

Secret Admiration Finding True Love After Prison Chapter 421

Secret Admiration Finding True Love After Prison Chapter 421

Chapter 421 My Wife

Chandler's expression softened a bit.

He gently squeezed the spot on Meryl's palm where the porcelain shard had cut her. "Does it hurt?"

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Meryl shook her head. "It stopped hurting a while ago. I was more worried about you. I pushed the car to nearly 200 mph on the way here, afraid I might be too late and you'd **fall into** Zane's trap."

Hearing this, Chandler chuckled, "Zane's still wet behind the ears if he thinks he can get the better of me."

Back in the police academy, he'd aced every test, and his reflexes were lightning-quick. **In** hand-to-hand combat, he'd never tasted defeat.

Chandler scooped Meryl up and carried her to the car, flooring it all the way to the hospital.

To everyone's surprise, Chandler personally carried her from the car once they arrived.

All eyes were on them as Chandler whisked Meryl into the doctor's office.

Meryl felt mortified.

It was just a hand injury, for crying out loud, but Chandler insisted on not letting her feet touch the ground.

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The doctor seemed to know Chandler; her eyes lit up noticeably when he entered.

But when she saw the woman in Chandler's arms, her gaze dimmed.

"Chandler, is this... your wife?" The female doctor, her hair tied up, looked quite capable and intellectual. "Why didn't you introduce us?"

Chandler gave a soft response, "Yes. She is my wife, Meryl Stone." He added urgently, "She hurt her hand. Please take a look at it quickly."

The doctor nodded, put on gloves, and walked over. She took Meryl's hand, examining it. "Looks like it was injured by something hard. Did you cut yourself on a knife?"

Meryl instinctively glanced at the name tag **on** the doctor's chest.

[Dr. Emma Clementine, Surgery Department.]

Meryl spoke softly. "It was a piece of porcelain."

Emma smiled warmly, "It's not serious. I'll prescribe some medication. Just apply it when you get home and you'll be fine."

With that, Emma returned to her computer and began typing to prescribe the medicine.

"But you know, Chandler, for such a minor injury, why are.

so worried? You carried her in here earlier – did she hurt her leg too?"

Chapter **421** My Wife

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He gripped his phone, flashed an apologetic smile at Emma, and stepped outside the exam room to take the call.

Meryl chimed in. "My leg isn't injured."

Emma's eyes lingered on Meryl's face, her gaze loaded with meaning. "Back in the police academy, Chandler wouldn't have batted an eye at a scratch like that. Girls these days are so delicate. If you don't hurry up and treat it, it might just heal on its own."

Meryl froze. "Why do I get the feeling Emma's throwing shade?"

Is she implying I'm making a fuss over nothing?

And from the sound of it, she's known Chandler for ages."

Meryl met Emma's gaze steadily. "Well, Dr. Clementine, what can I say? My husband just can't stand to see me hurt. Even the tiniest scratch breaks his heart. He insisted on bringing me to see a doctor. Maybe you could tell him not to worry so much about me?"

Emma was taken aback, clearly not expecting such a sharp response from someone who looked so gentle and fragile.

She gave Meryl a long look and smirked. "My, my, Ms. Stone. You've got quite the silver tongue!"

Meryl nodded. "Chandler and I are married. We complement each other."

Just then, Chandler returned from his phone call.

Chapter 421 My Wife

"What's this about being complementary?"

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"Us, of course," Meryl chirped, a playful smile dancing on her lips. She slipped her arm through his, leaning her head against his shoulder. "We complement each other perfectly, don't we, honey?"

Her eyes sparkled with mischief as she tilted her head towards the newcomer. "Babe, you haven't introduced me to your friend. yet. Who's this Dr. Clementine?"

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Write **your** comment

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Finding True Love After...

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Chapter 422 Jealous

Chandler's eyes swept over Emma's face. "Back in the police academy, she was sort of the campus doctor."

Given the constant training at the academy and occasional field missions, injuries were pretty standard. That was how Chandler and Emma got to know each other.

Their relationship wasn't particularly close, but they were old acquaintances with a bit of history.

Meryl quickly caught on.

Chandler had just returned from his military service, and Emma had rushed to become a doctor in Kingsdom. Meryl's **gut** feeling hadn't been wrong after all.

Emma had clearly come here because of Chandler.

