

Secret Admiration Finding True Love After Prison

Chapter 531 – 540

Chapter 531 Little Pet

1/4

Early the following day, Meryl got up at dawn and headed to the practice room with her cello.

She'd texted Harvey last night, and he said he'd come by the orchestra to see her today.

The classroom was empty since she'd arrived so early. Meryl walked in and started tuning her cello, but just as she played the first note, someone walked in.

Christine glared at her. "You again? Still hanging around the orchestra, huh?"

Christine's eyes narrowed as she looked Meryl up and down, immediately recognizing the expensive cello.

"How did you get your hands on that instrument?"

The cello had been a gift from Chandler.

Chandler had paid top dollar to buy it from a famous performer, who happened to be Christine's idol.

Christine had heard someone had bought her idol's cello at auction recently, but she never imagined it would end up with someone like Meryl.

Meryl stayed silent.

Chapter 531 Little Pet

Christine's face twisted with annoyance at being ignored.

2/4

She sneered, "Give up while you can. Everyone knows Mr. Herty doesn't take students, no matter how fancy your cello is!"

Other people started trickling into the room.

Among them were two girls, Christine's usual sidekicks.

They heard cello music from outside and assumed it was Christine playing. Before even entering, they started praising.

One called out, "Christine, you're playing this piece beautifully! Much more emotional than yesterday."

When they walked in and saw Meryl at the cello instead, everyone froze in awkward silence.

Christine shot them a look that could kill.

One quickly backpedaled. "Christine, you're our section's principal cellist with your prestigious conservatory degree. This nobody couldn't hold a candle to you."

Meryl was playing their practice piece from yesterday.

She mainly had memorized the score by ear, though she did make some mistakes.

When Meryl hit several wrong notes, the other girl smirked. "See, Christine? She can't even remember the sheet music properly."

Chapter 531 Little Pet

properly. She's not in your league at all."

3/4

Christine felt somewhat better and laughed behind her hand. "And she actually thinks Mr. Herly would take her as a student."

"No way! Mr. Herly doesn't just teach anyone who walks in. Christine, even someone as talented as you only got one masterclass with him."

"Exactly! She's totally delusional!"

Mark walked in and shook his head at the three women gossiping.

Everyone was here to work and learn music. There wasn't the point of this elitism.

Yet they constantly put Christine on a pedestal, finding new ways to brown-nose.

All because Christine was the principal cellist and her father was the orchestra's associate conductor.

"Come to think of it, I couldn't sleep last night and saw her hugging some guy in a fancy car outside the orchestra hall," one girl whispered.

"You don't think she slept her way in here, do you? Was that her sugar daddy?"

*

"No wonder she gets to practice with such an expensive cello. She must be some rich man's little pet."

Chapter 531 Little Pet

Christine's eyes lit up as she listened to her minions' gossip.

"Makes sense. Those rich guys always fall for the innocent-looking ones. Acting all pure in public, but behind closed doors..." Christine smirked.

Meryl put down her instrument and stood up.

She turned to Christine. "Did you brush your teeth this morning? Because your mouth is full of garbage."

Christine's face turned ashen. "Who are you calling trash-mouthed?"

4/4

Meryl gave her an icy glance. "The one spewing the most filth is the one who stinks. Do I really need to spell out something so obvious for you?"

"You..."

Thanks to her father being the assistant conductor, no one in the orchestra had ever dared speak to Christine like this before.

"Just you wait! I'm going straight to my daddy to get you kicked out!"

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Secret Admirer: Finding True Love After ...

Chapter 532 Apprentice

Christine turned to storm off in anger.

Meryl let out a mocking laugh. “What are you, three or five? You’re in your twenties but still running to daddy whenever there’s trouble. Why don’t you just hide behind his coat tails forever if you’re going to embarrass yourself like this?”

“You...” Christine’s eyes turned red with fury, her whole body trembling with rage.

Meryl’s words left Christine frozen, unsure whether to go or stay.

Blinded by anger, she rushed at Meryl and raised her hand to strike.

