

# Secret Admiration Finding True Love After Prison

## Chapter 441 – 450

Chapter 441 Lydia Had a Premonition

Dalton's composure and confidence made Chandler's heart sink.

He believed in Meryl, but it seemed what Dalton had said was  
truc.

Could it be...

No! No way!

"Dalton, do you think that I dare not kill you because you are hospitalized due to severe injuries now?"

Chandler grabbed Dalton and punched him in the stomach.

Dalton instantly spat out a large gash of blood, which stained the white sheet beneath him. Chandler attacked him with all his strength. Dalton felt dizzy, and his brain went blank.

The place on his chest where the surgery had been performed was in great pain. Even at a certain moment, he even thought that he was going to die.

The ward was excessively noisy, prompting Lydia to rush in.

Seeing Dalton being beaten, she immediately stopped in front of him to protect him.

"Uncle Chandler! What are you doing? Despite being the family head how could you be so cruel to **Dalton**? What did he da

risk! Doctor!-Doctor!"

a Premonition

**2/4**

The situation in the ward was terrible.

Upon entering, Lydia caught a whiff of the heavy smell of blood.

She had no doubt that Chandler would have killed Dalton alive if she had come a bit later.

Tears welled up in her eyes as she called for doctors and nurses.

Soon, a group of medical staff poured in.

Due to the emergency and the need for treatment, Chandler and Lydia are kicked out.

He left the hospital with an icy expression, but she was going to collapse.

**In** the morning, Dalton had hit her in the stomach with a cup in the ward, which appeared to have caused the baby harm. The doctor ordered a series of examinations, all of which Lydia completed. The doctor concluded that there were no abnormalities and the fetus' heartbeat was all right.

However, she still experienced significant discomfort in her stomach, and the sensation of the baby falling caused her

unease.

She needed the baby. Without it, she and Dalton would have **to** divorce.

He also needed the baby. Otherwise, he may be driven out of the country by Chandler at any time.

Chapter 441 Lydia Had a Premonition

The more Lydia pondered about it, the more resentful she grew.

**3/4**

**grew.**

When other women were pregnant, they were cherished like princesses.

Yet, why did Dalton make every effort to get rid of her and their child?

How could her life become so miserable?

She got along well with Dalton, but why *did* their relationship gradually deteriorate after their marriage?

Lydia felt as if she had reached an impasse, unconsciously pushing him further and further away.

How could she make a change?

The anonymous messages Chandler had received on his mobile phone were sent by Lydia.

She was having a hard time, and, of course, she did not want Meryl to feel at ease. She couldn't be the only one who was heartbroken.

She sent the pictures in the hope that everyone would suffer as much as she did. As Lydia expected, Chandler lost control and beat Dalton up.

However, she was surprised that Chandler, who had always been calm and restrained, was furious.

He punched Dalton hard, regardless of the consequences!

Chapter 441 Lydia Had a Premonition

Lydia had a premonition.

But Chandler's ruthlessness towards Dalton assured her that Meryl would lose Chandler, and she was thrilled.

Write your comment

1 Gifts

4/4

Chapter 442 What Should I Do?

After Chandler left, Meryl called Anne to fill her in on everything that had happened recently. "Anne, I need your help. Chandler just left home. Do you think he's really upset? Could this get serious?"

Anne was surprised to hear from Meryl, who had been out of touch because Dalton had kept her captive.

She hadn't expected Dalton to go to such extremes, showing complete disregard for the consequences. Now, Meryl had to deal with the problems he had caused.

"To be honest, most men wouldn't take this well. Chandler might be questioning what went on during those twenty days with you two."

After all, Dalton and Meryl had been alone in the same house for over twenty days, not just a day or two.

“What should I do?” Meryl asked.

A simple explanation wouldn’t cut it. Even if Chandler wanted to believe her, there might still be lingering doubts.

“I can’t do much for you, but aren’t you pregnant? The baby is a connection between you two. Maybe you should show some vulnerability to him.”

Feeling uncertain, Meryl ended the call and decided to make dinner for Chandler.

