

A Farewell 221

Chapter 221

“Sure thing.” Tiana nodded in agreement.

Sage and Tiana then soaked in several different hot spring Before they knew it, night had fallen.

nools and took numerous selfies,

In the evening, Tiana stepped out to answer a call from Wilson while Sage went into the restaurant first. Dinner was held in the resort’s luxurious dining hall.

Even though it was also in the form of a buffet, the food was much more lavish than the

snacks and barbecue they had in the hot spring area earlier more!

fresh seafood available.

was an assortment of

Everyone was starving after a long day of fun, so their eyes lit up when they saw the

delicious food. Some found using the utensils troublesome and the lobsters with their

hands instead. Sage felt hungry after watching everyone

e inhale their food.

Perhaps the harsh hunger she experienced in the psychiatric hospital in her previous life intensified her love for food.

Most of the time, she ate alone when she was at home. Even when Ian was around, the way he ate made it seem like he was posing rather than having a meal, so she didn't feel rushed

at all.

But watching everyone roll up their sleeves and dive into their food made her appetite grow Sage picked out a lot of food and started eating with gusto.

"Why are you stuffing your face? No one's going to steal your food."

and a few bus

Sage was enjoying her meal when Ian appeared out of nowhere. He had changed into his usual shirt, with the sleeves rolled up undone to reveal his well-defined

chest.

"Did you zone out? Swallow the food in your mouth first." Ian noticed her puffed-out cheeks and couldn't help but feel tempted to brush a stray strand of hair from her forehead

aside.

Sage hastily backed away and looked at him coldly. "How I eat is none of your business." Her voice was muffled because of the food in her mouth, softening her usual distant demeanor.

Ian casually took the seat across from her. "That's Tiana's spot," Sage reminded him.

Ian looked at her and said, "There was an emergency at the branch office this afternoon. I've

been handling it via video call.”

Was he explaining himself to her? Sage responded with a nonchalant “oh” and continued eating.

“Ivy’s a part of the company and has worked hard for the company. As her superior, I can’t just dismiss her for no reason,” he added.

“Why are you telling me all this?” Sage looked up.

He looked at her bare face and said calmly, “Calvin called and said you were upset about what happened at lunch.”

“Nope. That didn’t happen.” Sage denied. “I’ve told you before that your relationship with her does not concern me. I wouldn’t care even if we got divorced and you married her right away.”

Sage had already said this several times before. Ian suppressed his emotions and asked, “When did I ever say I was going to divorce you and marry her?”

11

Sage was slightly stunned when she heard that. Did that mean he wasn’t going to marry Ivy? So Ian hadn’t fallen in love with Ivy yet because she hadn’t done anything stupid in this life?

Sage thought she was pathetic. Her eight years of devotion were just to catalyze someone else’s love story. She responded, “The other day at Ivy’s place, you didn’t deny it when I asked you if you were planning to divorce me and marry her.”

His dark eyes met Sage’s. “Do you think that was the right moment to ask me a question like that?”

Sage had thrown fruits at Ivy for no apparent reason. Plus, she looked like she wanted to strangle her to death. He had been taken aback by her wild behavior. There was no way would have entertained such an intrusive question.

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Chapter 222

His dark gaze made her uncomfortable. Sage forced herself to calm down and said, Whether you marry her or not has nothing to do with me.”

“Sage-”

“Tiana, over here!” Ian was about to say something, but Sage cut him off and waved to Tiana, who was at the entrance.

Tiana walked over to them and asked, “Mr. Holcomb, are you

with

” work?”

Ian nodded slightly. “Excuse me. I have to go over

error there for

“What’s going on? Why do I feel like there’s some strange Tiana asked.

tension

bit, but please carry on.”

between you glue”

Sage told her what Ian had said earlier.

“Ian’s worried that you’ll be upset, so he’s explaining why he didn’t turn Ivy away at lunch,” Tiana said. “I’ve been telling you that he has feelings for you and that he doesn’t want to divorce you. Do you

believe me now?”