Meryl caught Christine’s wrist in a firm grip, her eyes turning cold.

1/4

“I’m here to study under Mr. Herty, not to fight with you. You think this orchestra is your personal playground? Let me warn you once. Stay away from me! I’m giving you one chance. Next time, you’ll regret it.”

Every practice room in the orchestra had HD security cameras. This scene would be clearly recorded.

Christine bit her lip.

Chapter 532 Apprentice

2/4

Fighting was strictly forbidden in the orchestra. If she actually struck someone, she’d face serious consequences. Even if her father wanted to protect her, he couldn’t ignore clear evidence just to maintain authority.

Christine lowered her hand. “Just wait until Mr. Herty returns from his trip. I can’t wait to see you get kicked out!”

The orchestra didn’t tolerate freeloaders.

New members needed a teacher’s guidance and approval before they could perform in public.

Without a willing teacher, even if Meryl had pulled strings to get in, she'd never get any performances. In other words, she'd be stuck as an apprentice forever.

Christine sat down with a huff, about to start practicing with her violin, when Harvey suddenly walked in.

Everyone's eyes lit up at his appearance.

Christine jumped to her feet, her eyes eager. "Mr. Herty, what brings you here? We don't have a master class today, do we?"

As the orchestra's superstar, Harvey turned heads wherever he went.

Given his prestigious position, he rarely attended regular rehearsals.

Chapter **532** Apprentice

He only showed up for significant events like state dinners, so the orchestra members didn't see him often.

3/4

Harvey's eyes swept across the rehearsal room, finally landing on Meryl's face.

"I'm here for my apprentice."

"Apprentice?"

Harvey beckoned to Meryl. "What are you standing around for? Come and pay your respects to your new teacher!"

Christine and her two sidekicks were stunned.

1

Their jaws dropped so low you could fit a whole egg in their mouths. "Mr. Herty, you're taking her as your apprentice?"

Harvey turned to Christine. "I've had my eye on this talent for a while now. I'd better snap her up before another master tries to steal her away."

Harvey called out to Meryl again, "What are you waiting for? Come here!"

Meryl walked toward Harvey with her cello. “Mr. Herty.”

Christine’s mind was spinning.

In his words, Harvey placed Meryl on a high pedestal.

What’s more, from the way he spoke, it wasn’t Meryl who sought

Chapter **532** Apprentice

4/4

him out. Harvey had actively chosen to take her as his student.

It meant...

Among all the musicians in the orchestra, so many had eagerly sought to become Harvey’s students, but he’d turned them all down. Yet here he was, choosing Meryl as his final student.

“Why can’t such an exclusive honor be mine?” Christine thought.

For three years straight, she’d gone to Harvey’s house in person. Even with her father, the deputy conductor, speaking on her behalf, Harvey had never budged an inch!

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Secret Admiration: Finding **True** Love After ... 1/4

Chapter 533 Extra Cash

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Chapter 533 Extra Cash

Having grown up immersed in classical music and now studying under a top-tier instructor like Harvey, Meryl’s progress with the cello had been remarkable.

In just one week, her skills had improved by leaps and bounds.

“Want to make some extra cash?” Harvey asked.

“What kind of opportunity?”

“There’s an upscale hotel opening tonight. They need a cellist. Five thousand dollars for an hour’s work. You should give it a shot. Consider it good experience.”

After a moment’s consideration, Meryl agreed.

She knew that skills only improve through constant practice.

Besides, five thousand dollars for an hour’s work was too good to pass up.

She packed up her cello and headed back to her dorm to get ready before going home.

Earlier that morning, Chandler had called to say he’d leave work early to pick her up.

They planned to grab dinner together before heading to the

Chapter **533** Extra Cash

hotel opening, which would work out perfectly time-wise.

2/4

She’d packed a cocktail dress for the performance, planning to change at the hotel.

“Are you almost here?”

Figuring it was about time, Meryl stood at the orchestra entrance with her bag, looking around.

Phone in one hand, she’d put on light makeup for the performance.

The subtle makeup enhanced her natural elegance, giving her an ethereal quality.

