony to get her a glass of juice.

Smack! Without notice, Amelia slapped her on the back of her head. "Go get it yourself."

"Hmph. You're such a bully, Amelia." Eva sulked and pursed her lips.

Amelia didn't know how to respond.

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Chapter 624 To Forgive

Amelia asked Tony to play with Oscar and called Eva into her bedroom.

Casually, Eva asked, "Amelia, don't tell me you're going to reveal some of Oscar's deepest secrets."

"Eva! Now, tell me how things between you and James are." Amelia was dead serious with her interrogation.

That took Eva aback. "I don't get what you're trying to ask." She and James were never in a relationship. To prove that further, James dumped the food that took her two hours to prepare into the trash can.

"Eva, I can tell what's happening, you know?"

"Amelia, if that was the case, why are you asking me? Does it amuse you to see me mortified?" Eva angrily pressed her lips together.

"Eva, from the way you and James interacted, I could tell that James was trying to push you away. I'm not against you chasing after happiness, but I can't agree with the way you did it so forcefully. As a girl, I think it'd be better for you to be more reserved." Amelia gave her honest opinion on the matter.

"Amelia, you could just tell me straight that James isn't into me." Eva felt defeated.

"If you could tell that he doesn't fancy you, why are you still fluttering around him like a butterfly?"

"It was love at first sight, and it took me a lot to finally decide to go after him. Don't be deceived by my over-friendliness with him. Honestly, I'm really scared to sense any contempt from him. The only way for me to appear strong and confident in front of him was to act the part." Eva finally laid her armor down.

Amelia stroked her head and consoled her. "Eva, if you really wanted to be with him so badly, you should start by working on your appearance. James is very smart and capable, and it's only natural for him to have high expectations of his partner. That's why you will need to have a full makeover. What do you think?"

Eva looked down at the clothes she was wearing but didn't see anything wrong with it. As for her hair, she quite liked the way it was styled.

"Amelia, don't you think this hairstyle is pretty cool?"

"It is, but to me, it looks like you went for the cheapest haircut in a salon. It's lacking finesse and makes you look like a delinquent. If I were James, I would never be attracted to you." Amelia was brutally honest with her remarks and almost killed her cousin with words on the spot.

"Are you really my cousin, Amelia?"

"Only a real family won't sugarcoat her words. I've always thought you were just fooling around with James, so I didn't nose around. However, now that I know that you're serious about this, I have to treat it seriously too. If you trust me, let me give you a full makeover from head to toe. If you don't, I'll stay out of it."

"I trust you." Eva didn't hesitate.

"Very well then. First things first, we are going to dye your hair back into its original color now."

"Now?"

"We have no time to waste. Hold on a second, are you trying to say that you like this nest-looking bleached hair?"

Eva wanted to say yes, but when she thought of the possibility of James falling for her new image, she relented.

After that, Amelia took Eva downstairs and gave Oscar a kiss on the lips. "I'm going to the salon to have Eva's hair dyed. Can you take care of Tony?"

Ignoring Eva and Tony, Oscar wrapped his hands around the back of the head of his wife and carried on with the kissing.

When he was done, Amelia was blushing uncontrollably.

Eva's jaw dropped when she saw that. "Good job, Oscar!" she whistled.

"You're a Big Meanie! How could you bully Mommy!"

Eva flicked her finger on Tony's forehead and educated him. "Tony, we don't call this bullying. It's called the kiss of love. When you have a wife in the future, kiss her like that, and she'll be loving and loyal to you forever."

Amelia gave Eva a sidelong glance. "There you go again with your nonsense, Eva."

Eva immediately shut her mouth.

After that, Amelia drove Eva to a hair salon where the former regularly patronized.

The moment they stepped into the salon, A fair, slender, and tall man dressed in the latest fashion walked toward them in a feminine way.

He then threw Amelia the warmest hug.

"Amelia, it's been ages since you came. I thought you didn't want to come here anymore," He whined.

"Haha, Jimmy, I might forget everyone but never you. I've brought my cousin here today and would like you to get her a suitable hairstyle.

Jimmy Barr scanned Eva from head to toe and gave a subtle but contemptuous scoff.

"Oh my god. This is my first time seeing such a horrible hairstyle! It's doing disservice to such a pretty face. What a shame, but you're lucky to have met me. Worry no more as I will transform you into a beauty." After dissing Eva, Jimmy went on to blow his own trumpet.

Eva wasn't impressed. "Amelia, are you sure he can do the job? He's a sissy, and I could tell that he leeches on rich women. Spare my hair, will you?"

"Excuse me? I don't leech on rich women, mind you!"

"Jimmy, she's still a kid. Let it be."

"No man will like a tomboy like her. Her hair isn't the only issue." Jimmy vented his anger.

"You wretched lover boy, I was being nice, and this is how you treat me in return? Fine. You want a fight? Let's fight." Eva was as cross as two sticks.

Amelia pulled a long face. "Apologize, Eva."

A woman didn't have to be pretty, but she must at least have basic manners.

Eva was reluctant and kept her mouth sealed tight at first, but under Amelia's baleful eyes, she yield in and said sorry.

Jimmy accepted her apology with grace.

After three hours of calculated snips here and there, Eva looked like a different person.

She now had sleek black hair that stopped around her ears, making her face look smaller than it was. It was definitely way better than her punk style.

"Ms. Winters, once we've removed the enigmatic makeup on your face and get you changed into something more appropriate, I guarantee that you will turn heads once you walk out of this salon," Jimmy said.

Eva rolled her eyes. "Since you've done a good job with my hair, I'll let what had happened between us slide."

Jimmy then stretched out his right hand with his palm facing upward in front of Eva. "I won't allow anyone to destroy my creation. Come, let me rid you of your horrendous makeup and we'll pick some suitable clothes for you after that."

"You offer this kind of service in your salon?"

"You get to enjoy the premium service, exclusive for our Diamond VIP members, only because you're Amelia's cousin."

Eva ignored Jimmy's gesture and got off the chair on her own. "Let's get the ball rolling."

She then followed Jimmy into a room.

About two hours later, Eva walked out of the room, brandishing a scintillating look that was a world apart from her previous punk style.

She wore a black jumpsuit with a diamond-studded belt around her waist—the perfect combination to show off her hourglass figure, looking enchanting in every way.

Yet, she herself ruined the image and crippled the forbidding aura in less than a second.

"Hey, Amelia! This is weird, no?" Eva announced her confusion. It was her first time putting on something more formal and she didn't feel comfortable at all. She still preferred distressed jeans with holes here and there and tops ornamented with trinkets. Something so plain and classy wasn't really her style.

Amelia got up, evaluated Eva from head to toe, and complimented Jimmy on the good job he had done. "Jimmy, this is perfect just like always. Wonderful job accenting Eva's assets in the best way possible."

Jimmy wasn't shy about accepting the commendation. "You bet. I styled this whole look, and no one does it better than I do."

Eva rolled her eyes at his confidence and walked to the mirror. She was stunned by her reflection.

What a beautiful lady! It was beyond her expectations.

"Amelia, is that really me in the mirror?" she asked in amazement as she had never imagined that she could look so beautiful.

"Eva, do you like this final outcome?" Amelia chuckled.

Eva nodded her head and unwillingly acknowledged Jimmy's capabilities. "I didn't know a sissy like him was capable of making a transformation like this."

Amelia didn't like the way Eva talked about the stylist. "Eva, Jimmy has a name, and he's not a sissy. Everyone in the salon says that he's dashing and plenty of girls out there wanted to be his girlfriend. Being courteous is the least you can do, Eva."