Chapter 442 What Should Do?

on the sofa to wait for him.

**2/3**

A few minutes later, the door clicked open. Meryl rushed over without even putting on her slippers.

Chandler walked in, his expression tense. He changed his shoes and frowned when he saw Meryl barefoot on the floor.

“I made dinner for you!” she said with a smile. “Chandler, where did you go? Why did you smash your phone?”

Even if it was related to her, Meryl couldn’t quite understand **why**. She looked up at him with bright, hopeful eyes, trying to appease him.

She wore a white nightgown that seemed too large for her. She had put on some weight in recent months, but had lost it again. after Dalton’s actions.

Chandler swallowed hard and picked her up, pushing aside his negative emotions. He asked gently, “Why didn’t you wear slippers, Meryl? It’s still winter, and it’s freezing.”

Three hours earlier, Chandler had planned to cook for Meryl but left abruptly in frustration.

Meryl had been anxious, her mind racing with worries. She was so eager to see Chandler that she forgot about the slippers.

His arms were warm as he carried her into the living room. Looking into his eyes, Meryl asked softly, “Where did you go? Why did you leave without saying anything? I’ve been worried sick.”

## Chapter 442 What Should Do?

had some urgent matters to handle.”

**3/3**

Chandler didn't mention the photos he had received. Noticing his reluctance to discuss it, Meryl didn't press the issue.

“I made dinner. Are you hungry?” she asked, leading him to the dining table. “Do you like it?”

It was already past four in the afternoon, well beyond lunchtime. Meryl was hungry but wanted to eat with Chandler.

B

Write your comment

Gifts

Secret Admirer: Finding True Love After...

Chapter 443 I'm Telling the Truth

**1/4**

Chandler smiled brightly and knew at a glance that Meryl had made the three dishes and **the** soup on the table according to his preferences.

She pivoted around, ready to get the cutlery.

Yet, Chandler grabbed her hand and motioned for her to sit down. “Have a rest, and I'll prepare it.”

With that, he went straight into the kitchen and quickly came out with the cutlery.

“Don't cook anymore.”

Meryl was puzzled. “Why?”

“You are pregnant, and I can't let you cook for me.”

Chandler felt guilty. If he hadn't gone out in annoyance, Meryl wouldn't have been starving until now.

What the hell was he doing?

On his way back, Chandler was distracted. At a certain moment, he actually suspected that what Dalton had said was true.

Dalton's firm tone led him to assume that the child in Meryl's belly **was** really Dalton's.

However, as she cooked for him despite her pregnancy,

Chapter 443 I'm Telling the Truth.

**2/4**

The most important thing between husband and wife was **trust**, wasn't it?

How could he have been fooled by Dalton in a few words into not distinguishing right from wrong?

But the photos...

Chandler asked, "Meryl, I just went out because I received some photos."

Meryl subconsciously clenched the fork. "What photos?"

"The photos of you and Dalton."

Realizing that the photos must upset him, Meryl asked, "Could you show them to me?"

"They are destroyed, but I can describe them to you."

"In the first photo, you're holding hands outside the concert hall. In the second one, you're hugging like a loving couple. In the last one, you're in the same bed."

Chandler noticed that Meryl had a cold look on her face.

She didn't expect Dalton to be so evil!

No wonder Chandler just left in a rage!

Dalton obviously used the photos to convince Chandler that she had an affair with him.

Chapter 443 I'm Telling the Truth

Meryl stared up into Chandler's eyes seriously. "Do you believe me?"

"In this half a month, I indeed went to a concert with Dalton, but my original intention was to escape. I held hands with him only to let his guard down. Besides, I promise we didn't lie in the same bed! We have nothing to do with each other! Chandler, do you believe me?"

Meryl met Chandler's eyes and said through tears, "Believe it or not, I'm telling the truth."

She was depressed.

To her surprise, one day, she had to prove her innocence.

Chandler was very distressed. He sat down beside her and embraced her.

"Meryl, I'm sorry. It's all my fault. I shouldn't have told you this. I hurt you, didn't I?"