“I’m here. Look behind you,” Chandler said.

She turned around, and sure enough, there was his car.

Meryl hurried to the car. “We should get going. I have some things to take care of after dinner.”

As she reached for the door handle and pulled it open, Meryl froze.

There were more people in the car besides Chandler.

She stood there stunned, her eyes landing on Rachel's face with apparent surprise.

Chandler and Rachel were sitting together in the back seat, with

Chapter **533** Extra Cash Walter at the wheel.

There was clearly no room left for her.

3/4

Meryl paused, looking at Chandler with a bittersweet smile. "I see you've made other plans?"

The meetup she'd been looking forward to for almost a week had turned into quite the surprise and not the good kind.

It was impossible not to feel disappointed.

During the week she'd spent at the orchestra, who knew how many times Chandler and Rachel had met up behind her back.

A feeling of emptiness washed over her. Chandler had called her early that morning, saying he wanted to take her to a hotel to **try** a new restaurant.

Meryl had thought it would be just the two of them.

The stark difference between expectation and reality left a bitter taste in her mouth.

Rachel stepped out of the car.

"I got discharged today. When I heard Chandler was coming to the orchestra, I asked him for a ride."

A

Rachel, her wrist wrapped in bandages, flashed a smile at Meryl. "Don't get jealous, Meryl!"

Chapter **533** Extra Cash

She walked to the trunk and hoisted her violin onto her shoulder.

4/4

"Oh yeah, I work at this orchestra too. I heard you're joining us? Looks like we'll be seeing a lot of each other as colleagues."

Meryl froze.

“Rachel works here too?” she thought.

Rachel reached for her suitcase but remembered her wrist hadn't healed. She puffed up her cheeks and gave Chandler an innocent look.

“It's so heavy, Chandler. Mind giving me a hand?”

Write your comment

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Secret Admirer: Fin

Chapter 534 Don't Be Upset

Chandler remained seated in the car.

1/4

With just a glance from him, Walter immediately got out of the front seat.

He grabbed Rachel's suitcase and started walking ahead with it. “Ms. Morgan, let me walk you to your dorm.”

Rachel cast a disappointed look at Chandler but knew better than to say anything more.

She nodded. “Thanks, I appreciate it.”

Meryl slipped into the car.

Finding out Rachel worked at the same orchestra was the last thing she'd expected.

Meryl could tell Rachel was far from fond of her.

Things at the orchestra were bound to get interesting.

As Walter's absence dragged on, Meryl kept checking the time on her phone.

The performance was scheduled for 8 PM sharp, and it was already 7.

Chapter **534** Don't Be Upset

If they hurried, they could still grab a quick bite.

2/4

Chandler wrapped his arm around Meryl's shoulder. "What's on your mind? You've been quiet for a while."

"Just thinking about Rachel."

Chandler's eyes flickered. He'd definitely noticed Meryl's mood drop the moment she saw Rachel in his car.

He gently held her waist, breathing in the sweet scent of her hair

"I just gave her a lift since we were heading the same way. Don't overthink it."

"She just got back to the country and didn't even have a rideshare app on her phone yet . She was waving at my car from so far away, I couldn't just ignore her."

Meryl pressed her lips together. "She doesn't even have a rideshare app on her phone. How would you know that?"

"She told me herself."

Chandler's eyes darkened. He knew what was bothering Meryl.

"Meryl, I'm not interested in her. You're my wife. You're the only one in my heart. Nothing could ever happen between us."

As he spoke, Chandler leaned in closer to Meryl.

Chapter **534** Don't **Be** Upset

3/4

He closed his eyes and cupped the back of her head, wanting to kiss her lips.

After a whole week apart, his longing spilled out like water from a broken faucet, impossible to contain.

He missed her so much.

Right now, faced with Meryl's doubts, nothing could reassure her more than this intimate gesture.

Chandler wanted his actions to prove how much she meant to him, how irreplaceable she was.

Their breaths mingled as Meryl's heart began to race.

In the confined space of the car, every sensation felt amplified.