Meryl looked at it with a sudden realization.

"Oh, so you were just kinda coworkers! Dr. Clementine's such a beauty. I thought you might've had a thing for her back then."

Chandler tapped Meryl's nose playfully. "Don't jump to conclusions. Nothing like that ever happened."

"I'm just feeling a bit threatened because Dr. Clementine's talented and gorgeous."

Meryl's innocent and naive expression as she uttered those

Chapter 422 Jealous.

It effectively backed Emma into a corner, cutting off all her escape routes.

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Yet Emma couldn't even show her anger, as Meryl's words seemed to be nothing but praise, leaving her without any reason to pick a fight.

If she showed any discontent, it would be like admitting she had something to hide..

"That's right, Chandler and I are just coworkers who know each other. Ms. Stone, you shouldn't jump to conclusions!" Emma chimed in, following Chandler's lead.

"Oh." Meryl nodded, smiling at Emma as she corrected her. "Then next time you see me, you should call me Mrs. Aniston! After all, I am Chandler's wife."

Emma was left speechless.

"So, was Meryl staking her claim on Chandler?" Emma thought.

Emma's hand, hidden in her sleeve, clenched into a tight fist.

Having received the prescription, Chandler and Meryl left the examination room together.

Chandler looked at Meryl with a deep gaze. "Mrs. Aniston, are you, by any chance, jealous?"

Chandler couldn't help but notice the subtle tension between Meryl and Emma earlier.

He knew Meryl's character well enough to understand she

Chapter 422 Jealous

one to make a fuss over nothing.

Meryl nodded. "Mr. Aniston, I'm just trying to nip your little romance in the bud,"

Chandler was taken aback, instinctively explaining, "Aren't you reading too much into this? Emma and I are barely acquaintances. We're not that close."

Meryl was about to respond when they were suddenly interrupted.

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A storming towards them, her face contorted with

Woman came

rage.

It was Charlotte, and she lunged at Meryl, aiming to slap her across the face.

Chandler's eyes widened in shock as he quickly pulled Meryl behind him, shielding her with his body.

He barked at Charlotte, his voice sharp with anger, "Charlotte, what the hell do you think you're doing?"

"My son is fighting for his life in the operating room, and it's all because of this woman!" Charlotte spat, her eyes burning with fury. "What do you think I'm doing? I'm getting justice for my Dalton!"

Charlotte glared at Meryl, her chest heaving with barely contained rage.

You goddamn troublemaker! If anything happens to my Dalton, I swear I'll make you pay!

Chapter 422 Jealous the hospital.

On her way, she learned that some thug had stabbed Dalton.

The knife had been plunged deep into Dalton's chest, and Charlotte was on the verge of falling apart.

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As a mother, she couldn't bear to see her son suffer such a severe injury!

While the doctors were performing open-heart surgery on Dalton, Charlotte couldn't sit still. Realizing that Meryl was somehow connected to all this, her anger began to boil over.

She stepped out for some air, hoping to calm her nerves, but ran smack into Meryl in the lobby.

Charlotte charged at her without a second thought. "A few years back, my son was in a car accident because of you, and now this? Meryl, you're nothing but bad news for my boy!"

Chapter 423 Selfish

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Charlotte's emotions ran high, her eyes blazing with fury as she lunged at Meryl, throwing punches and clawing wildly.

Chandler shielded Meryl, using his height advantage to keep Charlotte at bay.

"Charlotte, for God's sake, calm down! We're in a hospital!" Chandler warned in a stern voice

"To hell with that! My son almost died, and you're worried about making a scene?" Charlotte snapped back.

The commotion drew curious glances from passersby, their public spectacle attracting unwanted attention.

Meryl stepped out from behind Chandler, her brow furrowed as she faced Charlotte.

"You keep blaming me for what happened to your son," Meryl said coldly, "but conveniently forget to mention how he kidnapped me and stripped away my freedom. Care to explain that?"

"That's bullshit! Dalton would never do such a thing!" Charlotte exclaimed in disbelief, convinced Meryl was spinning lies.

"Why don't you ask him yourself when he wakes up?" Meryl challenged.

Charlotte froze, momentarily stunned into silence.

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She wondered if Dalton really kidnapped Meryl.

Lately, Dalton has been acting pretty weirdly.