"Okay. Got it." Surprisingly, Eva was submissive this time.

Fully satisfied, Amelia turned to Jimmy. "Jimmy, I'll transfer you the money directly into your account as a token of appreciation for giving Eva a whole new image."

"Haha, Amelia, the pleasure is all mine. I'll take it as a reward for taking on this experiment. It's not easy to turn her back into a human."

Eva fumed at Jimmy's comments and would've made him pay for humiliating her if it weren't for Amelia's presence.

"Jimmy, you still speak like a maddened witch. Do watch your tongue, though, as this cousin of mine is a pro in kickboxing and mixed martial arts. I'm not sure if I'd be able to protect you now that you've offended her," Amelia chuckled.

Jimmy gave Eva a contemptuous look. "That explains everything. I would believe this tomboy if she said she's the strongest human on earth."

"How dare you!"

"Enough, Eva. We're leaving." Amelia was holding her laughter in.

Eva sulked as she followed Amelia out of the hair salon.

"Alright now. Stop frowning. Jimmy can be spiteful with his words, but he's quite a nice person. Being a famous hairstylist, a lot of socialites from high society flock to him to get

their hair done as his magic hands could turn any woman attractive. You might need his help in the future, so don't be too rough on him," Amelia advised.

Eva pouted her lips

"Eva, don't go to the hospital before I perfect your look," Amelia added out of the blue.

"You must be kidding, Amelia," Eva stared straight into Amelia's eyes.

"Do you want to leave an astounding impression on James?"

"Yes, Amelia. Have you already found a way?"

"While Jimmy was working his magic on your makeup and clothes, I've contacted an etiquette coach. You're going to spend an hour with her every day, and I guarantee you that you'll see a drastic change in the way you carry yourself in less than three months."

"But Amelia, I coach rough fighters and brutes, and it's natural for me to be hoyden and speak loudly. How am I going to make my students listen if I was transformed into the most graceful goddess?"

"A goddess can do the job too, and I believe it'll make things easier too. You know, no man would want to lose face in front of a pretty lady."

Eva's cheeks flushed all of a sudden.

"Amelia, you're making me so shy with your praises," Eva muttered.

Amelia replied with a smile.

"Eva, you'll be more outstanding in the future. I'll groom you into an exceptional woman whom no man could possibly forget if that's what you wished for. My only concern was that you might lose yourself in their ever-pouring admiration and compliments."

Eva only shrugged. "Amelia, no matter what my image is, be it a dazzling goddess or a punk, I'll never change."

"That's what I'm hoping for. Anyway, Eva, you have to bite the bullet to achieve greatness. James is a man of high standards, and you'll have to up your game to be in his league. Even after you've won his heart, the competition between you and other women, who have their eyes on him, will never end. Are you ready for that?"

"Hahaha!" Eva cackled.

"Amelia, I'm not that complicated. I simply like him and wanted to go after him. Your life in high society had made you suspect every intention of others, I guess. As you can see, regardless of the clothes I wear, I'm still the rowdy Eva. To be honest, I don't really like clothes like these as it's too restraining for me. However, I'm willing to change for James."

Amelia was taken aback by Eva's determination.

"Very well then, Eva. Go after James with that spirit, and I believe that he'll be yours one day. By the way, I'm going to hire a relationship coach for you so you could learn how to seduce a man."

Eva couldn't hold her giggles. "Amelia, let's not do that. I'm good at being energetic and lively. The day I turned demure and quiet is the day I'm defeated by relationships."

"Whatever floats your boat."

Amelia then sent Eva home.

"Amelia, thanks for sending me back."

"Don't worry about it. I'll pick you up for your first etiquette lesson tomorrow evening. You'll have to go there on your own after that, and I'll check on your progress with your coach." Amelia had everything planned.

"So rush?"

"Move along. I still need to go out with Oscar and Tony. That child had been badgering about going out the past few days."

"I see. Enjoy the rest of your day with your family!"

After Eva got off the car, Amelia drove back home.

The next few days were very peaceful for Amelia, and time flew past just like that.

Finally, it was the day of Spencer's operation. Amelia chucked her work aside and went to the hospital with Oscar.

The couple and James' mentor got there right after Spencer was pushed into the operating room by a group of surgeons and nurses.

They shot the breeze for a bit until the mentor told James that he had to prepare for the operation, and asked James to go into the operation room once he was ready.

After the mentor went in, Amelia looked at James and laid her hopes on him. "James, Spencer's life is in your hands now. Please, make sure he's safe."

"Leave it to me. I'll do my best."

Melanie was like a cat on a hot tin roof. "Dr. James, please, save my son. I don't know how I'm going to live if he died."

"Mrs. Winters, don't worry. Saving lives is my duty as a doctor. I'll give my all to make sure he's okay."

After easing their worries, he went into the operating room.

"Oscar." A gentle voice of a lady was calling Oscar's name.

Amelia froze in shock and traced it to the source. It was no one other than Olivia.

Little did she expect Olivia to be at the hospital, and Tony was in her hands!

Oscar was also shocked by her presence, but he managed to mask his feelings.

"Dad, Mom, what brought you here?" Oscar asked.

Tony instinctively stretched his arms toward Amelia for her to hug him but was reprimanded by Olivia. "You little rascal, disposing of Grandma the moment you see your Mom?"

Tony immediately planted juicy kisses on Olivia's cheeks. "I love Mommy and Grandma the most!" he declared and that did the trick—Olivia was delighted.

After Amelia took Tony over from Olivia, the former asked, "Mom, are you feeling unwell?"

"I heard that Spencer is going to have an operation today, and that's why I got Owen to come here with me," Olivia spoke in an ice-cold tone.

Yet, Amelia knew it very well that Olivia had forgiven her for being too impulsive in the past.

"Thank you, Mom."

Olivia softly nodded.

Too Much to Bear, My Love Chapter 625

Chapter 625 Remarry

Olivia walked up to Melanie and Dominic, and she said gently, "You guys are Amelia's parents, right? I'm Amelia's mother-in-law. My husband and I were caught up with something regarding our daughter, and that's why we haven't shown up here. Please forgive us."

Melanie and Dominic couldn't help but feel self-conscious when they were approached by the rich and elegant Olivia. Somehow, the anxiousness they felt due to Spencer's surgery had vanished.

"H-Hello," Dominic stammered. "It's such a shame we've only met for the first time after Amelia had already been married for so many years."

Olivia smiled modestly and answered, "Don't say that. I should thank you for raising such a wonderful girl in Amelia. Oscar is lucky to have found her, indeed. Besides, she'd also given me such a cute grandchild. You guys have seen him, right? Isn't he the cutest?"

"Y-Yes. He's quite cute," Dominic answered awkwardly.

Olivia glanced at a bench nearby and uttered with a smile, "Mr. and Mrs. Winters, do you guys mind sitting down to have a chat with me? Amelia had been so shy to tell us about her life when she was a child. Since you guys are here, I'd like to know if she was a mischievous girl in her childhood."

Dominic nodded.

Melanie, however, grumbled softly, "What is this? How can she smile and joke when my son is still in surgery? What a rich snob."

Although Melanie thought she was speaking softly, everyone at the scene could hear her clearly because the corridor in the hospital was rather silent.

Hearing that, a hint of dissatisfaction flashed across Olivia's eyes. Despite how she felt, she managed to maintain her elegance and graciousness.

Dominic simply glared at her before smiling apologetically at Olivia. "Mrs. Clinton, please forgive her. She's just worried about Spencer."