It really hurt Meryl that Chandler suspected her of cheating **on** him.

But she was very clear that he was not to blame.

If Dalton hadn't kidnapped her, how could there have been so much trouble?

Meryl choked. Despite being in Chandler's arms, she felt sad.

She had no idea if this would drive a wedge between them.

Chapter 443 I'm Telling the Men only drank when they were

Write your comment

Chapter **443** I'm Telling the Truth

Men only drank when they were in a bad mood, didn't they?

Chapter 444 The Gestational Age

Alone at home, Meryl stared at the ceiling, unable to

sleep. Chandler got drunk and didn't come back until after midnight.

Feeling that he entered the house, Meryl immediately closed her eyes.

After going into the bathroom to take a shower, he lay on the bed and hugged her from behind.

She was wrapped tightly in his warm arms.

Noticing that she was not really asleep, Chandler pressed her to his chest. "Dante divorced Anne today and asked me out for a drink. Don't overthink it."

"Well," Meryl whispered. Chandler's heartbeats gradually dispelled her uneasiness. She cradled his neck, as usual, close to his collarbone. "Chandler, could you please accompany me to the hospital for an antenatal examination tomorrow morning?"

Meryl didn't know how much he believed about her explanation. for the photos.

It suddenly occurred to her of Anne's advice that the baby was the bond between them.

Therefore, she decided to use the baby to repair their relationship.

Chapter 444 The Gestational Age

Still feeling drowsy, she noticed that he was furious.

**2/4**

He was standing on the balcony in his black pajamas, one hand in his pocket. Meryl did not know to whom he was talking. Across the distance, she intuitively thought the caller was scolding him, for Chandler's face grew colder and colder with the incessant speech of the caller. Who was it? Why did he actually speak to Chandler in such a tone?

While Meryl was puzzled, Chandler, who remained silent, finally growled, "He deserved it."

After he hung up the phone, she sat up and rubbed her eyes. "What happened?"

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"Dalton has three broken ribs."

Meryl was stunned.

Chandler added, "I beat him up yesterday."



Meryl was lost in thought.

Did Chandler storm off from home to the hospital to fight Dalton yesterday? Meryl immediately glanced at Chandler's fingers. "Are you injured?"

"Would I get hurt dealing with people like him?" He threw his mobile phone on the bed and turned into the bathroom.

Meryl frowned.

Dalton's rib was broken by Chandler, and it might not be **over**

Chapter 444 The Gestational Age

casily. Halfway through Meryl's antenatal examination, Chandler's phone rang again.

3/4

The caller on the other end of the phone sounded like Morton,

"He is your nephew anyway! You are part of the Aniston family. How could you be so ruthless to him? I have told Dad about it. If anything happens to him this **time**, I will risk my life to take revenge on you!"

Chandler

sneered, "Are you still a child who can only complain to Dad when you can't defeat me?"

"Well, it doesn't matter. You can even cry in front of him and see what he will do to me."

With that, Chandler hung up, regardless of Morton's remarks. Meryl whispered, "Shall we go and have a look?"

Chandler disagreed. "It's not necessary. He won't die."

He broke Dalton's three ribs, which was still his mercy for him. Dalton deserved a more severe punishment for his

wrongdoing. After the antenatal examination, Meryl went to the doctor with the reports.

The doctor reviewed the ultrasound scan and inadvertently said, "The baby is two weeks younger."

She pointed to a dot on the screen. "Are you sure you remember the gestational age correctly?"

Meryl nodded her head gently. "Yes."

## Chapter 444 The Gestational Age

4/4

“That’s strange. It’s really two weeks younger, but it’s also possible that you are too thin. Eat more recently and see if you

**can**

make

up

for it.”

Chandler narrowed his eyes thoughtfully.

Write your comment

Gifts

Secret Admiration: Finding True Love After.... 1/3

## Chapter 445 Death of Chandler’s Mother

When Meryl and Chandler just walked out of the doctor’s office, his phone rang again.

This time, it was Dylan calling. He asked seriously, “Did you break Dalton’s ribs? Where are you now? Come here right now!”