Charlotte had tried calling him several times, but he'd kept dodging her calls. When he finally picked up once, she'd invited him back to the Aniston Villa for dinner, but Dalton had brushed her off with some excuse about being busy

.

But he clearly wasn't tied up with anything.

The kicker was that Charlotte had asked around, and Dalton hadn't even been showing up to hang out with his friends. It felt like he was being all hush-hush, impossible to track down.

If Dalton had actually kidnapped Meryl, though, it would explain everything.

Charlotte's confidence visibly deflated.

If Meryl was telling the truth, Charlotte realized she might be in the wrong here.

Chandler chimed in. "Since you're here, I've got to ask. What kind of parenting led your son to pull such a messed-up stunt? You know better than I do how ugly this could get if word gets out."

Chandler hadn't even had a chance to confront Dalton about this yet. If they really dug into it, Dalton could kiss his place in the Aniston family goodbye.

Charlotte fell silent, suddenly becoming much more compliant, her previous arrogance nowhere to be seen.

Chapter 423 Selfish

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After a few seconds, she finally spoke up. "I don't know anything about this. Dalton's still unconscious. You can't just say whatever you want and expect us to believe it. We'll talk when he wakes up!"

With that, Charlotte stormed off without looking back.

Dalton's surgery lasted well into the night, leaving him in a deep sleep afterward.

It wasn't until the following day that he finally began to stir, slowly regaining consciousness.

By then, members from all branches of the Aniston family had arrived, cramming the hospital room to capacity.

Usually, patients wake up two or three hours after surgery, but Dalton's prolonged unconsciousness was unusual.

Charlotte was beside herself with worry, rushing back and forth between the hospital and the Aniston Villa, embellishing the story along the way. She even managed to rouse Dylan, who usually stayed out of family affairs.

The Aniston family wasn't about to be outdone by Dylan's personal hospital visit.

As soon as Dalton's eyes fluttered open, Lydia rushed to his side.

She cried out, “Dalton, I’ve been up all night worrying sick! How could you risk your life to protect Meryl? And Meryl, she’s so selfish! Did she push you in front of her to shield herself from those thugs?”

Chapter 423 Selfish. glances.

Her words revealed two crucial pieces of information. First,

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Dalton was with Meryl when the incident occurred, and second, Meryl played some role in Dalton getting stabbed.

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1 Gifts

Secret Admiration: Finding True Love After...

Chapter 424 Pin Everything on Meryl

Charlotte reflexively glanced at Lydia.

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She’d spent half the night worrying about what would happen when Dalton woke up, wondering how Chandler would deal with Meryl’s kidnapping.

But Lydia’s words had given her an idea.

The kidnapping was now a murky issue, especially since Meryl was unharmed.

Dalton, on the other hand, had a life-threatening chest wound that could’ve easily killed him.

Charlotte decided to play along with Lydia’s suggestion and pin everything on Meryl.

“Dalton, you fool. Your uncle kicks you out of Galaxy Holdings, and you still risk your life to save his wife? You’ve always been too kind for your good.”

Charlotte dabbed at her eyes, feigning tears.

The **two** women’s song and dance act was quite convincing at first glance.

Dylan's face darkened at their words. "What's going **on**? How exactly did Dalton get hurt?"

Chapter 424 Pin Everything on Meryl without a blush.

2/4

"I called Morton last night, and he's on his way back. Dalton is the only son of our family! Such a terrible thing happened so suddenly. Morton is distraught!"

Morton was Dalton's father. A year ago, under his leadership, Galaxy Holdings Group suffered severe losses. Furious, Dylan had Chandler take over the group.

As the eldest son, Morton lost all face. If that were all, it wouldn't be so bad, but he even secretly contacted Galaxy Holdings Group's competitors, trying to seize power from

Chandler.

When Dylan found **out**, he decisively sent him abroad and didn't allow him to return even for holidays, showing a determination to sever ties with his son.

Charlotte was worried sick about this and tried everything **she** could to get Morton back but to no avail.

She had initially hoped to wait for Lydia to successfully give birth to a child, which would provide Morton an excuse to return. Unexpectedly, Dalton suddenly had this accident.

This incident was actually an opportunity. Her **son** almost died; indeed, Dylan wouldn't say anything if Morton came back to

visit.

As she spoke, a middle-aged man pushed through the crowd and appeared in the ward, looking exhausted from his journey.