Sage rolled her eyes at Tiana. “I don’t think so. Even if you’re right, it wouldn’t change my mind about getting a divorce.”

Tiana couldn’t help but speak up, “Sage, you’ve loved Ian for so many years. Why are you backing away now when there’s a light at the end of the tunnel? Ian is many women’s Prince Charming. Won’t you regret it if you go through with the divorce?”

Sage shook her head firmly. “I won’t.”

2

In her previous life, she had too many regrets because she was obsessed with Ian. Sage didn’t get to spend time with her grandfather, she failed to save Maven Corporation, she didn’t get to pursue a career she loved, and she didn’t get to enjoy life.

Hence, in this life, she wanted to make up for all of her regrets, except for Ian. She wanted to stay as far away from Ian as possible.

“You can pretend all you want, but I’m not buying it,” Tiana responded.

“Suit yourself.” Sage didn’t want to dwell on this topic anymore. “Why did Wilson call you?”

Has he arrived?”

“He’s on his way. He should be here in about half an hour.”

“Should we wait for him to have dinner together?”

“Nah, he said he already had dinner at the hospital,” Tiana responded. “He’s really disciplined. He doesn’t eat much for dinner.”

“Why don’t you have dinner with me first? I know you’ll be too preoccupied with your husband to pay attention to me when he arrives,” Sage teased.

Tiana didn’t mind her playful jab and readily agreed. “Sure. Let’s have dinner together.”

Hence, Sage and Tiana stuffed themselves with food before Wilson arrived.

“I’m stuffed. Let’s go out for a walk and see if Wilson’s arrived,” Sage suggested once they were full. Then, she realized she and Wilson had never formally met. She felt like it was time to formally introduce herself and chat with him for a bit that day.

Tiana agreed. “Sure.”

The ladies left the restaurant and passed through several corridors and the lobby to arrive outside the resort. It was already dark outside, and the lights had been turned on everywhere in the resort. The warm yellow light illuminated the distinctive building, creating a cozy and

serene ambiance.

There were several groups of people, as well as couples holding hands.

“I’m going to have a good time with Wilson later as well.”, Tiana then spotted a familiar figure up ahead.
“Wilson’s here!”

She paused before continuing, “Hold on, Sage... Isn’t the guy talking to Wilson over there, Ian? Do they know each other?”

Chapter 223

Sage looked over in the direction Tiana pointed and spotted Ian’s figure. He looked tall and handsome in his casual shirt next to the cool and refined Wilson. Both of them looked like characters straight out of a comic book—breathtakingly beautiful and pleasing to the

“My husband is so handsome.” Tiana sighed.

Sage nudged her. “You’re drooling.”

“Oh, come on! As if you’re any better than me when you look at Ian.”

eye.

Sage rolled her eyes at Tiana. Their conversation caught the attention of the men up ahead, causing them to turn their heads.

“Darling, do you know Mr. Holcomb?” Tiana walked up to Wilson and linked her arm with

his.

Wilson responded calmly, “We’ve met a couple of times before.”

Wilson was highly regarded in his field. Many would take the initiative to get to know him. In addition, he often attended formal award ceremonies held by the government as a distinguished representative of the hospital, so it wasn't surprising that he would be acquainted with a successful entrepreneur like Ian.

Tiana introduced Sage, "Even though you've seen her before, allow me to formally introduce you. This is my friend, Sage. She's Mr. Holcomb's wife."

Wilson nodded at Sage, and she responded with a smile. It was just like Tiana had said Wilson seemed reserved and unapproachable. It made her wonder how the bubbly and lively Tiana could put up with him.

Even though Ian was aloof, his upbringing had instilled in him a sense of gentleness that shone through his interactions with others. However, this gentleness was also accompanied by a sense of distance that made people feel like they couldn't quite reach him.

"Please don't let us keep you waiting, Wilson." Ian wrapped his arm around Sage. Sage went along with it.

Wilson nodded. "We'll be off then."

Tiana didn't beat around the bush either. "Could you please take Sage for a stroll, Mr. Holcomb? She ate too much and was feeling uncomfortable."