He rarely used such a harsh tone to talk to Chandler. Meryl’s heart skipped a beat, and she glanced at him with concern.

If it was not handled perfectly, Chandler would likely be accused of being ruthless to his family.

He hung up the phone and replied, “I’ll drive you back first, okay?”

“No! I want to stay with you!”

Meryl gently took Chandler’s arm. “We are husband and wife. When either of us is in trouble, we should solve it together. Don’t push me away, okay?”

After a moment of silence, he nodded in agreement.

Before entering the ward, they stood in the corridor and heard Charlotte crying inside.

She had always behaved herself. Her loss of control over herself **was** unprecedented. “He had a thoracotomy yesterday and was recovering. However, his three ribs were broken, and now, his

2/3

Chapter 445 Death of Chandler’s Mother After Chandler left yesterday, the medical staff rescued Dalton.

Obviously, he was seriously injured.

One night passed. Dalton remained in a coma this morning. Now, he was in the intensive care unit, and his condition was

unknown.

As soon as Chandler appeared in the ward, Charlotte rushed over angrily.

“Why did you beat Dalton so hard? Even if you don’t regard him as your family, he is **still** a patient. He got injured **in** order to save Meryl, but you don’t appreciate it. How can you be so cruel to him?”

She put the blame on Chandler with a barrage of questions. Dylan’s face darkened.

After all, such a thing had never happened before.

Morton said, “In my opinion, Chandler is as heartless as his mother!”

Morton suddenly shot an icy glare at Morton.

Morton knew that he had said something inappropriate. Yet, Dalton’s life was **at** risk, so he was inevitably distracted.

Chandler seemed to ignore it.

With **an** expressionless face, he asked Meryl to sit on the sofa and got her some water in a disposable cup before fixing his eyes on Morton.

Chapter **445** Death of Chandler’s Mother

“Chandler!” Dylan interrupted him, frowning deeply. “How could you say that about your mother?”

3/3

“Am I wrong? Don’t you think so? That’s why you sent me to the countryside and didn’t care about me.”

When Chandler mentioned his childhood, Dylan suddenly fell silent.

He hunched over as if his energy had been drained. Sitting in a wheelchair, he opened his mouth but said nothing. Unpleasant memories of Chandler’s childhood flashed through his mind.

Next to him, Meryl narrowed his eyes.

She learned that Dylan had been married to three wives, the first two of whom he divorced within a few years. Yet, Chandler’s mother died just a few days after giving birth to him.

She died of a massive hemorrhage during childbirth.

Everyone speculated that Dylan disliked Chandler’s birth, which had contributed to her death, and that he, unwilling to see Chandler, sent him away from the Aniston family.

However, for some reason, Meryl felt that there was an inside story about the death of Chandler’s mother.

B

Write your comment

Chapter 446 What a Child!

Morton brought the subject back,

“Dad, I must get justice for Dalton! The doctor said that he have sequelae. He is still young. Chandler couldn’t punish him recklessly just because he is the family head!”

may

Dylan, somewhat lost in thought, turned a deaf ear to Morton. “Dad!” Morton called him again.

Dylan came back to his senses and waved his hand. “I’m tired. It’s your business. Deal with it yourself!”

“Dad!” Morton found it incredible.

Dylan's attitude was obviously different. He was furious that three of Dalton's ribs had been broken. Why the sudden change in him? Was it because Chandler had mentioned his mother?

Did Dylan still care about her?

Chandler mocked, "Morton, you keep claiming that I punished Dalton recklessly. Why don't you ask him what he did? Dalton had no respect for my wife and captured her. Dad, do you think he deserved to have three of his ribs broken?"

Charlotte was shocked that Chandler had exposed **the** matter in public.

Dylan was stunned. "Chandler, what do you mean?"

Chapter 446 What a Child!

2/3

Chandler glanced back at Meryl. He covets my wife. In addition to breaking three of his ribs, I am going to throw him out of the family. Dad, what's your opinion?"