At this moment, all Chandler wanted was to hold Meryl close and kiss her like they were the only two people in the world.

He pressed a burning kiss against her soft pink lips.

"Wearing makeup?"

He could taste the peach-flavored lip gloss on her lips, slightly sweet.

Meryl's cheeks flushed. Even though they were alone in the car, they were still parked on a public street.

With a playful tone, Chandler took her hand and pulled her

Chapter **534** Don't Be Upset

closer.

4/4

Looking at her with adoration, he said, "You look beautiful. This makeup really suits you."

His eyes locked with hers. "Please don't be upset about Rachel. Meryl, you've always been so understanding. Don't put me in a tough spot."

From Chandler's perspective, the situation was complicated.

Rachel was his friend's sister who had no one else to rely on, and he'd promised to look after her.

Meanwhile, his wife kept pressuring him about it.

After a few moments of silence, Meryl let go of her frustration. She decided to trust Chandler just this once.

"Okay," she said softly.

Chandler held Meryl closer, his eyes filled with affection.

He gently guided her to sit beside him and wrapped her in a tender embrace, showing his love and appreciation.

B

Write your comment

Secret Admirer: Finding True **Love After**

Chapter 535 I Have to Work

“How much longer until the baby comes?” Chandler asked, running his finger across Meryl’s belly while giving her a frustrated look.

He wanted to be intimate—with—her.

1/5

As a grown man, going from regular action to nothing but cold showers was driving him crazy.

Chandler had always had a strong sex drive, often keeping Meryl up half the night. This forced celibacy felt like he’d joined a monastery.

Meryl thought for a few seconds, doing some mental math. “About five or six months, I guess.”

Chandler was speechless.

He suddenly changed the subject. “That kid in Anne’s belly, is it really that pretty boy’s?”

Meryl was caught off guard, surprised that Chandler would bring up Anne.

But thinking about it, it made sense. *

Chandler was friends with Dante, who probably wanted to know.

Chapter **535 I Have to Work**

2/5

Meryl didn't want to lie, but she also didn't want to meddle in her best friend's business.

"I don't know," Meryl said softly.

Chandler could tell she was being evasive but didn't push it. Instead, he playfully tapped her nose.

"Look at you, keeping secrets even from your husband?"

Meryl just smiled.

Just then, Walter returned.

To Meryl's surprise, Rachel had come down with him.

She tapped on the car window and flashed a smile at Chandler.

She chirped, "Are you guys heading out for dinner? Mind if I tag along? I'd love to check out that new restaurant."

After walking Rachel upstairs, she'd asked Walter to wait outside her door for a moment .

Walter thought she needed something, but minutes later, Rachel emerged in a stunning evening dress with freshly applied lipstick.

She'd clearly gone all out with her appearance.

Now standing by the car, Rachel's request to join Chandler and

Chapter **535** I Have to Work

Meryl's dinner left Walter both shocked and uncomfortable.

3/5

She knew perfectly well this was meant to be a couple's dinner, o be a couple's dinner, yet here she was, butting in. It had to be intentional.

Chandler looked at Rachel, his voice carrying a hint of frost. "You sure you want to join us?"

Rachel gave an innocent smile. "Come on, Chandler, you know they served my favorite dishes. I'm starving!"

Sticking out her tongue playfully, she didn't even wait for Chandler's okay before pulling open the passenger door and sliding in.

Walter couldn't help but roll his eyes at such brazen behavior.

He wondered why this lady wouldn't take a hint. She was always throwing herself at taken men just made her look desperate.

Seeing Rachel slide into the passenger seat, Meryl pressed her lips together and said quietly, "Her favorite dishes?"

Chandler nodded. "That new place at Olive Mall. Just opened today."

The car fell silent after Rachel's unexpected appearance. No one said a word the entire ride.

2

The atmosphere turned painfully awkward.

Rachel tried several times to break the ice, but her attempts at

Chapter 535 I Have to Work conversation fell flat.

Half an hour later, they pulled into the mall parking lot.

4/5

A server greeted the three of them and started leading them to their table.