Despite being the eldest son of the Aniston family, Morton's

Chapter 424 Pin Everything on Meryl

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He dropped his bag and rushed to the hospital bed, exclaiming, "Son! Dalton! Dad's here to see you!"

Morton gripped Dalton's hand, his eyes red-rimmed. "Who did this to you? How'd you end up so badly hurt?"

Dalton's face was pale from blood loss, and he looked utterly exhausted from the surgery.

Dalton's lips moved, trying to speak, but his throat was too dry to make a sound.

Morton grew more dramatic. "Dalton, don't try to talk! You need to rest and get better!"

Charlotte chimed in, her voice dripping with disdain, "Who else could it be but that troublemaker Chandler married? That woman's nothing but bad news!"

"Chandler?" Morton's eyes lit up like a bloodhound catching a scent.

Seizing his chance, Morton turned on the waterworks. He stumbled over to Dylan, whining like a child.

"Dad, I know Chandler calls the shots in the Aniston family now, but you can't just sit back and do nothing! That fourth son of yours is drunk on power, even covering for his own wife. My boy nearly lost his life this time. You've got to set things straight!"

Dylan's head was pounding from all the drama. He knew this mess had to be sorted out once and for all to shut everyone up.

He turned to Harrison and barked, "Go fetch Chandler's wife.

Secret Admiration: Finding True Love After...

Chapter 425 Putting on a Show

Meryl enjoyed a peaceful night's sleep at home.

After finally escaping Dalton's clutches, she found herself sleeping more soundly than ever.

Only God knew how she had survived the past half a month.

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Fearing Dalton might burst into her room at any moment, Meryl had been afraid to fall into a deep sleep. Sometimes, she'd even resort to catnapping while perched on the edge of the bed.

Chandler had left for work that morning, though he'd wanted to stay home with her.

Meryl insisted it wasn't necessary, saying work came first, and even walked him to the door herself.

When Dylan sent someone to fetch her, Meryl was initially puzzled.

But upon hearing it involved a hospital visit, she instantly realized it must be related to Dalton.

She took her time getting ready, changing clothes, and applying light makeup before getting in the car.

The hospital room was far livelier than she'd expected, with members of both the second and third branches of the family

present.

Chapter 425 Putting on a Show

2/4

Quickly on her feet, Meryl instinctively jumped back, dodging the blow.

Seeing he'd missed, the man swung again.

That did it. Meryl had had enough.

She grabbed the man's wrist mid-swing and shoved him away.

"What's your problem? Use your words, not your hands!" she snapped.

Morton glared at Meryl, his eyes burning with rage. "My son's **in** this state because of you!"

"Morton, **are** you out of your mind? How is this my fault?"

Meryl, having once been engaged to Dalton, was familiar with Morton.

The sudden shift from "Mr. Aniston" to "Morton" caught him off guard for a moment.

When it sank in, his expression twisted into something bizarre.

Seeing Meryl alone, without Chandler, Charlotte felt

emboldened.

“You’re asking how it’s your fault? Dalton’s lying in a hospital bed, barely clinging to life! The doctors say he’s **in** critical condition. His future might never be the same! And it’s all because of you, you homewrecker!”

Lydia rushed over, clutching her belly

apter 425 Putting on a Show

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She chimed in. “Thank goodness Dalton’s got nine lives. If anything had happened to him, what would become **of** me and my son?”

Meryl saw right through the act.

They were putting on a show, playing the sympathy card to paint her as the bad guy. They were trying to pin everything on her.

She glanced at Dylan, then walked straight towards him.

Charlotte, realizing what Meryl was about to do, panicked.

“Don’t even think about trying to turn this around **on** Dalton and make him the bad guy to save your skin, Meryl,” Charlotte said, taking the offensive.

“Turn it around?”

Who’s trying to play the victim here?” Meryl thought, rolling her

eyes.

She couldn’t help but laugh. “Charlotte, your attempts to shut me up are pretty telling. What are you so afraid of? You know exactly what you’re doing.”

Dylan, who had been silent until now, sensed there was more to the story than met the eye.

He turned to Meryl, his eyes demanding answers. “What the hell happened? I **want** to hear it straight from her!”

Meryl’s gaze settled on Dalton’s face.

Chapter 425 Putting on a Show

She knew the truth could destroy him.