Olivia faked a smile. "It's all right."

Probably because Melanie wasn't any good at socializing, Olivia decided to act courteously.

The four of them sat down and engage in idle chit-chat. Due to Melanie's myopic mindset, she more or less revealed her displeasure with Amelia in her words. Hence, Olivia's attitude toward Melanie was rather indifferent.

Only then did Olivia realize why Amelia had restrained from telling her anything about Melanie and Dominic. If I was in her shoes, I would probably do the same as well.

"Mr. Winters, may I know what kind of illness your son has? Is it serious?" Olivia asked casually.

Before Dominic could answer, Melanie quickly chimed in, "How could it not be serious? Would he need surgery if it wasn't serious? Mrs. Clinton, are you standing up for Amelia just because you're her mother-in-law? Why are you being so sarcastic? As I've told you before, my son will be fine."

Olivia was stunned momentarily, and her face darkened.

"Melanie, what are you on about?" Dominic scolded softly.

At the same time, Amelia's expression had also changed. "Mom!"

Melanie raised her gaze and looked at Olivia with a conflicted expression. She then acted weakly and said, "I'm sorry. I think I'm just too worried about my son. I'm not in my best mental condition right now. Please don't take it too personally, Mrs. Clinton."

In response, Olivia merely forced a smile.

At that instant, the atmosphere turned cold.

After that, everyone just engaged in small talks until the lights in the operating room were switched off. When the door to the operating room was opened, a group of doctors was seen coming out of the room.

"Dr. James, how's my son?" Melanie rushed up to him and asked anxiously.

"Mrs. Winters, calm down. We'd still need to observe the patient for the next forty-eight hours. If he doesn't show any signs of rejection by then, he'll recover. Otherwise, we'd need to perform a second surgery," James answered truthfully.

Melanie furrowed her brows and asked, "Why does he need a second surgery? Will his body be able to go through another surgery? His health condition had always been poor."

"Mrs. Winters, we'll only treat him based on his condition. Rest assured, we won't operate on him if he doesn't need it. Also, we'll do our best to provide him with the best treatment," James answered patiently.

When the nurses brought Spencer out of the operating room, Melanie went along with them hurriedly. Before leaving, Dominic said to Amelia, "Amelia, look after Mr. and Mrs. Clinton in the meantime, okay? I'll follow them."

Amelia nodded.

Dominic then followed his wife.

After that, Amelia said to James and his mentor, "James, Professor, thank you."

"We're just carrying out our duties as doctors," James answered.

As for James' mentor, he uttered, "Don't worry, Amelia. James will follow up with this case from now on. Since I have surgery to perform in Anglandur, I've got to leave soon. If there's anything, kindly get James to contact me."

"You're leaving already, Professor? Stay for a meal, will you? As the host, I have to treat you to a meal!"

"That's all right. We shall have a meal next time, okay? I'm in need of a nice Chanaean meal!"

"Okay. Oscar and I will keep that in mind, Professor."

"All right."

After sending his professor off, James returned and said, "Mrs. Clinton, it's been a long time since we met! You're still as beautiful and elegant as always!" James' praises were sweet.

"Thank you for your kind words, James." Olivia smiled and added, "You've gotten more and more impressive!"

"It's all thanks to Oscar. Without his investment, I wouldn't be able to open up such a big hospital in Chanaea. In a way, I'm actually working for Oscar!" James graciously gave Oscar credit.

"Well, your personal capabilities played a role as well. Otherwise, you wouldn't have achieved anything, no matter how much Oscar had helped," Olivia answered.

"Thank you for believing in me, Mrs. Clinton. I'm overjoyed!" James bowed respectfully.

Seeing that, Olivia was amused. "Although I haven't seen you in a while, you're still as humorous as ever, James."

"Well, it's my honor to receive a beauty's praises!"

Right then, Tony interrupted, "Grandma, I'm hungry. Can we go eat?"

Hearing that, Olivia instantly became gentle. "Are you hungry, Tony? Okay. Let's go eat!" Olivia carried Tony into her arms and invited James to join them. "James, let's go eat together."

"I'd surely not refuse a beauty's invitation! However, I'd still need to check on Spencer. Perhaps some other time, Mrs. Clinton?"

"That's such a pity."

On the other hand, Amelia wanted to stay behind to check on Spencer. She then changed her mind when she remembered how Melanie had acted moments before.

Amelia assumed that Melanie wouldn't want to see her. It's safe to say that she might even be hating me now.

Hence, Amelia and Oscar proceeded to send Olivia and Owen to their car. Amelia then glanced at Olivia and said apologetically, "Mom, I didn't expect you'd come over today. I'm sorry."

Olivia fixed her hair and replied pleasantly, "Since we're a family, you don't have to apologize. However, I guess you've had a tough time all this while. Your mom doesn't like you very much, does she?"

In response, Amelia smiled. "I'm so sorry you had to see that, Mrs. Clinton."

"Stop calling me that. You should remarry Oscar tomorrow and give Tony a proper family." Olivia had compromised and caved in.

Hearing that, Amelia widened her eyes in shock.

"What? Are you surprised?" A faint smile appeared on Olivia's face.

Amelia was on the verge of crying because she didn't expect things to develop at such a rapid pace. She thought she'd need to use the rest of her life to earn Olivia's trust and forgiveness. Who would've thought that my happiness would arrive so soon?

Amelia choked a little when she asked, "Mom, why?" She wanted to know why Olivia forgave her all of a sudden.

"You should thank Tony! Indeed, you have a smart and thoughtful son. He's been so sweet to me, and he kept telling me that he wanted his parents to be together. Hence, how could I possibly let him grow up in a single-parent household?" Olivia smiled warmly.

"Thank you, Mom!" Amelia was on the brink of tears.

"Stop it. We're a family, remember?" Olivia then reached out to carry Tony into her arms and kissed his cheeks lovingly. "Tony, would you like to stay with me tonight?"

Tony wrapped his arms around Olivia's neck and kissed her cheeks twice before saying, "Grandma, I'll go look for you tomorrow, okay? I can't sleep well without mommy by my side."

"You're so ungrateful!" Despite saying that, the love Olivia had for Tony was beyond what words could describe.

After playing around with Tony for a while, Olivia and Owen left in their car.

Upon sending them off, Oscar grabbed Amelia by her waist and said, "Honey, since Mom has said so, perhaps we should get our marriage certificate tomorrow. What do you think?"

"How could I defy Mom's request?" Amelia answered with a teary-eyed smile.

Oscar wiped off her tears gently and uttered, "When did you become such a crybaby?"

In response to that, Amelia laughed through her tears.

After that, the family of three went back home and slept a peaceful night in the same bed that night.

Too Much to Bear, My Love Chapter 626

Chapter 626 Played Like A Fiddle

The next day, Oscar brought Amelia to the City Hall to get remarried. With her marriage certificate in her hands, Amelia was feeling happy and startled at the same time. In fact, she was overwhelmed with mixed feelings.

After exiting the City Hall, Amelia was still unable to regain her composure.

Right then, Oscar wrapped his arm around her waist and smiled. "What's wrong? Are you too happy?"

Amelia turned around to look at the same old City Hall and couldn't help but smile. "Over two years ago, we arrived at this City Hall at around the same time in the day to get our divorce certificate. At that time, I was suffering from insomnia, and I thought I'd never see you again in my life. Who would've believed this drastic turn of events? In the end, you're still the man standing right beside me."