Sage was a little embarrassed to be called out in public. She glared at Tiana. "You ate more than I did."

Tiana smiled mischievously. "So what? I can exercise with

my husband."

Sage was rendered speechless because she understood what Tiana meant by "exercise". However, she wasn't as thick-skinned as Tiana.

Her cheeks turned red as she huffed and walked toward the shaded path. Her reaction made Tiana burst into laughter.

Ian followed after Sage. Tiana kept her arm linked through Wilson's and asked, "Darling, how did you run into Mr. Holcomb?"

Wilson responded, "After I parked the car, I ran into him while he was on the phone outside."

"What did you guys talk about?"

"Nothing much."

Wilson noticed her keen interest and added, "He also mentioned that my suit looked good and asked if you bought it for me recently."

"Why did he ask you that out of the blue?" Tiana found that odd. "I haven't bought you a suit recently."

He shook his head. "I have no idea. I told him that it was from last year's collection. I rarely wear suits, and you usually choose casual and comfortable clothes for me."

She pondered for a moment. "Maybe Ian wants Sage to buy him clothes. Sage has been asking for a divorce lately, so she hasn't bought him anything in a while now."

Even though the news of their divorce was surprising, Wilson had never been one for gossip. He couldn't be bothered to waste his time on something that didn't concern him.

Tiana understood him well and suggested, "Darling, there's an indoor hot spring here. Why don't we soak in it and relax?"

"Sure."

The scenery of the resort was truly breathtaking. It was situated on a mountain beside a waterfall, and the garden outside was also very well-kept.

Chapter 224

Sage walked along a path paved with white pebbles, feeling uncomfortable. Tiana was right.

She had overeaten.

Ian noticed her knitted brows and figured she wasn't feeling well. He called Terry and asked, "Could you check if there's a drugstore nearby? Have someone get me some antacids."

Sage couldn't help but think of her previous life when she heard that. She used to have occasional stomach pains as a result of her excessive dieting. Ian happened to be at home that night.

When she brought him a glass of milk, her stomach hurt so much that her face turned pale from the pain, and she almost spilled it. Yet, he didn't even ask her what was wrong. He simply asked her to leave.

Meanwhile, she hadn't made a sound just now, yet he noticed her discomfort and took the initiative to ask someone to get her some medications.

"It seems that men can learn to be attentive," she brooded. He had only been inattentive to her because he didn't love her. 1

Sage had also noticed his changes. He did seem to care more about her in this life compared to her previous life.

Even though she was still adamant about getting a divorce, she didn't see the point in harboring resentment toward Ian. After all, in this life, he hadn't allowed Ivy to step all over her, nor had he neglected her. 1

“Why aren’t you saying anything? Is your stomach still acting up? Do you want to go to the hospital?” Ian asked as he walked over to her.

Sage shook her head. “No. I’m okay.”

Then, she spotted Terry. He was wearing a coat and holding a set of car keys. He was probably on his way to get her some antacids. “Mr. Zane,” she called out to him.

Terry felt a sudden pang of panic when he noticed Sage. After all, Ian had given him a death stare, as if he had made a serious mistake while he was reporting to him yesterday morning.

He racked his brain and thought of everything he had done since he joined Holcomb Corporation, but he still couldn’t figure out how he had offended his boss.

He only figured it out when Ian asked him, “What would happen if you were hit by a wine bottle?”

Trembling and confused, he answered, “I would... get injured?”

“Won’t the person who takes the hit for you get injured?” Ian shot daggers at him.

Baffled, he gathered his courage and asked, “Who would take the hit for me?”

“Sage,” Ian responded.

Terry was so startled that he dropped the documents he was holding onto the table, almost knocking over Ian’s coffee mug. His voice quivered as he stuttered, “M—Mr. Holcomb, how could M—Mrs.

Holcomb—”

“Don’t you dare show your face in front of Sage ever again,” Ian ordered. “If you see her, take a detour!”