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There he was, lying in a hospital bed, his post-surgery recovery still uncertain. She thought spilling the beans would now be **like** kicking a man when he was down.

After all, Dalton had taken a knife for her. That's how he'd ended up in this mess.

Moreover, being inexplicably imprisoned like this for over half a month has damaged her reputation.

After all, she and Dalton were lone men and lone women, and with their past relationship, gossip could kill. It was tough to say how nasty things would get if word got out.

She couldn't ignore the potential fallout.

Chapter 426 The True Target

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Meryl quietly said, "Why don't we wait until Dalton recovers so he can explain everything himself?"

She wanted to see how Dalton would justify his actions to everyone.

Charlotte, standing nearby, breathed a sigh of relief when Meryl didn't mention the kidnapping.

But before she could fully relax, Dalton's lips moved.

Lydia was the first to notice Dalton waking up. She immediately grabbed his hand and asked, "Dalton, are you feeling any better?"

Though weak, Dalton pulled his hand away from Lydia's grasp. His coldness toward her was obvious. It was clear that he wanted no contact with her whatsoever.

Lydia's expression darkened as she saw Dalton's gaze fix firmly on Meryl.

His voice was faint, barely audible. "It was the criminal who stabbed me. Meryl had nothing to do with it..."

"Dalton!" Charlotte, turning her back to everyone, glared fiercely at him, cutting him off.

She thought, "Why is Dalton so stubborn?"

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Chapter 426 The True Target

That way, she'll be too busy defending herself to pursue the kidnapping."

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"I know **you** have a sense of chivalry, but you can't just admit to being stabbed like this. That wound nearly cost you your life!"

Morton chimed in, "Exactly! Dalton, I came back specifically to fight for your justice. You're injured so badly, and Meryl's completely unharmed. Everyone could tell there is something off about her."

The couple's coordinated efforts drowned out Dalton's weak defense.

Lydia, teary-eyed, piled **on**, using her pregnancy to pressure Meryl.

"Meryl, we're family now. I'm carrying his child. **Can't** you, for the sake of this baby, let Dalton and me live our lives in peace?"

They acted as **if** Meryl had committed some terrible crime.

But it only took Meryl a moment to figure out their game.

She realized they **saw** Dalton's injury as an opportunity to twist the story and frame her.

Meryl didn't want to strike while Dalton was down, but they were using her kindness against her, turning the tables

.

It dawned on Meryl that they were terrified the truth of Dalton imprisoning her would get out. After all, if it got out, the Aniston family would likely expel Dalton.

Chapter 426 The True Target

She never thought her decency would be weaponized against her.

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Meryl's voice was calm, but it carried strength. "Aren't you even a little curious why Dalton and I were there at that exact time, crossing paths with that criminal?"

“There are phone records on Dalton’s phone showing contact between him and the attacker. And that man’s real target was Chandler. So, the person who was supposed to get hurt wasn’t Dalton. It was Chandler.”

When she finished, the room fell silent.

Everyone was stunned **by** what Meryl had just revealed.

They realized that if what Meryl said was true, then Dalton had a private connection with the criminal.

Meryl’s words implied that Dalton and the criminal intended to harm Chandler together.

Charlotte’s face paled. She had only learned last night, after running into Meryl at the hospital, that Dalton had imprisoned her for half a month.

She hadn’t imagined Dalton was also in league with the criminal.

In the span of a few seconds, Charlotte’s mind raced. She knew Dalton absolutely could not admit to this.

“You’re lying! **I’m** his mother. No one knows Dalton better than I do. How could he possibly be involved **with** the criminal? Meryl, your accusations are outrageous!

Chapter 426 The True **Target**

Dalton had held onto a sliver of hope.

He had thought Meryl’s silence meant she still cared for him, that she might leave him a way out.

But hearing her say all of this without hesitation, he realized Meryl truly did not want any relationship with him anymore.

Write your comment

Chapter 427 Dylan’s Judgment

Dalton kept his head down, looking dejected.

Lydia’s nails dug into her palms, turning white.

She had stayed at home ever since she got pregnant, but Dalton had avoided her completely, not even giving her a chance to get close.

Lydia wasn't sure what had happened between them, but something about the atmosphere felt off when she saw them together this time.

Her gaze toward Meryl was filled with hostility.