Oscar held her chin and kissed her passionately. When he was done, he looked intently at Amelia, who was in a daze. With a smile, he said, "When you left without saying a word, I've gone to extreme lengths to get you back. Doesn't that mean you're bound to spend the rest of your life with me?"

Amelia slowly regained her composure and flashed him a half-smile. "Oscar, you're getting more and more thick-skinned, aren't you?"

"If not? How would I be able to make you my wife all over again?" Oscar smiled.

Perhaps it was because things were looking good, but Oscar was in a very good mood that day. He kissed Amelia on her lips again and said, "Take some time off, and maybe we should have our honeymoon in Baxrich."

Amelia leaned on his chin and was amused. "It's not like it's our first time getting married. Others are going to make fun of us if we were to have another honeymoon."

"Why would they? I bet they're going to be so jealous of me because I've landed a beauty once again!" Oscar boasted.

At that moment, Amelia could tell that Oscar was over the moon.

"I've already talked to Mom about it, and she's going to personally plan our wedding ceremony. I want everyone to know that I'm taken!" Oscar said.

"Don't, Oscar. Since we've already done that once, I don't think we should do it again. Not only is it troubling, but the media is also going to judge us. All I want now is to live a peaceful life, and I have no interest in extravagance anymore. Can you promise me you won't hold a wedding ceremony?" Amelia raised her gaze toward Oscar and asked with sincerity.

"Are you sure?"

Amelia shook her head in response.

"All right, then. We won't have a wedding ceremony."

Hearing that, Amelia broke into a smile. "Let's head home, shall we? I'll cook you a nice meal to celebrate our remarriage."

"Sure!"

Despite being denied a wedding ceremony, Oscar was still in high spirits. When he went to the office the next day, he told three of his bodyguards to bring candies and gifts to the office so that they could distribute them among the employees. Besides, Oscar told them to announce his remarriage to Amelia to everyone in the office. The bodyguards said, "Boss is now a married man, and he's overjoyed. Hence, he'd like to treat everyone to a dinner at a five-star restaurant after work."

All the employees were in shock when they received the news. As everyone was talking about it in the office, Isabella soon received the news as well.

When the other employees were discussing it among themselves excitedly, Isabella, who was in disbelief, glared at them and scolded, "What nonsense are you guys talking about?"

Although the other employees were wary of Isabella's status and identity, they never liked her because she was cocky. As they were happy to hear about Oscar and Amelia's remarriage, they were also gloating at Isabella's misfortune.

"Ms. Walker, we were told by Mr. Clinton personally, and he'd even gotten his bodyguards to send us wedding favors and gifts. Besides, we were also told that there will be a fest for us after work. Since we're all happy to hear about Mr. Clinton's remarriage, can't you just be happy for him as well?" one of the female employees plucked up her courage and asked.

Hearing that, Isabella's expression changed drastically. She then immediately walked away in her high heels. Due to her hurriedness, she'd almost slipped and fell down when she was entering the elevator.

With her sprained ankle, she entered the elevator with teary eyes. At that moment, she was on the verge of crying.

She then raised her head and held back her tears. I mustn't show my vulnerability. However, I've just been utterly humiliated by all my colleagues at Clinton Corporations. Oscar knows how much I like him, and yet, he'd showed me no respect!

Isabella got out of the elevator and stomped toward Oscar's office. Immediately, two of his secretaries went up to her and said, "Ms. Walker, Mr. Clinton isn't in. May we know what you are here for?"

Isabella glared at them and fumed, "Get out of my way! Otherwise, don't blame me for not treating you like my colleagues."

"Ms. Walker, please don't make our lives difficult. If you haven't made an appointment with Mr. Clinton, there's no way we're letting you in," the secretaries answered anxiously. They didn't want to end up like Linda. Since Clinton Corporations paid well and gave a ton of benefits, only a fool would want to leave.

Despite what she heard, Isabella shoved the secretaries aside and barged into Oscar's office.

Seeing that, the secretaries explained themselves instantly, "Mr. Clinton, we've tried to stop her. It seems like Ms. Walker has something urgent to tell you, so she ignored us and barged in. We're sorry."

Isabella couldn't be bothered at this point. She uttered, "Oscar, I heard them saying that you've reconciled with Amelia. Is that true?"

In response, Oscar merely threw her a casual glance. Perhaps it was because of his remarriage, but he wasn't as cold and heartless as usual.

He then waved at the secretaries and said, "You two may leave."

"Yes, Mr. Clinton." The secretaries felt relieved and closed the door after they left.

Oscar then whipped out a cigar, but he didn't light it up.

In a calm tone, he asked, "I've gotten remarried with Amelia. However, what does that have to do with you?"

Isabella looked at him with hurt in her eyes. "But Oscar, everyone in the company knows I've been after you. Besides, everyone in the high society knows we're getting engaged soon. What am I going to do now that you've remarried?"

"How is that my problem?" Oscar asked nonchalantly.

Isabella was so anxious and angry that she almost lost her basic sanity. "But everyone knows I love you! How am I supposed to show my face after what you've done?"

"Your face? What does that have to do with me?" Oscar's face darkened, and he stood up abruptly. "Since I've only gotten remarried, I'm going to let you get away with your stupidity. Get back to work at this instant! Otherwise, Clinton Corporations is not going to let a lazy employee like you stay in the company."

Hearing that, Isabella's face flushed red with fury.

Finally, she broke into tears and yelled in devastation, "How could you get remarried? Mrs. Clinton told me herself that I could marry into the Clintons! Since I've been by your side for over two years now, I don't believe that you still don't have any feelings for me! I don't believe that!"

Indeed, having self-confidence is commendable, but when she overdid it, she became despicable.

"Are you done? Get out!" Oscar had ordered her to leave. "Even without Amelia in the picture, I still wouldn't fall for a woman as dense as you! Although you have the looks, you're still a stupid woman in my eyes."

Upon hearing that, Isabella sobbed pitifully. "I'm going to look for Mrs. Clinton to clarify this! She'd already made me a promise! I don't want to get messed around by her." Isabella held her head high and left arrogantly. Despite being humiliated by Oscar, she refused to let him see her feeling inferior.

Oscar merely glanced at her before getting back to his work. I have no reason to waste my breath on a stupid woman like Isabella.

Isabella left Clinton Corporations under gloating stares from the others. At that moment, she was fuming with rage, and it seemed like she was about to erupt in anger.

As the Clintons were playing her like a fiddle, those who were watching were just enjoying the show. None of them cared how she felt.

Isabella was utterly dissatisfied. These people are such bullies! I'm a daughter of Walker Group. While everyone else is trying to butter me up, the Clintons have played me like a fool! I mustn't let this slide. Otherwise, how am I supposed to look at myself in the mirror?

Too Much to Bear, My Love Chapter 627

Chapter 627 Consensus

By the time Isabella arrived at the Clinton residence, she'd managed to hold her emotions in check.

"What brought you here, Isabella?" Olivia was sitting on the couch calmly when she flashed a warm smile. It was as if she had no idea Oscar had just gotten married to Amelia.

Upon seeing that, Isabella was so angry that her veins had started throbbing in her neck. After taking a deep breath, she managed to calm herself down after a few seconds. She then forced a smile and said, "Mrs. Clinton, I've come here today to verify the news of Oscar and Amelia getting remarried. Is that true? Although everyone in the company is talking about it, I refused to believe them. Hence, I came to ask you personally."

"Yes, they've indeed gotten remarried. I've approved it because Tony is all grown up now, so I don't want him to keep staying in a single-parent household," Olivia answered warmly.