His words revealed much. Dylan knew that Chandler must have a reason for attacking Dalton. Yet, he didn't expect that Dalton had imprisoned Meryl.

It all made sense.

Chandler sat beside Meryl and put his arm around her shoulder.

"As the saying goes, wash one's dirty linen at home. There **is** no one else here, and the other family members are not here. I did not intend to be cruel to Dalton at first. As long as he went abroad and never came back, that was all. However, since Morton tried to seek justice, I decided to expel Dalton from the Aniston family!"

Morton instantly panicked.

He looked at Dylan. "Dad, Dalton is childish. He must have kidnapped Meryl for a reason."

He had planned to deny the fact, but it was easy to investigate, and Dylan shouldn't be fooled.

Chandler sneered, "Well, Dalton is almost thirty. What a child!"

Morton said, "Maybe Meryl seduced Dalton!"

Meryl frowned. "Morton, what do you mean? Did I seduce Dalton? That day, he knocked me out and took me out of the hospital. It has been more than 20 days. Surveillance footage

Chapter 446 What a Child!

Do you want me to produce evidence?"

**3/3**

What surprised her was how shamelessly Morton, Dylan's eldest son, could distort the truth at his age. He was unconvinced. "Dad watched Dalton grow up. He knows Dalton well! What can the surveillance footage prove? Even if he really tied you up, do you dare to say that you had no responsibility at all?"

His ridiculous statement simply amused Meryl in her rage.

Chandler patted her on the shoulder and glared coldly at Morton. "Is the surveillance footage unable to prove Dalton's crime, or are you blind?"

Morton was furious. "You! Chandler, I am your elder brother. How could you be so rude to me?"

Dylan remained silent for a long time. Since Chandler had just mentioned his mother, he appeared somewhat distracted.

At that moment, as his two sons kept arguing, he tapped his crutch.

"Shut up! Chandler, Dalton remains in critical condition in the intensive care unit. Even if you have any complaints about him again, he has already been punished."

Chapter 447 Meryl's Biggest Worry

"You broke three **of** his ribs. Haven't you vented your anger enough? Will you only stop when he's kicked out of the family? He's your nephew. Do you **want** him to die? Let's put this behind us and not mention it again. Peace is best for everyone.

"Morton, make sure to watch over Dalton. Once he recovers, have him apologize to Chandler and Meryl."

Dylan was clearly trying to downplay the situation, knowing how disgraceful it would be if word got out.

Chandler was about to protest when Meryl gently tugged at his sleeve, signaling it wasn't the right time to argue further.

With three broken ribs and previous knife wounds, Dalton was already in the ICU. If Chandler pushed to expel him from the Aniston family now, Meryl feared Morton might retaliate.

As they left the hospital, Chandler looked at Meryl, hesitant to speak. She understood what he was thinking.

“Chandler, I don’t mind what I’ve been through. I just want you. to be safe,” she said.

Meryl would rather compromise than see Chandler **face** Morton’s wrath. She cherished him, and nothing was more important than his safety.

He embraced her, resting his head against her collarbone. “I won’t let Dalton get near you again.

Chapter 447 Meryl’s Biggest Worry

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Chandler’s warm breath brushed against Meryl’s neck, making her instinctively nestle closer.

“Chandler, I just want to focus on taking care of myself and

having a healthy baby. I’m worried that if we push Morton and Dalton too far, they might retaliate against our child.”

That was Meryl’s biggest concern,

Chandler gently stroked her abdomen. “They wouldn’t dare. If they do, I’ll make sure they regret it.”

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Meryl returned to the Stone Villa for dinner. When Bianca learned about Meryl’s twenty-day ordeal with Dalton, she was furious.

“What’s wrong with Dalton? He cheated on you, then regretted it and tried to win you back.

“But how could he hurt you like this? You’ve been locked up for so long. If this gets out, your reputation could suffer.

“How’s Chandler handling this? Is he upset?”

Bianca was clearly worried that Chandler might blame Meryl. After all, being held captive by Dalton could cause misunderstandings.

Meryl reassured her, "Chandler knows right from wrong. He hasn't blamed me."