She thought, "Why is it Meryl can easily get everything I've dreamed of?"

Meryl is already married to Chandler; what more could she want? Yet, she still entices Dalton!"

Now that Meryl was accusing Dalton, Lydia saw it as her chance. to win him back.

"Meryl, you're claiming Dalton tried to harm Chandler? But they're both part of the Aniston family. Why would Dalton do such a thing? I believe **my** husband is innocent!"

Dylan rapped his cane forcefully, and the room immediately fell silent.

shady people?"

Dylan's Judgment

The Aniston family had a strict code, and they would never allow any of their descendants to go astray.

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If someone conspired with outsiders to harm their own family, it would be a grave offense.

Morton quickly interjected, "Dad. I think..."

"I'm asking your son, not you. Keep quiet!" Dylan cut him off.

Charlotte frantically shot Dalton a look, urging him not to admit anything.

Meanwhile, Cameron, who had been watching silently, added fuel to the fire. "Dalton, your grandfather's always been fond of you. Just tell him what happened. He won't really blame you."

She was eager to see them argue, knowing this would not hurt her own family.

Dalton was torn, caught between his mother and the woman he loved most. His gaze shifted back and forth between the two.

He pressed his lips together, remaining silent.

Charlotte seized the moment. "Dylan, what is there for Dalton to say? Look at him. He's been gravely injured. If he were really in cahoots with the criminals, would they have hurt him this badly? No one treats their accomplice like this."

It sounded reasonable, and Dylan's tone grew heavier. "So, you're saying Meryl's lying?"

Chapter 427 Dylan's Judgment

Charlotte turned to Meryl, her expression displeased. "I never said that. I just think Dalton's being wrongly accused. I don't know what's going through other people's minds."

Though she hadn't outright called Meryl a liar, her every word implied that Meryl was making it all up.

Meryl found it amusing. She had almost become Charlotte's daughter-in-law once. Thankfully, she'd woken up in time. There was no way she wanted to be tied to this family.

Dylan watched on, his eyes cold. He could tell something wasn't right.

He didn't know whether Dalton was involved with the criminal, but he could see that Dalton still had unresolved feelings for Meryl.

After all, ever since Meryl had entered the room, Dalton's gaze hadn't left her face.

That kind of obvious longing couldn't be faked.

Moreover, Morton and Charlotte clearly avoided certain issues. Many times, when Dalton should have spoken, they seemed desperate to keep him quiet.

Dylan had already pieced things together.

He knew young men, in moments of recklessness, were capable of anything.

It was clear Dalton had crossed some serious lines.

Chapter 427 Dylan's Judgment

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And if this situation had escalated to the point where they had dragged him into it, whatever Dalton had done was likely unforgivable.

Dylan fell silent.

Dalton was an Aniston, the grandson he had watched grow up. His bond with Dalton was deeper than anything Meryl could compete with.

After weighing it all, Dylan said nothing more.

The Aniston family members were sharp. When they saw Dylan remain silent, they understood exactly where he stood.

Chapter 428 Dylan's Choice

Cameron's husband, a son born out of wedlock, had never received much affection. Seizing the moment, Cameron attempted to smooth things over hoping, to impress Dylan.

1/3

"We're all family here. Why make a fuss? Let's all take a step back, since we can't sort this out, why not just let it go? No need to hold grudges!"

Halle, ever the peacemaker, chimed in. She didn't want to offend anyone, so she supported Cameron's words. "Cameron is right. Let's all back off a bit."

Charlotte was eager for this issue to fade away. Her outburst had mainly aimed to confuse everyone and divert attention from Dalton's imprisonment of Meryl.

Now that Meryl hadn't brought up the kidnapping, Charlotte felt a sense of relief.

"Alright, alright. Consider Dalton's injury as **his** own misfortune. Let's just leave it at that. We won't hold it against her. Meryl, don't keep dwelling on minor issues!"

Meryl smiled, but her eyes sparkled with mischief. "What minor issue am I dwelling on? Dalton, why don't you tell everyone what really happened? I've given you a chance."

Dalton froze. Though Meryl was smiling, he could see the deep sarcasm etched on her face.

Chapter 428 Dylan's Choice

He wanted to say something, but Charlotte was frantically signaling him to stay silent.

Dalton found himself caught **in** a dilemma.