Terry didn’t dare to disobey him. Hence, he tried to blend into the background when he learned that Sage would be at the team–building event.

He didn’t go to the large swimming pool and stayed away from the hot springs that the girls liked to visit. He even kept his distance from Sage during mealtimes. However, she still spotted him.

Sage was standing in front of him at the moment. He couldn’t avoid her even if he wanted to. “Mrs. Holcomb, do you need something?” he asked, uneasy.

Sage responded, “Give me the car keys. I’ll go to the drugstore myself so you don’t have to make the trip.”

Terry glanced at Ian, who was standing behind her with an unreadable expression. “I’m sure you don’t know your way around, Mrs. Holcomb. Let me go instead.”

“It’s okay. I still need to get a few other things.”

“I can get them for you, Mrs. Holcomb.

“No, it’s alright. I’d rather go by myself.”

Terry was still hesitating when Ian said, “Give me the keys and go upstairs.”

“Yes, sir!” Terry immediately let out a sigh of relief and practically stuffed the keys into Ian’s hand before bolting away.

Sage couldn’t help but ask Ian, “What did you say to Mr. Zane? Why does he act like he’s seen a ghost whenever he sees me?”

Chapter 225

Terry, who usually followed Ian around, was nowhere to be found that day. Ian frowned when he heard that. "I'm not him. How would I know? Aren't we going to the drugstore? Get

a move on."

Sage was at a loss for words as she didn't believe that he had no idea about what was going on with Terri.

The couple found the car. Sage had just fastened her seatbelt when she spotted Ivy in the parking lot. Her face was pale, and she looked like her legs were about to give out.

Ivy also noticed them. "Mr. Holcomb, Mrs. Holcomb," she greeted them weakly.

"Where are you headed?" Ian asked.

Ivy rasped, "I think the wound on my forehead has become infected. It hurts, but I forgot to bring my medications. I was just going to run out and get some."

Ian said, "We're just about to head out. Text me a list of the medications you need, and I'll

pick it up for you."

Ivy endured the pain and shook her head. "Don't worry about it. I don't want to hold you up. I can manage on my own."

Sage sneered as she looked at Ivy's pitiful but brave demeanor, "It looks like you're in real dire straits, Ms. Shekdotter. Why don't you chauffeur her straight to the hospital? I'll hail a cab and be on my way."

Sage then unbuckled her seatbelt. However, Ian reached out and stopped her. "Don't be silly.

Ivy hurriedly apologized as well. "Mrs. Holcomb, please don't be angry. I—"

"Stop pretending!" Sage snapped at Ivy. "If you genuinely don't want to upset me, you wouldn't keep showing up wherever we are!"

Tears welled up in Ivy's eyes as she softly apologized. Then, she hastily made her way to her car and locked the door.

Ian glanced at Sage and said, "Buckle up." He then drove a few meters and stopped in front of Ivy's car. "Text me the names of the medications and go upstairs to get some rest. We'll be back soon."

Ivy looked like she couldn't hold on anymore. "Thank you, Mr. Holcomb." Ian didn't say anything else and stepped on the gas.

Sage found her initial thoughts ridiculous. Ian was only being nice to her because she hadn't crossed Ivy in this lifetime. Otherwise, he would've treated her the same way he did in her previous life.

Sage didn't wait for Ian when they arrived at the drugstore. Instead, she got out of the car on her own. After going in, she picked out some antacids.

In case Wanda hadn't packed any, she also bought a spray that promoted blood circulation and removed bruises.

Sage then headed to the cash register while Ian asked the shop assistant to fetch the medications he needed. "I'll pay for it," he offered when she was about to foot the bill.

"No, thanks. I'm not short on cash," she said before paying the bill herself.

He was aware that she always reacted particularly strongly to anything involving Ivy, so he didn't press any further.

After purchasing the medications, he asked, "Weren't you planning on picking up something else? Shall we go to the mall?"

Greenfield was particularly well-known for its pastries, which were made from whole grains and healthy. Sage wanted to buy some for Linda and her grandfather, but...