Anger welled up in Isabella's chest once again. How could she go back on her words like her promises to me meant nothing? She'd promised me that I'd become her daughter-in-law! Not only is she not upholding her promises, but she's also acting like she hasn't done anything wrong! Could it be that all the Clintons are just untrustworthy?

"Mrs. Clinton, didn't you promise me I'd become your daughter-in-law? Why are you going back on your words now?" Isabella clenched her fists tightly and tried to suppress her anger.

Still, Olivia looked at her warmly and replied lovingly, "Isabella, I have no problem having you as my daughter-in-law. However, I'm sure you're aware of the fact that Oscar has no feelings for you. Instead of clinging to him, why don't you let him go? Not only are you pretty, but

you're from a prominent family. You should get out there and find another man with similar qualities."

Isabella gazed at Olivia and let out a mocking sneer. "Mrs. Clinton, I've been treating you nicely for so long. In fact, I've even been caring for you like you're my biological mother. Who do you think I am? Do you think you can just chase me away with a few words of yours?"

The smile on Olivia's face soon faded. She then looked at Isabella apologetically and said, "I'm sorry, Isabella. I've tried to match you up with Oscar, but he's still not interested in you. I don't want to waste your youth, so I've decided to just end your sufferings now. I've come up with an idea, though. Since you're not going to be my daughter-in-law, would you like to be my goddaughter instead?"

Isabella clenched her fists tighter, and the veins on the back of her hand bulged.

She gritted her teeth and asked, "Are you feeling sorry for me, Mrs. Clinton?"

"Why would you think that, Isabella? My love for you is sincere! I'd like to be able to treat you like my own daughter."

"That's enough!" Isabella abruptly stood up from the couch and glared at Olivia. "Mrs. Clinton, I don't need your pity. I've come here today to seek justice, but it doesn't seem like you're able to give me that. In that case, I don't wish to be in a place where I'm not appreciated. However, Mrs. Clinton, there will be consequences for you breaking your promises."

The expression on Olivia's face instantly darkened.

"Isabella, you're still young. Please don't act on your anger," Olivia urged patiently.

In response, Isabella looked down at Olivia and chuckled coldly. "Mrs. Clinton, thank you for your advice, but I don't need it. I shall leave now."

With that, she turned on her heel and left. She'd shown no sign of the usual respect she had for Olivia.

After stepping out of the main entrance, she turned around and glanced at the Erihal-styled mansion. For the humiliation I've received today, I will definitely take revenge in the future. It's never too late to take revenge. One day, I'll take all of you down.

After that, she straightened her body and left the scene without turning back.

Still sitting in the living room, Olivia was getting riled up. She glanced around and whipped out her phone to give Carol a call.

Olivia gave Carol a summary of Isabella's antics that day before telling her about a piece of good news. She was hinting to her she'd been preparing for Noah and Stephanie's wedding. Once she'd decided on the date, they were to get married right away.

Olivia then added, "However, it seems like Isabella is utterly infuriated. In good faith, I've encouraged her to find someone else because Oscar isn't interested in her. To my dismay, she'd misunderstood me. Please comfort her on my behalf. I'm willing to acknowledge her as my goddaughter. When she gets married in the future, I'll give her a generous dowry."

Hearing that, Carol immediately answered, "Don't worry, Olivia. I'll talk to her. Regardless, it's a good thing that Oscar and Amelia are getting remarried, and they deserved to be congratulated. Isabella was wrong to barge in and cause a scene. I'll get her to see you and apologize to you."

"Oh, don't say that. In fact, I haven't handled the situation well. Please bring her here tonight, and I'll talk to her about it again. Even though she can't be my daughter-in-law, she can still be my goddaughter. I'll love her like my own." Olivia had laid her traps.

"You're too kind, Olivia. I'll bring her over tonight to apologize to you. All right, then. I'll get her to see me at once." After hanging up the phone, the smile on Carol's face faltered, and she looked grim.

After falling silent for a long while, she picked up the phone to call Isabella.

The phone rang for a protracted period before someone picked up.

"Isabella, where are you? Be home in one hour. I have something I need to talk to you about," Carol uttered.

With that, she hung up the phone.

Isabella had only returned home an hour and a half later.

"Mom, what is it? Why did you need to see me so urgently?" Isabella sounded a bit angry.

"Did Oscar and Amelia get remarried?" Carol asked directly.

Carol's words were undoubtedly adding salt to Isabella's wounds.

At that point, Isabella's expression turned grimmer.

"Yes." The word was gritted out through her teeth.

"Did you go to the Clinton residence to cause a scene?" Carol asked.

A hint of mockery flashed across Isabella's eyes, and she sneered. "Did that old hag complain to you right after I left?"

Carol looked at Isabella menacingly. "Why would you say that?"

In response, Isabella sneered again.

Carol softened her tone and said, "Isabella, I know you've been mistreated. But since it'd already happened, don't dwell on it any longer, okay? We just need to think of a way to get the most out of the Clintons now."

"Mom, do you see me as a tool for you to get benefits?"

"What? Are you willing to leave the Clintons empty-handed after working so hard for the past two and a half years?"

Isabella remained silent.

"Follow me to the Clinton residence tonight. Even if you can't be Olivia's daughter-in-law, being her goddaughter is still a good deal. That'd at least stop people from talking. We should also let those who look down on the Walker family know that one of you is getting married to the Clintons' daughter, while the other one had become a goddaughter of the Clintons. With the Clintons' support, our family business is bound to make a comeback. By then, others would have to butter us up," Carol uttered.

"Must I go, Mom?"

"You can choose not to go if you wish to end up with nothing."

Hatred flashed across Isabella's eyes as she fell silent for a while. After that, she gritted her teeth and uttered, "Okay, I'll go. I want the Clintons to see that they're the ones who are missing out. When the Walker family grows stronger, I'll definitely destroy the Clintons."

In response, Carol merely smirked and didn't refute her words. That was the first time the mother and daughter reached a consensus.

Too Much to Bear, My Love Chapter 628

Chapter 628 Just Enough

That night, Carol took Isabella to the Clinton residence.

"Olivia, it's Isabella's fault for causing you so much trouble. I'm truly sorry about it." The moment Carol entered the living room, she intentionally humbled herself.

Olivia glanced at Isabella and sneered, "I'm partially at fault too. Young people tend to do things impulsively without thinking of the consequences."

"Olivia, you are right. That's what I told her too. She's very devoted to Oscar, and that's why she can't accept the fact that he is getting back with his wife again. But after talking to her for hours, she has finally come to terms with it." With that, Carol looked at Isabella and said, "Isabella, after all, Olivia does dote on you. Don't you have anything to say to her?"

With her head bowed, Isabella apologized, "Mrs. Clinton, I'm sorry. I didn't mean to argue with you. But, Oscar's decision to rekindle his marriage is a huge blow to me. My mind went blank at that moment. All I wanted to do was to look for you for answers, and that was what happened. I'm very, very sorry about it. I really didn't mean to upset you."

It was only then that Olivia was appeased.

"Isabella, I should have been more thoughtful. All I think about is to give Tony a complete family and end up ignoring your feelings. I'm sorry about that."

Olivia had put on such a great show and saved Isabella from being embarrassed. If Isabella continued to be unreasonable, the consequences would be dire.

Isabella was well aware that there was no way she could go up against the Clintons as of now. Hence, she could only accept Olivia's apology, but she was no fool. She had already lost the man she loved. If she really offended Olivia, it would only make matters worse for herself.