Seeing that Dalton remained quiet, Meryl understood **his** reluctance.

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He claimed to care for her, hoping she would change her mind, yet every action he took pushed her further away.

Meryl felt lucky that she had given up on him long ago.

“Step back? I’ve already retreated countless steps out of respect

for our past, yet you keep demanding more.

“In fact, it wouldn’t be difficult to uncover the truth. The criminal is still at the police station; his phone

still have

records of calls with Dalton. Just check, and you’ll find out if they’ve been in contact or if they planned to harm Chandler.”

Meryl’s gaze landed on Dylan’s face.

Dylan had always treated Meryl fairly well, but she wasn’t naïve enough to believe he would side **with** her over his own grandson.

However, since this involved Chandler, the stakes were different.

Chandler was Dylan’s youngest son. Meryl couldn’t help but wonder whom Dylan would support between his son and grandson.

Ever since she married Chandler, Dylan had appeared to care

Chapter 428 Dylan’s Choice

3/3

She didn’t understand why, right after Chandler’s birth, Dylan had sent him to live with a farming family and had then ignored him for so many years.

Chandler had never enjoyed the privileges of the Aniston family. They only brought him back when they needed him.

Meryl’s status didn’t allow her to question these matters, but she wanted to know if Dylan truly felt paternal affection for Chandler.

When Meryl mentioned Dalton’s intent to harm Chandler, Dylan remained silent.

Meryl pressed her lips together, suddenly feeling a pang of sympathy for Chandler.

It was one thing to suffer herself, but she couldn't allow Chandler to endure the same fate.

Just as Meryl was about to speak, she heard Chandler's cool voice from behind her.

"Meryl, come here."

She turned to look, locking eyes with Chandler.

For a moment, she was stunned. She had planned to handle this situation herself, not realizing she would draw him in.

Write your comment

Chapter 429 Chandler Arrives

Chandler had clearly been there for a while, yet he was standing unnoticed at the back of the crowd.

Meryl felt tense facing the accusations from so many people. She didn't want Chandler to get involved, but his presence gave her a sense of comfort.

Thinking that Chandler had heard their previous conversation, Meryl felt even more heartbroken for him.

Dylan appeared determined to brush off the situation. To **him**, Chandler was clearly the one who needed to yield.

"What are you doing here? Aren't you supposed to be at work?"

Meryl walked over to Chandler, grasping his hand tightly as if to silently offer her support.

Chandler instinctively pulled Meryl into his embrace. He understood her desire to protect him.

Warmth flooded through him, and he wanted nothing more than to hold her tightly and kiss her deeply.

"How could I not come when you were being targeted by so many people?"

Meryl leaned against Chandler's shoulder, casually replying, "It's not really bullying. They are your family, after all. We were just having a lively discussion."

Chapter 429 Chandler Arrives

2/4

Chandler was taken aback that she would still want to save face for his family after they had treated her so poorly.

His heart swelled with both love and pity. He pulled a cupcake from his pocket. "Have you eaten breakfast?"

Meryl shook her head, pleasantly surprised that Chandler had thought to bring her something to eat.

"I haven't. I was just thinking about how nice a cupcake would be."

Watching their closeness and how they seemed unfazed by the onlookers stirred a deep unease in Dalton.

He had just had the chance to speak the truth but had hesitated, missing his opportunity.

Dalton wanted to say something; he just knew that once he did, it would expose his feelings for Meryl that he had been trying to hide.

His career was on the upswing, and confronting Chandler now would leave him vulnerable.

But his indecision led to Meryl's repeated disappointment in him.

Conflicted emotions churned within Dalton. Seeing Meryl wrapped in Chandler's embrace made him want to rush over and separate them.

Chandler wrapped his arms around Meryl's waist and lifted her effortlessly.

people.

S

She expected Chandler to pick her up in front of so many **3/4**

Instinctively, she clung to his neck, resting her head against his chest as a blush crept onto her cheeks.

"I'm taking you to the hallway to eat your cupcake," Chandler murmured softly. "I'll handle things here."

The usually aloof and proud man transformed into someone incredibly gentle when it came to Meryl. He spoke to her in soft tones, shedding his usual cool demeanor.

The rest of the Aniston family looked on in surprise, sensing that Chandler was entirely different around Meryl.

Meryl glanced at the others before nodding. "Okay, I'll follow your lead."