"Aren't you in a rush to take those medications back? What on earth would we do if Ms. Shekdotter passed out from the pain?"

Ian glanced at her. "Sage, even if you're jealous, you need to know when to stop.

"Jealous? Me? Are you out of your mind?" Sage stormed off. 1

Just then, a speeding vehicle blared its horn. Startled, she took a step back. Ian had also reached out to pull her back, causing her to fall into his arms.

Chapter 226

"Don't you watch where you're going?" Ian grumbled. Sage had almost gotten hit by a car.

Startled, she came to her senses. What was she doing? Why did she suddenly get upset with Ian? Why did she sound so jealous?

It seemed like Tiana had brainwashed her into believing Ian was being good to her and that she didn't want a divorce

anymore. Sage was terrified when she noticed a glimmer of hope rising in her heart yet again.

Ignoring Ian, she took a step back and said calmly, "I don't want to go to the mall. I'd just like to go to a pâtisserie."

Ian had expected Sage to become enraged and tell him that it had nothing to do with him and that he didn't need to worry about it. However, she didn't lose her temper at all. She seemed calm and rational instead.

Naturally, he preferred her current reaction—no fuss and no drama. Just straightforward communication. She didn't put up an invisible wall that made it impossible for him to communicate with her.

The couple got back into the car, and Ian casually placed the bag of medication on the dashboard. He then used the GPS to find a renowned pâtisserie.

When they arrived, they noticed a queue snaking out of the store. The pâtisserie must have been popular.

Sage was about to unbuckle her seatbelt and get out of the car when Ian noticed what she was wearing. "Stay in the car. I'll go and get the pastries," he said.

Sage stopped in her tracks when she heard that. Ian then got out of the car. Sage still felt uncomfortable, so she opened the medicine bag and took out an antacid. She felt parched after taking them and grabbed a bottle of mineral water from the car's mini-fridge.

Then, she accidentally spilled some water on the seat and herself while chugging it. Sage hastily wiped it with a tissue and accidentally knocked the medication Ian bought for Ivy onto the ground.

To keep things clean and organized, the prescription medications were packed in small transparent bags labeled with their names and dosages. Sage picked them up and took a look to ensure the water hadn't damaged the medication before stuffing them all back into the bag.

Sage was on her phone when Ian returned. He sat back in the driver's seat and noticed the water stains on the console and the water bottle next to it. "Have you taken the antacids?"

Sage nodded absentmindedly. The couple didn't force a conversation on the way back to the resort. After getting out of the car, Ian offered to send Sage back to her room first, to which she agreed.

Along the way, the couple met several Holcomb Corporation employees, who greeted them warmly. One of them was bold enough to say, “Mr. and Mrs. Holcomb, you guys are literally a match made in heaven!”

Sage maintained a polite smile. She had already figured out why Ian had gone to such great lengths to get her to come to Greenfield Resort.

He probably felt bad for leaving her behind at his company’s party last time, which had caused her to be criticized, so he wanted to let everyone know that they were fine.

Well, he seemed to have achieved his goal. However, she never cared about being criticized. When they arrived outside of her room, she told Ian, “You can go now.”

Ian didn’t respond. Instead, he called out to a young housekeeper in front of them and handed him the bag of medications. “Could you please deliver this to Ms. Shekdotter:in room 3209?”

The man nodded and accepted the bag.

Meanwhile, Sage took the opportunity to open the door to her room. As soon as she walked in, she was surprised to see not only her belongings inside but also Ian’s.

What was he up to now? Only her belongings were in the room when she arrived earlier in the day. Sage turned around when she heard Ian’s footsteps. 1

Chapter 227

“What is the meaning of this?” Sage asked as she pointed at his belongings.

Ian responded calmly, “Everyone at the company knows we’re married. What will they think if we sleep in separate rooms?”

There was only a week left until their divorce. Everyone would find out then anyway.

However, she kept her mouth shut as she didn't want him to think that she was throwing a tantrum and green with jealousy.