Chandler noticed right away that Meryl, trailing behind the others, seemed out of sorts.

"Not feeling this place? We could go somewhere else, just the two of us?"

"Don't bother! You two enjoy your meal. I have work to do!"

Turning to the server, Meryl asked, "Where's the changing room?"

The server pointed the way, and Meryl walked off with her bag.

Chandler froze, his eyes following her departure.

Rachel winced. “Is your wife upset because of me? Sorry, Chandler. I didn’t mean to crash your plans. I just really wanted to try this place.”

Chandler stayed quiet. A few minutes later, Meryl emerged in her performance dress.

*

She took her seat in the performance area with the restaurant’s cello, making a few quick adjustments to tune the instrument.

Secret Admirer: Finding True Love After...

1/5

Chapter 536 How Much Did Dalton Pay You

Chandler froze, finally understanding what Meryl meant by “she had to work” when he saw her start playing the cello.

He was surprised to find Meryl working a part-time gig at this hotel tonight.

A waiter brought over the menu. Rachel ordered several dishes before passing it to Chandler.

“The waiter says their bouillabaisse is excellent. Want to try it?”

she asked.

Chandler shook his head. “You go ahead.”

He couldn’t sit there feasting with another woman while his wife was working hard just a few feet away.

He couldn’t bring himself to do it.

Abandoning Rachel, he moved to the table closest to Meryl and watched her silently.

After placing her order, Rachel’s face turned green with anger.

Almost everyone at this French restaurant came in couples, yet here she was, sitting alone. How humiliating.

Meryl played the cello beautifully, her performance effortless

Chapter 536 How Much Did Dalton Pay Your

2/5

and pitch—perfect. Several male diners cast admiring glances her way.

Someone even handed her their business card after she finished a piece.

While sitting in the performance area, Meryl could feel someone's intense gaze fixed on her.

When she happened to look up, her eyes met Chandler's. She was stunned for a moment when she realized he'd switched

tables.

"Isn't he supposed to be dining with Rachel?" she thought.

As soon as Meryl finished her performance and set down her cello, she received a bouquet.

"Miss, would you mind sharing your contact information?"

An elegant gentleman presented her with roses right in front of Chandler.

He was good-looking with blue eyes and light brown hair, seemingly biracial.

Meryl instinctively glanced at Chandler and said softly, "My husband is right over there."

The biracial man froze as Chandler walked over and took Meryl's hand in his.

Holding a bouquet of lilies, Chandler gave the man a pointed look. "Sorry, but lilies are actually my wife's favorite."

3/5

Chapter 536 How Much Did Dalton Pay You After the man awkwardly walked away, Chandler led Meryl to a

seat.

“Must be tired? Here, I just ordered this. Kat while it’s hot. Why didn’t you tell me about t his part time gig?”

“Mr. Herly recommended it last minute.” Meryl had barely sat down when Chandler’s ph one rang,

He stepped out to take the call, and Rachel approached.

“Nice cello playing!”

Meryl knew Rachel’s compliment wasn’t genuine, but she politely replied, “Thank you.”

Rachel sat in Chandler’s spot.

“Word is you’re pregnant with Dalton’s baby. Since you’re already having an affair, whe n are you planning to divorce Chandler?”

Meryl’s face turned cold at these words.

She put down her fork and looked calmly at Rachel. “So eager to see my divorce?”

“Chandler’s too naive. I’m worried he’ll end up raising someone else’s kid without even r ealizing it.”

Rachel paused before adding, “How much did Dalton pay you to have his baby?”

Chapter 536 How Much Did Dalton Pay You Meryl’s gut feeling was right all along, Rac hel was incredibly

hostile toward her.

4/5

This childhood friend’s return wasn’t as simple as it seemed. She was clearly after Chan dler.

Every word from Rachel was a challenge. Meryl had never seen a homewrecker so braz enly confrontational to a wife’s face.

Instead of getting angry, Meryl gave Rachel a cold smirk. “How much did your dad pay y our mom to have you?”