Bianca sighed with relief. "That's good. Chandler's a decent man."

#### Chapter 447 Meryl's Biggest Worry

As someone with experience, Bianca had plenty of advice to share. Reflecting on her own past, she realized Malcolm's infidelity had been evident. Otherwise, Lydia wouldn't exist.

3/3

Meryl noticed Malcolm's absence and asked, "Hasn't Malcolm been around lately?"

Bianca replied calmly, "I have no idea where he **is**, and I don't care. If anything happens to him, the property is still ours. Men can be so immature. He's unwilling to divorce and just drags things out."

As they talked, a sudden knock on the door interrupted them.

#### Chapter 448 Not for Sale

1/4

The servant went to open the door and saw a stranger standing there. Puzzled, the servant asked, "Who are you?"

"I'm from the real estate agency. Mr. Stone has asked us to sell this house," the man replied.

Hearing this, Bianca immediately jumped up from the sofa.

"What did you just say? Has Malcolm gone mad? This is the ancestral home of the Stone family! How can he sell it?" she exclaimed.

Malcolm thought, "What's more, the title deed is still in Meryl's possession."

The real estate agent seemed to have anticipated Bianca's reaction, replying calmly, "Mr. Stone mentioned that he owns half of this house, and he intends to sell his share."

Bianca was speechless.



Meryl quickly grasped what Malcolm was up to; he was clearly trying to force Bianca to reach out to him.

Over the past few weeks, Malcolm had lowered himself repeatedly **to** approach Bianca, only to be rejected each time. This move seemed like his way to regain control of the situation.

Meryl said, "You can leave now. This house is not for sale."

Chapter 448 Not for Sale

On the first attempt, Malcolm didn't answer. It wasn't until

**2/4**

Bianca, with a cold expression, made the third call that he finally picked up slowly and leisurely.

Malcolm's voice came through with a **hint** of nonchalance,

"What do you want? Make it quick, I'm busy here."

The phone was on speaker, and faint sounds of gambling chips could be heard in the background.

Meryl could even picture Malcolm's arrogant face, his lips curled into a mocking smile. She thought to herself, "It seems that in the past twenty —  
odd days, Malcolm has shifted from **his** initial groveling demeanor to a more defiant attitude."

Bianca got straight to the point, "Malcolm, what are you up to? Selling the house?"

Malcolm replied calmly, "Aren't you planning to divorce me? Divorce always comes with a division of assets, doesn't it?"

"But the title deed is still in Meryl's hands."

"Everything that belongs to the Stone family is mine. What does it matter if the title deed is with her?"

Bianca felt Malcolm's behavior was downright shameless.

After nearly thirty years **of** marriage, she finally realized what kind of person Malcolm truly was.

Meryl gave Bianca a knowing look and took over the conversation smoothly.

Chapter 448 Not for Sale

**3/4**

“If we’re talking about selling assets for the division, then Celestial Ventures Group is all so half my mother’s. Why don’t we sell that as well?”

“Chandler was just telling me the other day that there aren’t many good investment opportunities on the market right now. I think Celestial Ventures Group is a solid option. I’ll have a word with him and get him to make a good offer to buy it out. After all, it’s all within the family.”

Malcolm was stunned. He hadn’t expected Meryl to come out with that.

In an instant, he flew into a rage.

“You ungrateful daughter! You’ve really turned against your own family since marrying Chandler! Now you’re even thinking of giving the company away? How could you do this to your grandfather? He loved you so much when he was alive!”

Meryl’s voice was icy, distant.

“Don’t use Grandpa to guilt-trip me. Even if he were to confront someone, it would be you first. If you can sell the ancestral home, why can’t we sell the company?”

Meryl’s words left Malcolm speechless.

His original plan was to use the sale of the ancestral home as leverage to pressure Bianca, hoping to make her rethink the divorce.

But he never expected that Meryl would effortlessly dismantle his strategy like this.

Chapter 448 Not for Sale

“You need to come back. We’re waiting for you at home.”

With that, Meryl ended the call.