Instead, she quipped, "Ian Holcomb, if you're feeling frisky and need someone to satisfy your urges, there are plenty of volunteers outside. Don't drag me into your mess."

Ian gave her a cold look, probably because her words stung. "You were the one who slipped and fell into my arms in the afternoon. You were in a bikini, and you were so close to me. I'm a man, not a saint. I think it's pretty normal for me to react."

Sage was rendered speechless. After all, she had been careless and slipped into his arms in the afternoon. She couldn't be bothered to waste her breath on him anymore, so she ignored him and went to the bathroom, where she washed her hair and took a shower.

Then, she sprayed some medicine on her shoulders. Sage put on a face mask and did some skin care after washing her hands. The whole process took over an hour.

Ian was still going through his emails on his laptop when she came out. His being so busy actually made her feel a bit relieved. At the very least, he wouldn't have any other inappropriate thoughts.

Since she wasn't sleepy yet, she looked at her slightly damp hair and decided to go back into the bathroom to blow dry it.

Ian's phone rang just as she was about to walk into the bathroom. His tone changed dramatically after he picked up the phone. "How could that happen? I'll come over right now."

His expression suggested that something urgent had occurred. Ian's gaze shifted to her while she was lost in thought.

He looked like he had something to tell her, but he pursed his lips and changed his mind. In the end, he grabbed his keys and coat and left without a word.

Sage couldn't be bothered to guess what had happened. If it was work-related, she couldn't help. If it was personal, it was none of her business. After blow-drying her hair, she lay on

the bed and scrolled through the selfies she had taken that day.

She looked very happy in the photos. Tiana had also said that she should smile every day so she could stay young forever. Sage didn't really care about that. However, the photos did turn out quite well.

She chose a few beautiful and artistic ones and posted them online. Naturally, she received a flurry of likes.

Michael texted her to ask if she had been training and said he would check the next time they met up. Of course, she didn't take him seriously. She then asked him how his competition was going.

Michael said that the preliminary round had been recorded and that his band had made it through successfully. The next round would narrow down the number of contestants from 100 to 70, and after that, he'd get a two-day break.

"Good luck! Don't worry, you've got this! You'll definitely win this!" Sage encouraged him.

"Thanks, Ms. Joyner. But there are so many strong competitors. I don't know if we can beat them."

"Don't worry. I believe in you. You're the strongest contender out there."

The two of them were chatting away when her phone rang. Sage glanced at it and realized it was Ian calling. He had been gone for quite some time. Sage wondered if he was calling to let her know that he wouldn't be back tonight. That would be wonderful news.

"It's alright if you don't come back. You don't need to tell me," she said as soon as she, answered the call.

There was a brief silence on the other end before Ian spoke in a cold voice that left no room for discussion. "I've asked Terry to pick you up. You need to come over to the hospital right

now."

Chapter 228

Hospital? Sage was a little surprised. Was someone injured? Why did he need her there? But before she could ask any more questions, Ian had already hung up the phone.

Just then, Terry's voice came from outside the door. "Mrs. Holcomb, please come downstairs when you're ready. I'll go start the car right now."

Ian was really efficient. Terry was already outside her room before she could think about it or refuse. Sage changed out of her pajamas, put on a loose T-shirt, and grabbed her purse before heading downstairs.

She wondered what on earth was going on for him. Sage got into the back seat, slightly annoyed. Terry was focused on the road and didn't seem like he wanted to talk to her.

"Mr. Zane, did Ian threaten you or something? Is that why you're not talking to me?" she couldn't help but ask.

Terry didn't dare to utter a word. "Oh, nothing of the sort happened, Mrs. Holcomb. Mr. Holcomb just wants me to do my job properly."

Sage didn't push any further because she knew that he wasn't telling the truth: He dropped her off at the hospital about 20 minutes later. "Mrs. Holcomb, Mr. Holcomb and the others are in the emergency department. Would you like me to accompany you upstairs?" he asked politely.

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“No, it’s alright.” Sage shook her head before asking, “Who’s in the

“I’m not sure. I’ll wait for you guys here, Mrs. Holcomb.”