That single comment hit Rachel where it hurt.

She glared at Meryl furiously, spitting out, “What nonsense are you talking about!”

Meryl smiled coolly. "I heard the Morgan family has fallen on hard times. Ms. Morgan, you lost your family at such a young age. While I sympathize with your situation, being an orphan isn't an excuse to chase after someone else's husband."

"I'm not chasing after Chandler! We grew up together, we were supposed to..."

Meryl took a sip of juice, cutting Rachel off. "Getting too close to a married man makes you look desperate, Ms. Morgan. Watch yourself, or people might start questioning your upbringing. Your parents have been gone for over a decade. Wouldn't want them rolling in their graves, would you?"

"You..."

Red with rage and humiliation, Rachel grabbed the glass of

Chapter 536 How
Much Did Dalton Pay Your water from the table and flung it at Meryl's face.

5/5

Write your comment

Secret Admirer: Finding True Love After... 1/4

Chapter 537 Trash Talk

Meryl never expected Rachel would dare to lash out physically in such a public place.

The glass of water came flying at her without warning, catching her completely off guard.

Just then, Chandler walked in after finishing his phone call outside.

He swiftly stepped in front of Meryl, taking the full splash of water on his suit jacket.

Rachel froze, stunned to see Chandler witness the scene.

Chandler's face turned stormy, his expression dark with anger.

Rachel bit her lip, trying to explain, "Chandler, I... I didn't mean to."

She struggled to find the right words.

With his back soaked through, Chandler's expression grew even colder.

He pulled Meryl protectively against him. "Rachel, how could you do something like this to Meryl!"

If he'd been even a second slower, Meryl would have gotten a face full of water.

Chapter 537 Trash Talk

The look in Chandler's eyes as he gazed at Rachel was full of disappointment.

Rachel's eyes turned red with distress, her voice thick with emotion. Her lips trembled as **tears** suddenly streamed down

her face.

2/4

She sobbed, "I know I messed up. I lost control, but she insulted my family, Chandler. She insulted my brother... Andy died because of you, how could she say such things about him..."

Chandler stiffened, glancing back at Meryl.

Meryl was stunned by Rachel's talent for twisting the truth. "When has she ever said anything about her brother?"

Just as Meryl was about to explain, Rachel covered her face and burst into tears.

"I was just having a casual chat with her. I don't know what I said wrong, but she suddenly accused me of having no manners," Rachel explained.

"Andy used to love me the most. If he were still alive, he wouldn't let me suffer such unfair treatment," she sobbed.

"Chandler, I was the one who got wronged first. What's wrong with me fighting back?"

Rachel's eyes were brimming with tears, looking utterly pitiful. Her loud crying had drawn the attention of several onlookers.

Chandler rubbed his temples in frustration. "Stop crying."

Chapter 537 Trash Talk

3/4

Rachel's tears had left her eyes crystal clear. "Chandler, things are different now that you're married. I get that Meryl doesn't like me, but why does she have to trash-talk my family?"

Meryl couldn't hold back anymore. "When did I ever trash-talk your family?"

Rachel shot back, "If you didn't trash talk my family, why would I throw water at you?"

"Rachel, have you no shame?!"

"Enough!" Chandler cut their argument short. It would only get messier if it continued. "It's late. Everyone should head home."

Meryl froze at his words.

Since Chandler hadn't taken her side or indicated whether he believed her, Meryl felt a pang of disappointment.

Rachel flashed a triumphant smile at Meryl, then turned to Chandler and said softly, "It's so late, it'll be hard to catch a

cab..."

Meryl pulled away from Chandler's embrace.

She didn't want to create a scene in public by forcing Chandler to choose between them

It was beneath her dignity.

"Take her home. I need some time alone," Meryl said before walking away.

Chapter 537 Trash Talk

4/4

Chandler froze, instinctively wanting to follow her, but Rachel grabbed his sleeve.

"Chandler, are you really going to make me go back alone?"

Rachel asked with teary eyes, "When a woman says she needs space, you should give it to her

Chandler's brow furrowed. "I'll call you a ride. You can take that home."