She figured that since Chandler was also part of the Aniston family, he was probably better suited to handle their affairs than she was.

As she spoke, she prepared to step out of Chandler's arms. She felt she could walk on her own.

But Chandler tightened his grip on her.

Even though it was only a few steps to the hallway, he insisted on carrying her.

Chandler not only brought Meryl a cupcake but also a doughnut topped with thick, tempting chocolate.

Chapter 429 Chandler Arrives Once he settled her in the hallway, he

Meryl sat there, munching away. The others allowed her to hear the so quite clearly.

Chandler pulled up a chair and sat down. Ever since he had arrived, an eerie silence had settled over

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Chapter **429** Chandler Arrives

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Once he settled her in the hallway, he left her to enjoy her snack.

Meryl sat there, munching away. The wall separating her from the others allowed her to hear the sounds coming from the room. quite clearly,

Chandler pulled up a chair and sat down. Ever since he had arrived, an eerie silence had settled over the room.

Chapter 430 Presenting the Evidence

A few people exchanged glances, realizing that Chandler was not here for a friendly visit.

Chandler's gaze landed on Morton. "Morton, you're back?"

Morton replied quietly, "Yes."

"I heard you got your wallet stolen abroad, left penniless and homeless. It even made the news back home. I had to pay to keep it quiet, did you know that?"

Once the favored eldest son of **the** Aniston family, Morton had fallen from grace, and the shame of it stung deeply.

Chandler's words struck a nerve, and Morton's expression darkened. Feeling the eyes of others on him, he snapped, "What's the point of bringing that up?"

Morton felt humiliated.

Chandler smirked slightly. "Alright, let's drop that. How about **we** talk about how Dalton got injured?"

"I heard you all just shifted the blame for Dalton's injury onto Meryl, expecting her to explain. I'm curious. She's also a victim. Why should she bear the responsibility for Dalton's injury?"

Chandler's eyes scanned Dalton's face, **his** expression neutral.

Chapter 430 Presenting the Evidence

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Chandler scoffed. "So, you're suggesting that **just** because **Meryl is** unharmed, she should take the fall for Dalton's injury?"

Charlotte fell silent.

Chandler turned back to Dalton. "How did you get hurt? Would you like to tell us, or should I?"

Dalton pressed his lips together tightly.

Since Chandler had started flaunting his affection for Meryl, Dalton felt numb to everything around him. He was completely out of sorts.

Noticing Dalton's silence, Chandler's tone hardened. "If you're not going to speak, I'll just explain it myself."

“Chandler,” Charlotte quickly chimed in, “Meryl is your wife. Maybe it’s best to keep some distance here?”

“Distance? Why should I? She’s not the one in the wrong. Do you really expect her to shoulder all the blame?”

Morton stepped in, eager to defuse the tension. “Chandler, we’re all family here. Why make a fuss over this? Dad, don’t you agree?”

Morton knew that if the truth came to light, Dalton wouldn’t come out unscathed, so he aimed to calm things down.

Dylan didn’t want to escalate matters either. Just as he was about to speak, Chandler shot him a cold glance.

A curious voice broke the tension in the room. “Who is in charge

3/4

Chapter 430 Presenting the Evidence Chandler rubbed the ring on his thumb, a symbol of the highest authority in the family, “Since I’m the head of the household, I have the right to handle family matters. Dad, don’t you think?”

Dylan glanced at the signet ring.

In truth, he had long since stepped back from family affairs. He shouldn’t have intervened in the first place.

It was because Charlotte had come to him in tears earlier, claiming Dalton’s life was in jeopardy, that he felt compelled to investigate.

Dylan could see that Chandler was serious today and wouldn’t back down easily.

He waved his hand, not wanting to clash with Chandler at this moment. Such a confrontation would undermine his authority as the head of the family.

After all, Chandler was the most talented member of the Aniston family, and the entire clan relied on him.

Dylan finally conceded. “You’re right. You’re the head of the family, so handle it as you see fit!”

Chandler nodded to Walter, who stood behind him.

Walter promptly produced a photograph.

In the image, Dalton and Zane were seen whispering to each other in a mall.

#This **man** in the photo has already been arrested by the police.

Chapter **430** Presenting the the one who stabbed Dalton.”

Chandler handed the photo to Ca together. What do you think they

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