“Alright.”

Who could be in the emergency room? Why did he call her over? Could it be Tiana? Sage couldn’t help but pick up her pace when she thought of that possibility.

She hurried upstairs but didn’t see Ian in the corridor outside the emergency room. However, there was a man in his 50s sitting there. He was slightly overweight, and he looked

anxious.

Sage racked her brain but couldn’t recognize him. Then, she thought, “Whatever.” She pulled out her phone and called Ian.

Just then, the door to the emergency room swung open. The nurse wheeled a patient out. Sage took a look and was shocked to see Ivy. How did she end up in the emergency room? All

of a sudden, she had a bad feeling.

“Ivy, are you okay? I was worried sick!” The middle-aged man cried and threw himself at Ivy. The slightly overweight man was Ivy’s father, Ronald Shekdotter.

“Sir, please step aside. The patient has just had her stomach pumped, and she needs to rest,” the nurse reminded. Ronald then took a step back.

Ivy spotted Sage at the elevator door when she was being wheeled there. “Mrs. Holcomb,” she called out weakly.

Ronald's gaze immediately shifted to Sage as soon as he heard that. Then, his temper flared. "So, you're Sage Joyner, huh? What were you thinking? Why did you switch out Ivy's medication? Did you

know that you almost killed her?"

"Dad, calm down. It might have nothing to do with Mrs. Holcomb..." Ivy interjected weakly.

"This is most definitely her doing! There were only three people who came into contact with those medications. Ian couldn't have done it. The resort's staff simply delivered them to you, and the whole process was monitored. That leaves her-"

Chapter 229

Ronald's words were cut short when he noticed Ian emerging from behind the security door. He was on a phone call. "Ivy has been through so much pain, Ian, you have to stand up for her!"

Ian looked at Sage, who met his gaze stoically. Sage had put two and two together based on the middle-aged man's words. Ivy had taken the medication Ian bought in the resort, and something had gone wrong. Ivy had her stomach pumped in the hospital, and Ronald thought it was her doing.

So, Ian left because Ivy had been taken to the hospital. He called her here because of Ivy.

"Dad, this could all be a misunderstanding. Please don't put Ian in a tight spot," weakly.

Ivy said

"My poor Ivy, you're just too considerate for your own good!" Ronald said. "Just think about it. How many times has this woman schemed against you and hurt you? I wouldn't have known about any of these things if your Aunt Sandra hadn't told me about what had happened last time!"

Ivy gritted her teeth and said, "It was just a scrape. It wasn't anything serious. Besides, Ian already apologized on behalf of Mrs. Holcomb."

“Is that so? Don’t treat me like a fool! You were bleeding from your head, and your neck was bruised. If Ian hadn’t arrived in time, you might’ve been killed by her!” Ronald fumed. “Regardless, she owes us an explanation this time!” He then shot daggers at Sage.

Just then, the elevator dinged. “Uncle Ron, let’s head to Ivy’s ward first. We can talk things out there,” Ian suggested.

“Right, let’s do that.” Ronald suppressed his anger and was about to push Ivy’s bed into the elevator. However, Sage remained motionless in front of the elevator.

Ian glanced at her and said calmly, “Let’s go to the ward together.”

Sage sneered. “What does this have to do with me? Why did you call me over? Why should I go to the ward with you?”

“How dare-” Ronald was about to snap when Ivy tugged on his sleeve. “Forget it, Dad. If Mrs. Holcomg doesn’t want to come with us, we shouldn’t force her.”

Ian looked at Sage, who showed no signs of backing down. He politely yet firmly asked the two nurses, “Could you please wait over there for a moment?”

Perhaps overwhelmed by the air of authority around Ian, the nurses exchanged glances and walked to the front of the corridor. The elevator doors closed and it began descending. Ian looked into Sage’s eyes and asked, “Did you touch Ivy’s medication in the car just now?”

Sage smiled wryly. “Before you grill me, could you at least clue me in on what’s going on? How am I supposed to answer when I have no idea what happened?”