“No!” Rachel said, biting her lip with a hurt expression.

She was being stubborn, and tears started streaming down her face.

“All those years abroad, I was completely alone. Everything I did, I did by myself. I’m tired of being lonely.

“Now that I’m finally back home, I just want to spend time with you. You’re all I have, I don’t have any family left...”

B

Chapter 538 Did That on Purpose

1/4

Chandler said coldly, “I have a wife. It’s not appropriate for us to be together this late at night. Meryl will get the wrong idea.”

As he spoke, he walked toward the exit with Rachel following close behind.

Outside the mall, Meryl hadn’t gone far.

“Meryl!”

Just as Chandler called out her name, Rachel suddenly stumbled.

She caught her foot on the steps and fell straight into Chandler’s arms.

Rachel quickly wrapped her arms around him, clinging to him like a vine.

When Meryl turned around at the sound of Chandler’s voice, she saw them locked in an embrace.

Rachel had her arms wrapped around Chandler’s waist, snuggling against his chest, while Chandler’s hands, the same hands that had once caressed Meryl so tenderly, were gripping Rachel’s shoulders.

Meryl bit her lip as her heart turned to ice. A cold sensation crept up from her feet, leaving her mind completely **blank**.

Chapter 538 Did That on Purpose

2/4

She didn't cry or make a scene. She just closed her eyes as tears silently rolled down her cheeks.

Meryl turned away and disappeared into the night without looking back.

She suddenly felt like her very existence was pointless.

Just moments ago, she had considered going back for the lilies Chandler had given her.

Now that seemed utterly meaningless.

Chandler finally managed to push Rachel away.

Rachel stumbled into his arms out of nowhere and couldn't push herself away. Chandler was getting annoyed.

He fixed her with a cold stare. "You did that on purpose, didn't you?"

Rachel's face filled with surprise. "Why would I fall on purpose? It was an accident... there's a step here..."

Chandler's brows furrowed. "Do you think I'm an idiot?"

Rachel bit her lip. "Chandler, I don't think Meryl deserves you! She..."

"Who are you to judge who deserves me? Since when do I need your advice?" Chandler shot her a fierce glare.

Faced with Chandler's anger, Rachel hung her head as tears

Chapter 538 Did That on Purpose started flowing.

3/4

The tears came like a waterfall, her shoulders shaking with each sob.

Chandler felt frustrated, but seeing her red-rimmed eyes made his heart soften a bit.

"Meryl is my wife. If you really consider me a friend, you should respect her."

"Throwing water at her was wrong, Rachel. You're not a kid anymore. Don't put me in the middle of this mess."

Tears rolled down Rachel's cheeks and dripped onto the floor. She looked up at Chandler, her eyes full of hurt.

"So you want me to just take it? Even when she insults my brother? Chandler, don't you remember how my brother died!"

At the mention of her brother, Chandler fell into a long, heavy silence.

After a long pause, he said, "I trust Meryl wouldn't badmouth someone who has nothing to do with her."

"So you're saying I'm making this up?" Rachel let out a pale laugh and lifted her face to the sky.

'Andy, do you see this? It is the friend you gave your life to save. Chandler's nothing but an ungrateful snake, letting his wife trash talk you and spread lies about you. Was it worth dying for someone like this?"

Chapter 538 Did That on Purpose Chandler's—brow furrowed deeply.

Rachel's behavior planted a seed of doubt in his mind.

He wondered if Meryl could really have done it.

"I'll have Walter drive you home," Chandler said quietly.

4/4

Rachel stood her ground. "I want Meryl to apologize to me, to my family, and to my brother."

Chandler met her gaze, his eyes locking with hers.

He said, "If Meryl really did this, I apologize to your entire family on her behalf."

"Chandler, you..." Rachel co

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Chapter 539 Getting Triggered

Meryl did not go home.

Instead, she wandered aimlessly outside as night fell.

This weekend was supposed to be a long-awaited reunion with Chandler after a week apart, and she had been looking forward to it.