"Mrs. Clinton, I'm also at fault. Please accept my apology and let bygones be bygones. Is that all right?" Isabella went along with it out of respect for Olivia.

Olivia appeared to be very pleased and realized that Isabella had potential. She did love to socialize with intelligent women after all.

"Olivia, I have forgotten to send you my congratulations on the rekindling of the marriage between Oscar and Amelia. Do you plan to have another wedding?" Carol sat down and asked about their plans.

"Initially, we plan to organize another wedding. But, Oscar says that it will be meaningless if we hold the wedding too many times. In the end, we decide to just invite some friends for a meal and be done with it," said Olivia indifferently.

Carol nodded and did not probe any further.

Olivia glanced at Isabella and said, "Isabella, I want to take you in as my goddaughter. Have you given any thoughts about it?"

Before Isabella could respond, Carol jumped in. "Of course, this is a good thing. Isabella has always treated you as her closest relative. Before coming here today, she has even told me that if she can become your daughter-in-law, she will definitely take good care of you and keep you accompanied. When the news of Oscar renewing his marriage comes out, it hit her very hard. No matter what, she isn't fated to be your daughter-in-law. Now that you want to take her in as your goddaughter, she must be so happy."

Olivia smiled wryly and said, "Don't try to console me. Earlier today, Isabella said that being my goddaughter is only a consolation, and I am only doing it out of pity for her. I can't tell if she is happy with my decision. Isabella, am I right?"

Isabella looked up and said with a gentle smile, "Mrs. Clinton, I'm very fond of you, and you know that. I will be very honored to become your goddaughter."

"Fine then. One of these days, I will organize a function and introduce you officially as my goddaughter. This way, it will stop many people from gossiping," said Olivia. That was also meant as compensation for Isabella. After all, if Olivia failed to handle the situation between the Clintons and the Walker family properly, it would be an insult to the Walker family. Furthermore, Stephanie insisted on marrying Noah. She had to watch what she did. If not, Stephanie would suffer once she was married to Noah.

"Olivia, I know you have put in a lot of effort for Isabella. In the past, she was too immature and upset you. Once you have acknowledged her as your goddaughter, you should give her a piece of your mind," said Carol with a smile.

Olivia shook her head. "Isabella is an understanding child. Perhaps, I have promised her too much in the past and failed to deliver in the end. In fact, I'm the one who has broken my promise to her. Why don't I do this? Tomorrow, I will host a banquet and invite some of our closest friends. This way, I can introduce Isabella to them officially."

"Isn't this too grand?" asked Carol. "If you over-indulge Isabella, she may become too arrogant."

Even though Carol said that, deep in her heart, she was jumping with joy. Only a fool would allow such a great opportunity to pass by.

"I doubt it. My goddaughter deserves only the best."

"Isabella, thank your godmother."

Isabella said obediently, "Thank you, Godmother."

The change in the way Isabella addressed her sounded so natural.

Olivia smiled. "Good girl." She removed a red item from her handbag and opened it up. There was a sparkling bangle in it. "Isabella, I have picked this specially for you as my goddaughter. Do you like it?"

Isabella perused it and said, "I can tell it costs a lot. I'm afraid I can't accept this present."

She pretended to return the gift. Once again, Olivia handed her the bangle and said, "Put it on. I have chosen this specially for you."

In the end, Isabella accepted the present.

"Thank you, Mrs. Clinton."

After staying at the Clinton residence for nearly two hours, both mother and daughter finally decided to leave.

Once they got into the car, both Carol and Isabella's hearts sank.

Isabella threw her new bangle aside and said spitefully, "This old hag is too much. She thinks that she can placate me with one bangle. What does she think I am?"

"Don't break it. Otherwise, when she asks to see the bangle, you won't be able to produce it," advised Carol. The earlier episode with Olivia was too exhausting for Carol. Her face was about to get cramps from all those smiling. Obviously, she was not in the mood to put on another smile.

"So what if it breaks? You don't expect me to treat it as a piece of treasure, do you?" said Isabella with disdain. With a depressed look, Isabella continued, "What goddaughter! Before this, she promised me that I would get to marry Oscar. Now that her grandson has returned, everything has changed. I can't wait to kill that little bastard. My dream of marrying into the Clintons has been dashed because of him. On top of that, I have been made the laughingstock. I won't let this go."

"Then, what do you intend to do? Olivia has already done everything she can for you. It's better to be her goddaughter than to have nothing at all," responded Carol in frustration.

"Mom, you take her side just because she has given some small favors?" asked Isabella as she glared at her mom.

"Enough. Just be a good goddaughter of the Clintons. Perhaps, that will give you more opportunities to get closer to Oscar. When the time comes, you can win his heart back. No one says that a godbrother and a godsister cannot be together," said Carol with a sinister look.

"Mom, you mean-"

"You can't get close to Oscar as an admirer, but as his godsister... Do you understand what I mean?"

All of a sudden, Isabella's eyes lit up.

"Mom, I understand what you mean now." Suddenly, Isabella was in high spirits once again. "Mom, you're really my lucky star. Once I have the Clintons under my control, I won't forget to help out with our family."

"Just remember what you say today. It's not easy for Noah to handle the company all by himself. As his sister, you should also help him obtain some investment if you can. Tomorrow, Olivia will be introducing those friends to you, won't she? Don't forget to put in a few good words for Noah."

Surprisingly, Isabella was not even angry. Instead, she smiled and said, "Mom, don't worry. I will make sure Noah is being looked after as well."

Carol nodded and said nothing more.

Too Much to Bear, My Love Chapter 629

Chapter 629 Introduce Her To The Industry

The following day, Olivia hosted a banquet at Hotel Van Hutton. She reserved the entire five-floor building and invited all the rich and famous from Tayhaven. Each of the guests showed up with their family members, and that was a great honor to Olivia.

As soon as all the distinguished guests took their seats, Owen and Olivia walked in gracefully. Smiling, Olivia announced, "Thank you everyone for taking time out of your busy schedules to attend this function. There are three things we would like to celebrate tonight. First, my son and daughter-in-law have rekindled their marriage, and they now live a blissful life as a family of three. Second, I've been blessed with a second goddaughter. Third, my daughter is tying the knot soon. I'm pretty sure that you know who my future son-in-law is. Yes, he's none other than Noah Walker, the eldest son of Walker Group."

The guests stood up one by one to congratulate the Clintons for their triple happiness.

Olivia was over the moon. The smile on her face never ceased, and she was in an exceptionally good mood.

"I'm going to keep you in suspense for a while before introducing my goddaughter." Olivia chuckled.

A beautiful socialite teased, "You're playing hard to get, aren't you, Olivia? Where did you learn this from? We are dying to find out who is this lucky lady that has found favor in both your and Owen's eyes. Come on, tell us now, and don't be so cheeky! We can't wait already."

"People say that daughters are caring and sweet like cotton candy. She's my newfound precious girl. Let me keep her with me longer before all of you try to snatch her away," Olivia joked.

"What do you take us for, Olivia? Haha... You're getting more mischievous as you grow older," the other guests chimed in.

Owen and Olivia could not help but burst out laughing.

On the other hand, all eyes fell on Oscar, Amelia, and Tony the moment they made their grand entrance because the dolled-up family looked so gorgeous.

As soon as Olivia saw her beloved grandson, her eyes glowed with warmth, love, and an unmistakable twinkle.

She strode over to carry Tony. "Oh, my dear boy, you look dashing today! I nearly couldn't recognize you."

Tony pecked both her cheeks and said as though he was an adult, "Grandma, everyone is looking at us. You must take care of your reputation first. It will be awful if your hair looks unkempt."