“Tell me honestly, have you really made up your mind to go through with the divorce?” Meryl asked Bianca.

**4/4**

Bianca pressed her lips together tightly, her anger simmering over Malcolm's secret affairs and Sandra's act of swapping her child.

The damage was already done, but after calming down, Bianca thought, "If I divorce him, it might satisfy my anger. But if I go through with it, and then Malcolm marries Sandra, wouldn't I just be clearing the path for them?"

It is like planting a tree for others to enjoy the shade.

Why should I do that?"

Besides, after nearly thirty years of marriage with Malcolm, their lives were deeply intertwined, and the two families had practically become one. A divorce would likely cause massive upheaval for both of their companies.

The more Bianca thought about it, the more she realized **that** it wasn't worth it.

Seeing her remain silent for a long time, Meryl understood her thoughts completely.

Chapter 449 Unexpected

**1/4**

Meryl didn't say much after that. Before long, Malcolm returned, but to everyone's surprise, he brought Lydia with him.

When Bianca saw Lydia, her expression instantly darkened.

"Malcolm, what is the meaning of this? I asked you to come back so we could discuss our issues. Why did you bring Lydia along?"

Lydia's eyes turned red as she looked at Bianca with a pitiful expression. She walked over and gently tugged on Bianca's sleeve.

"Mom, even if I'm not your biological daughter, the love and bond we've shared all these years is real, isn't it? Have the past twenty years of me calling you 'Mom' meant nothing? How can you not want to see me?"

Lydia rested her head on Bianca's shoulder, softly sobbing.

Bianca's eyes showed a hint of emotion. She could confront Malcolm with anger, but she found it impossible to be harsh toward Lydia, especially since she was pregnant.

Besides, for the past twenty years, Bianca had indeed treated Lydia like a precious gem, doting on her as if she were her own.

Bianca had real feelings for Lydia, and the main reason she **was** so cold toward her now was the heartbreak of realizing that the daughter she'd raised for so many years wasn't **truly on** her side.

Chapter 449 Unexpected

Sandra. I despise her actions **as** much as you do. That's why I beg you, please don't divorce Dad."

2/4

Bianca was taken aback, not expecting Lydia to try to persuade her to reconcile with Malcolm.

She had originally thought that since Sandra was Lydia's biological mother, Lydia would naturally side with Sandra.

"Mom, no matter what, you'll always be **my** mother. I will never deny you, and I only wish for you and Dad to be happy together."

It seemed that Lydia wasn't as close to Sandra as Bianca had imagined.

After all, no one would willingly embrace the fact that their biological mother was a homewrecker.

And with this scandal now public knowledge, it was nothing but disgraceful.

Bianca's expression remained stern. "Don't think that a few sweet words will make me treat you the same as before. You should know by now that you've already reaped all the benefits in this family. All I want now is to make it up to **Meryl**."

Upon hearing this, Malcolm's face showed a hint of displeasure.

"What did Lydia ever do wrong? She was just a baby back then. She didn't know anything. If you want to blame someone, Bianca, blame Sandra, not Lydia! Besides, she's pregnant now. She can't handle stress!"

Chapter 449 Unexpected

I don't see you showing her even a hint of concern!" Bianca retorted, standing **up** for Meryl.

Her words left both Malcolm and Lydia stunned, their eyes widening in shock.

Their gazes snapped to Meryl's abdomen. "Meryl, you're pregnant?"

3/4

Meryl hadn't intended to reveal her pregnancy, but since Bianca mentioned it, there was no point in hiding it anymore..

"Yes, it's still very early," Meryl responded calmly.

A flash of jealousy quickly passed through Lydia's eyes.

She hadn't expected this development.

She had just found out she was pregnant, and now Meryl was also expecting.

While Lydia's relationship with Dalton was on the brink of collapse, Meryl seemed to enjoy a stable and peaceful married

life.

Bianca brought the conversation back to the topic at hand. "Malcolm, if you don't want a divorce, fine, but I have conditions."

Malcolm quickly asked, "What conditions?"

Bianca had initially thought about demanding that Malcolm cut all ties with Sandra.