People often said that absence made the heart grow fonder, and while practicing the piano earlier, she had wondered if their relationship would improve because of the separation.

But now, everything was in a mess because of Rachel.

Chandler had said he would pick her up from the theater, but Rachel was in his car.

He mentioned taking her out for dinner, but again, Rachel was there.

It felt like she had just swooped in to disrupt their relationship.

Sadness washed over Meryl.

She couldn't help but wonder if her pregnancy was making her overly emotional and if she was just overreacting.

She tried to suppress her feelings of disappointment and **sorrow**.

Just at this moment, Anne called "**Meryl, where are you?**"

Meryl nodded, feeling dejected.

After working part-time at a hotel and earning five thousand dollars a month, she should have been in a good mood.

But all she could think about was the day's events and how she wanted it to end.

Anne comforted her softly. "It's late, and you're pregnant. Try to rest and don't overthink things."

She handed Meryl her pajamas, and they both settled onto the same bed.

Anne, nearing the end of her pregnancy, could only sleep on her side and looked exhausted.

Meryl couldn't help but feel emotional, realizing she would be in that situation soon enough.

At least Anne had Yancey by her side.

Though they were not lovers, Yancey obviously had feelings for Anne. With long-term companionship, Anne might grow close to him.

Yancey was also an incredibly considerate person; before Anne went to bed, he warmed milk for her, and Meryl received one as well.

What about her?

When she was about to give birth and was **lying** in bed late at

11Chandler immediately **leave** her for Rachel as **soon**

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

Chapter 540 A Bad Feeling

That night, Meryl and Anne talked about everything—children, men, careers.

They concluded that every woman needed a career that gave her confidence.

Meryl fell asleep first.

Anne, uncomfortable and restless, quietly got up.

She sensed Meryl was preoccupied and, as her best friend, felt compelled to take action,

Anne grabbed her phone, went to the balcony, and called Dante.

The phone rang twice before he picked up, sounding surprised.

They had been divorced for months and hadn't spoken since. This was the first time Anne had reached out.

Dante's fingertips trembled slightly, and when he opened his mouth, he found that his throat was a little tight.

He tried to keep his voice steady, but inside, he felt a rush of excitement.

"What's up?" he asked.

His cold tone took Anne aback for a moment, but she quickly

If that it was presumptuous to call her

Chapter 540 A Bad Feeling

2/3

“Do you know what’s going on between Rachel and Chandler?” Anne asked.

Dante paused, disappointed that Anne had called about someone else.

After considering it for a moment, he realized she was asking for Meryl’s sake.

Rachel had returned from abroad and seemed to be getting close to Chandler again.

“It’s complicated,” he finally said. “If you want to know, let’s meet tomorrow.”

Anne had intended to keep the conversation brief on the phone, so his suggestion was unexpected.

She didn’t want to see him.

Dante sensed her reluctance. “Look, if you need something from me, a meal isn’t too much to ask, is it?”

After some thought, Anne replied, “Okay, tomorrow morning. Just send me the address of the restaurant, and I’ll come find

you.”

The next morning, Meryl woke up and noticed Anne was gone.

She got up, washed her face, and stepped outside, only to find Yancey cooking in the kitchen.

In recent months, he had been taking care of Anne.

Chapter 540 A Bad Feeling

3/3

Anne said that his cooking was amazing and even fired the chef.

“You’re up?” he said with a smile. “Where’s Anne? Tell her it’s time for breakfast.”

“I didn’t see her in the room,” Meryl said, feeling strange as she glanced around the house.

Yancey immediately shut off the stove, and concern etched on his face.

“Maybe she’s gone for a walk?” Meryl guessed.

Yancey shook his head. “No, she usually sleeps in. It’s common for her to stay in bed until ten, and I’ve been cooking since eight.”

Meryl realized the seriousness of the situation.

In other words, Anne had left home at eight o’clock in the morning.

Where could she have gone?

“Breakfast is ready. Help yourself.” Yancey said, removing his apron. “I’ll go downstairs to look for her.”

For some reason, Meryl had a bad feeling.

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