His cuteness melted Olivia's heart. Logic and elegance don't matter at this precious moment.

She truly loved this grandson of hers to the core, to the extent that she could do anything for him. For examples, forgiving Amelia and letting Oscar remarry her despite how resolute Olivia was in the past about these two agenda.

The guests were observing Tony. Some of Olivia's good friends even came up to him and introduced themselves. "Hi Tony, do you remember me? I spoke to you at a party last time."

Tony scanned them with a pair of big, rounded eyes. Then, he replied in a serious tone, "Of course I remember! All of you are pretty ladies, just like Grandma."

Women were always flattered with sweet talks, especially when praises were sung by such an adorable child. They were so delighted to interact with him.

"Oh my heart! You're such a cute darling. Tony, you're very handsome too. I'm certain that you're going to be a future heartthrob." The socialites had only good things to say about Tony.

Proudly, he acknowledged, "That goes unsaid!"

His antics caused everyone to titter in glee.

All guests, regardless of gender, could not hold back from praising Tony's wit. Olivia had been on cloud nine the entire night upon hearing all the wonderful comments about her grandson. They made her way happier than the times when she purchased branded handbags and designer clothes.

What greeted the Walker family when they appeared at the banquet was a scene where many were seemingly worshipping Tony.

A tinge of jealousy and disdain flashed across Isabella's eyes.

She bit her lips real hard until she was reminded by Carol. "Keep your cool and dignity. This isn't your house. Everyone here is influential, wealthy, and well-known in the industry. You can forget about marrying into one of those prominent families should they have a bad impression of you."

Taking a deep breath, Isabella nodded. "All right, Mom. I know what to do, don't you worry."

Nodding, Carol asked Noah, "When will Stephanie arrive?"

"Perhaps in another half an hour. She's just done with her shopping spree," he answered indifferently.

It was obvious that Carol was rather upset, but she fought to keep her emotions at bay.

"Hi Owen and Olivia, sorry for being late. We were stuck in a bad traffic." Carol faked a wide grin as she strode across the hall. Nobody noticed the change in her emotions.

Olivia replied pleasantly, "We are the early birds. Anyway, the party hasn't started." In other words, I bet she's trying to imply that there's no match for the Walkers, and it's only natural for them to be fashionably late.

Carol pretended not to read between the lines. "Since we are the late-comers, my husband and I will surely make a toast to everyone as soon as the party begins."

Everyone gave knowing smirks as soon as she said that.

The Walkers did not face much success in their business within the last three years. In fact, their development in the country had been stagnant, and the books were nearly in the red. Those who shared the same social circles knew that they were beyond hope. Had it not been for their connections with the Clinton family, the others would have kicked them out of the rich and famous group.

Rumor had it that there were no secrets in the high society. Everyone knew if one was loaded or otherwise.

Olivia ushered the family to their seats and asked in a whisper, "Noah, where's Stephanie?"

Noah replied patiently, "She's on her way here. Several handbags that she has been eyeing for are finally launched. So, I let her go get the new arrivals with her girlfriends."

Olivia was quite satisfied with Noah. After all, a mother would always desire for her daughter to live a totally blissful life, no matter how bad her temperament or dispositions were.

"Noah, you can't spoil her rotten. She's going to marry you soon. If all she knows is shopping to her heart's content, it's going to be very challenging for you," Olivia said casually.

"Don't worry about us, Mrs. Clinton. Besides shopping for the latest goods, Stephanie is quite caring to me." Noah gave the perfect textbook answer. His mannerisms had won him many hearts of the elderly. There was nothing that Olivia could complain about him.

Then again, Noah was either a ten out of ten, a real gentleman or he was superb at pretending to be one.

Olivia had no idea about his true personality. Considering that the two families were going to become one, she would rather believe that Noah was a good man with a noble character.

When Stephanie arrived much later, Olivia shot her a glance and made her sit down. Then, she declared, "Hi everyone, the time has come for me to introduce my goddaughter."

Instantly, everyone's gaze fell on her.

Olivia stood up alongside Carol. "I'm not going to introduce my son, daughter-in-law, and grandson since they have made an impression just now. Today, let me take some time to introduce my goddaughter. She's Isabella Walker. I'm aware of an old rumor between Oscar and Isabella, that they were going to be engaged. I'd like to clarify that it was a misunderstanding. I've always wanted to take Isabella as my goddaughter. Therefore, she's been quite close to Oscar. Initially, I couldn't care less about any gossips. But on second thoughts, I should clear the air for Isabella's sake. Henceforth, she's my goddaughter. Please extend care and concern to her when you meet her personally."

Oscar did not feel anything upon hearing the announcement because Isabella was like a stranger to him.

"Mom, if you insist on taking Isabella as your goddaughter, then do I address her as my sister or sister-in-law when I marry into the Walker family? This is so confusing!" Stephanie grumbled with a frown.

Olivia was taken aback. She had not thought about the implications of her action. All she wanted to do was to compensate Isabella as promised.

"Stephanie, we're about the same age. Hence, we can call each other by name even after you and my brother get hitched. Let's not complicate ourselves with these petty titles, shall we?" Isabella suggested graciously. "One thing for sure, we're going to be besties. Apart from that, I don't see any other issue."

Stephanie mulled over it for a while and nodded.

"That works. In the future, I'll treat my in-laws as my parents, and you ought to do the same with mine." It was rare for Stephanie to utter something so sensible.

Isabella merely smiled.

Though the official announcement had been made, the guests could tell that there was a hidden agenda behind it. High societies were full of juicy gossip and axes to grind. Each of the attendees had their own fair share of dirty laundry. The way forward was to turn a blind eye to them all; live and let live.

The guests congratulated Olivia for adding a new family member. They also commented how fortunate she was to have gotten such an obedient, thoughtful, and pretty goddaughter. No one brought up about the entanglement which involved Isabella and Oscar, for it had sort of become a taboo.

Too Much to Bear, My Love Chapter 630

Chapter 630 Let It Be

In the midst of all the congratulatory voices, Tony asked an innocent question, "Grandma, why do you want to make her your goddaughter when she's actually not your daughter?"

Olivia cast a look at him whereas Isabella's body stiffened. The latter clenched her right fist, knowing that whatever might come out of his mouth could ruin her grand plan.

This boy is destined to be my nemesis! He's so wicked. He's a devil in disguise who schemes against others at such a young age!

Isabella cussed profusely.

This boy is too dangerous not to be removed. If he stays, he'll surely be a stumbling block to my success. Anthony, don't blame me for being cruel. Instead, you should blame yourself for being a smart alec who destroys all of my plans. Thus, I can't keep you in the family only for all of my efforts to go in vain.

Isabella's head dropped as a murderous intent flashed across her eyes.

That was not the first time she bore malice toward Tony. To her, the boy was like a time bomb that could explode anytime, anywhere. When that happened, she would lose everything and become a laughing stock.

"Tony, I like Ms. Walker. So, I made her my goddaughter, simple as that. Aren't you happy to have one more person to love and spoil you?" explained Olivia patiently.

Tony sulked. He wanted to rebut, but was refrained by Amelia from doing so. The latter held his hand under the table and signaled him to stop asking further. Tony gazed at his mother and knew exactly what was in her mind.

Nonetheless, he replied reluctantly, "As long as you're happy, Grandma."

Olivia let out a sigh of relief.

She was quite worried that Tony would make a scene at the event and bring disgrace to both the Clintons and the Walkers. The worst thing that could happen was to see two connected families turn into rivals.