Chapter 449 Unexpected

4/4

After a few seconds of thought, Bianca changed her demand. "All the money **you've** spent on Sandra over the years was part of our marital assets. I want her to return every single cent!"

Malcolm stood there, stunned for a few seconds.

Write your comment

Gifts

Secret Admirer: Finding True Love After...

Chapter 450 Not a Joke

This demand didn't cause much trouble for Malcolm, so he readily agreed.

Lydia couldn't help but worry for Sandra.

1/4

Sandra's flower shop was started with Malcolm's investment, costing him several hundred thousand dollars. But that was just the small stuff.

The real stakes involved properties, cars, and stocks. They were easily worth tens of millions of dollars. If everything had to be returned, Sandra would be left with absolutely nothing.

Over the years, Sandra had not only been Malcolm's companion. in meals and in bed but now stood to lose even a place to live, let alone any support for her lifestyle. Bianca seemed intent on making her pay back every cent Malcolm had ever spent on her.

Lydia assumed that Malcolm would at least take some time to think it over. But to her surprise, he agreed on the spot without a hint of hesitation!

She was stunned.

However, Lydia couldn't openly help Sandra now, even though she desperately wanted to. She was trying to win Bianca's favor and had her own agenda, so siding with Sandra wasn't an option.

As Malcolm agreed, Bianca's gaze shifted to Lydia.

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get along? Well, my other condition is that you cut all ties with Sandra. If you do that, you'll still be my good daughter."

Lydia froze, not expecting the issue to come **around** to her.

She was now forced to be accountable for her words. Lydia knew that if she refused now, it would clearly show Bianca that her previous declarations weren't genuine.

Having spent years by Bianca's side, Lydia was well aware that this wasn't a decision Bianca would have come up with on her

own.

Lydia's eyes darted toward Meryl.

She thought to herself, "This has to be Meryl's idea!

What a cunning move!"

In the end, both Malcolm and Lydia agreed to Bianca's conditions.

They knew that Bianca's family also held significant power, and if she insisted on a divorce, the stock price of Celestial Ventures Group would undoubtedly plummet, and the company would face chaos.

But then, Bianca did something even more unexpected.

She took Malcolm's phone from **his** hand, found Sandra's number, and dialed it.

"Since both of you agreed, let's do this properly. Call Sandra and end things in front of me!" Bianca declared.

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Bianca snapped back, "Privately? So, you can meet her in secret? Malcolm, are you planning to play both sides here?"

Her words silenced Malcolm completely.

By the time the conversation ended, Sandra's phone call was already connected, and her overly sweet voice came through, "Malcolm, what's going on?"

Bianca slapped Malcolm on the back, signaling him to stop stalling and speak up..

Malcolm finally said, "Sandra, it's over between us! I'm short on cash lately, so I need you to return all the money I spent on you!"

Sandra was in disbelief as if she hadn't heard correctly. "What... what did you just say?"

"The property, the money, the stocks. All of it was part of my marital assets with Bianca.

"If you don't pay it back, we'll take legal action, and you'll be forced to return everything."

Malcolm's tone was dead serious, and it was clear he wasn't joking. Sandra was completely stunned.

After a long silence of nearly half a minute, she finally spoke, her voice breaking into sob. “Malcolm, what about all these years I’ve given to you?”

Malcolm, showing no shame whatsoever, replied, “What have you given me?”

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“My youth, my body, my love. Malcolm, you can’t just walk away like this!” she cried.

Malcolm remained indifferent. “You gave me those things, and didn’t I also give you plenty in return? Sandra, let’s keep this civil and part ways peacefully.”

Bianca couldn’t believe what she was hearing.

She thought, “I’ve been with Malcolm for so many years. Even if I didn’t achieve anything remarkable, I’ve been through all the ups and downs with him. Plus, I gave **him** a child.

Now, is he seriously going to demand back everything he ever spent on me too?”

Without giving Sandra another chance to respond, Malcolm hung up the call.

Barely two minutes later, Lydia’s phone started **ringing**.