Ian ignored her sarcasm and responded calmly, “I’ve had someone verify it. The medications from the drugstore were fine, and the staff didn’t make any stops when he delivered them.”

“Why are you asking me when you’ve already made up your mind?” Sage sneered.

Ian’s forehead creased. “Don’t be unreasonable, Sage. I’m just stating the facts. Ivy accidentally ingested warfarin, which clashes with the antibiotic amoxicillin. She almost died! I called you over to

look into all the possibilities.”

Setting aside her frustration at being suspected, Sage realized that being stubborn wouldn’t solve the problem at hand. Mulling it over, she calmed down a little. “I didn’t touch her medications. I don’t even know what warfarin is.”

Ian continued to stare into her eyes. “The surveillance footage in the drugstore shows that you spent quite a while in the antibiotic section.”

Chapter 230

Sage had browsed the aisles to avoid running into Ian. “I’m sure you’ve also found out that I haven’t bought any amoxicillin.”

“That corner is a blind spot for the surveillance cameras,” Ian said.

Sage

couldn’t help but sneer at him. “Are you suggesting that I stole the medication from the drugstore and then swapped it out with Ms. Shekdotter’s in the car?” Ian remained silent.

Sage snorted. “I had no idea which medications she needed. How could I have prepared the warfarin ahead of time?”

“Why wouldn’t you have been able to prepare it? The wound on Ivy’s forehead was inflamed. Anyone would’ve guessed that she’d need anti-inflammatory medications!” Ronald snarled.

Sage frowned and shot Ian a cold look. "Do you think so too?"

Before Ian could say anything, Ronald snapped, "How could you be so cruel? What has Ivy ever done to you that you'd attempt to harm her over and over again?"

The middle-aged man raised his hand and was about to slap Sage's face when Ian stopped him. "Calm down, Uncle Ron."

"Calm down? How could I possibly remain calm? Ivy's my one and only daughter, She's gentle, and she never gets into any trouble. Why does your wife hate her so much that she'd do this to her? 1

"My poor Ivy didn't want to bother you even though she was feeling unwell. She had to call an ambulance and go to the hospital on her own! It wasn't until the pain became unbearable that she called me to come to the hospital..." Ronald's voice broke as tears streamed down his face. "If something happens to Ivy, how will I face my late wife..."

"Dad, please, stop," Ivy choked out. "I'm alright now, aren't I?"

"That's because you got lucky! The doctor said you would've died if you hadn't been rushed to the hospital in time." Ronald was beside himself with fear. He then lunged at Sage and demanded, "If you've got a problem, take it out on me. Don't hurt my daughter!"

"Stop it, Dad!" Ivy abruptly sat up, but she was too weak to walk. Plus, she had an IV drip in her hand. She almost hit her head on the corner of the bed when she felt a jab in her hand.

Ian hastily reached out and steadied Ivy to prevent her from injuring herself again. Sage, on the other hand, instinctively kicked Ronald away when he suddenly rushed up to her.

"Ouch!" The middle-aged man was caught off guard. He stumbled backward and fell flat on his back.

"Dad!"

"Uncle Ron!"

Ivy and Ian exclaimed at the same time. Ivy tried to get off the hospital bed when Ian walked over to Ronald. But she accidentally rolled off and landed on the floor.

“Sit still!” Ian had no choice but to turn back and help Ivy up.

“Don’t worry about me. Please go and check on my father.” Holding onto the bed, she tried to push him away, but she was too weak and fell forward. The hospital bed, which she was using for leverage, slid forward due to inertia and went straight for Sage.

Sage instinctively dodged the hospital bed and accidentally bumped into the trash can next to the elevator. Losing her balance, she fell onto the round trash can. When she put her hands back to steady herself, she felt a sharp pain. The glass shards in the trash can dug into her flesh.

Ivy screamed before Ian could check on Sage. As the hospital bed slid away, it pulled out the needle in her hand and caused her to bleed. Ivy, who was already extremely weak, almost passed out from the ordeal.