She could never ignore Tony's request.

"I love you so much, Tony, my good boy."

"I love you too, Grandma!"

Subsequently, everyone knowingly changed the topic. The men talked about finances, politics, and the economy whereas the women passionately chatted about the latest fashion. Within moments, the atmosphere became lively and vibrant again.

The dinner lasted for three hours. When it drew to a close, the women took turns carrying Tony. The latter was very welcoming. He even landed kisses on all of the ladies' cheeks. "Pretty ladies, don't drink and drive, okay? The police have made it clear that this is an offense."

His words did not reflect his age. Everyone was astounded at his level of maturity. "Olivia, your grandson is such a little know-it-all. What a blessing to have a smarty pants as your grandson! I'd smile in my dreams if I do."

Olivia smiled from ear to ear.

"Don't flatter him too much, or else he will become arrogant." Yet, it was written all over Olivia's face how proud she was of Tony.

"We aren't buttering him up, for this is the truth. My grandchildren are all super mischievous. Having one who is so clever and good-natured like yours is such a dream come true."

Upon sending all the guests off, Tony returned to Amelia's arms. He rubbed his eyes and yawned. "Mommy, I'm so sleepy."

Oscar felt sorry for him. "Amelia, hurry up and bring him back to bed. It's not easy for him to be so obedient and obliging throughout the entire event. I've decided to throw a small party to celebrate your wedding with Oscar. It's also a nice excuse to gather everyone who would usually be too busy to meet up on normal days."

"It's your decision to make, Mom. We are fine with anything." Amelia gave a classy response.

"All right, you guys go ahead then. We'll discuss further back at the family residence when you and Oscar come over during the weekends."

Amelia nodded in agreement.

Oscar led both mother and son into the car before bidding his parents goodbye.

Stephanie turned green with envy when she noticed that Amelia had seemingly gotten more beautiful. She scoffed as she posted Olivia a question, "Mom, I thought you said that you'd never forgive her? Why did you give up so fast? It's not even one year yet."

"She is, after all, Tony's mother," Olivia replied.

"Mom, that's not what you said earlier on. Don't you think that it's too hasty to change your mind?" Stephanie grew anxious. She was hoping to make use of Olivia to give Amelia a hard time. Unexpectedly, Olivia now sided with Amelia, and there was no chance for her to carry out her grand plan.

Like a Marionette, she was toyed around by her biological mother. This is unacceptable!

"Don't you want your brother to be happy?" Olivia argued.

"But, Mom, you promised to make Isabella your daughter-in-law! I'm prepared to accept her as my sister-in-law. I'm dejected because of the turn of events. Now, Oscar is marrying Amelia for the second time, and Isabella is embarrassed." Stephanie released all of her anger at her mother like an erupted volcano.

Olivia's face turned gloomy immediately.

Carol tried to appease the situation. "Stephanie, your brother and Isabella aren't fated to be together. With Oscar's wedding coming up soon, don't bring this up again. Otherwise, it will be so hard on Isabella. Actually, it's not a bad idea for her to be Olivia's goddaughter. I find this an ideal ending to this episode. Should you persist your way further, you might create havoc and make everyone feel uncomfortable."

Stephanie's chest rose and fell heavily in rage upon hearing that.

"That's enough, Stephanie. Stop arguing with Mrs. Clinton. We can't force a relationship to blossom. Take us for example, if you aren't willing to marry me, I can't threaten you to say yes with a knife at your neck." Noah tried to knock some sense into her.

Stephanie rolled her eyes at him, but did not pursue the matter.

Thereafter, the Walkers and the rest of the Clintons left for their residences respectively.

During the journey home, Noah asked, "Isabella, how is it like to be the goddaughter of the Clintons?"

Isabella replied, "Well, it's surely the best experience. At least, I'm considered a member of the Clinton family, right?"

Noah's lips curved into a mocking grin.

She folded her arms, refusing to engage further with Noah. I'm being degraded from a potential Mrs. Clinton to being their goddaughter. She still could not get over the harsh reality. Hence, she was not in the mood to bicker with her sibling.

All of her hopes and dreams shattered. Her hard work put in to get her to where she was today was futile. Seemingly, she had become a laughing stock in the high society.

Meanwhile, Olivia reprimanded Stephanie on the way home.

"You're about to become a wife, Stephanie. Please behave yourself and demonstrate the virtues of being one. Once you marry into the Walker family, you should be filial to your in-laws and serve your husband. Look at how loud you were just now, yelling and shouting in front of your in-laws. Do reflect on your attitude and behavior!"

"Am I wrong, Mom?" Stephanie questioned back. "You're the one who went back on your words, Mom. You switched my sister-in-law! Have you considered my feelings? What about Isabella's? I reckon that you're more stubborn and willful than me."

Olivia's expression darkened.

"You aren't qualified to give me a lecture."

"Mom, you're always like that. Whenever there's a disagreement between us, you'll conclude it as I'm being rude. What about your manners, Mom? Is breaking a promise your style?"

"Shut up!"

Sulking, Stephanie fell silent in annoyance.

Upon arriving home, Olivia gave Stephanie an ultimatum. "Whether you like it or not, Stephanie, Amelia is now your sister-in-law. You should be nice to her henceforth because she's your family. If anything happens in your marriage with Noah, you will need your family members to stand up for you. So, I repeat, be nice to your family. Understand?"

Biting her lips, Stephanie spat her last line before heading upstairs, "You're biased, Mom."

Olivia was so upset.

"There, there... Don't go ballistic. You know very well that Amelia and Stephanie are rivals. So, don't force it," Owen comforted her.

Infuriated, Olivia flung his hand away and said, "After all that I've done for every single one of them, no one even bother to thank me. How ungrateful!"

Owen guffawed as he pinched her nose dotingly. "If you don't want to dwell in these petty matters, I'll get someone to book us two tickets to Sumanthova tomorrow. Coincidentally, I have two friends who went there ahead of me. We can meet up."

Olivia was guite tempted to say yes, but she was worried about Tony.

"Can I bring Tony along?"

"Come on, it should be just the two of us."

After grumbling for a while, Olivia gave in.

"Fine, let's go there for a couple of days. We can start preparing for Stephanie's wedding when we return. I'll be more relieved once she is wedded, and I'll leave her to Noah."

"I bet you'll still be worried about her even after she gets spliced."

She sighed. "How can I not? Oscar and Stephanie are both my precious children. I spoiled her since young. Sometimes, I really wonder if her husband's family could withstand her temper."

"Don't worry too much. I can tell that Noah is a good man. He's thoughtful, gentle, and excellent at managing the company. I believe that he will treat Stephanie well. Moreover, there's Oscar to watch out for her. As long as she doesn't go overboard, Oscar will take care of her."

Olivia could not help but let out yet another sigh.

"Who knows if Stephanie would understand our good intentions for her?" Olivia said placidly. She had done a lot to pave a bright future for her daughter. At the same time, she also tried to satisfy her son's request and keep Isabella happy. She wanted an amicable solution with the Walkers in hopes that they would love Stephanie like their own and treat her like a princess.

"She will, eventually," Owen guaranteed.

"I'm worried that it's too late when she finally realizes that. By then, she might already be scarred from her marriage." Olivia was very concerned. She knew her daughter like the back of her palm. A prideful girl with a temper, who has been adored by everyone since the day she was born, is not easy to handle. It takes a patient and tolerant man to accept her for who she is. How can I not worry for her marriage?

"Well, let's just let nature take its course."

She nodded. That's all I can do for now.