



Chapter 69

Earlier, at Anthony's mansion.

Anthony couldn't sleep. The truth was, he had been struggling to rest since his confrontation with Adrian the other day. He was dog-tired, but his mind kept recounting his son's words.

'Let's face it. You haven't been a father to me for a very long time.'

'Are you really my father? If my mother were here, she would have shared my happiness. For once, do something a father would do and actually care about what I want.'

What bothered him the most was how other people knew Adrian more than he did, yet he was his father!

It had been two hours since he had been lying in bed, trying to sleep, but it was hopeless. Anthony got up and, instead, left the room he shared with Tonet. He went to the master bedroom.

Anthony had married Tonet, but he protected his departed wife's memories by preserving the master bedroom precisely as Freya had kept it.

When the door to the room opened, Anthony smiled. Memories of Freya's beaming face flooded his mind. 

Anthony did not know why, but he suddenly felt teary-eyed. It had been so long since he had entered the same room. Only he and a trusted housekeeper were allowed inside, and even Tonet had no access to the same room.

Anthony first reviewed old pictures of Freya. He scanned back, far

enough to see many still photos of Freya and Adrian.

"Oh, Freya," Anthony sighed. "Why did you leave me? You were supposed to take care of Adrian while I grow my father's empire."

"Tell me what to do, Freya. Tell me," Anthony asked while touching a picture of his first wife.

As Anthony continued to flip through the old album, he came across a picture of him crying while holding Adrian during his birth. Anthony remembered how he was so over the moon to meet his son.

"Goodness, Adrian. What happened to us?" Anthony asked, and his chest suddenly felt heavy. Tears began to flow down his face, and no matter how he tried to hold them back, he couldn't stop them from falling. "Didn't I give him enough, Freya? I gave him everything. He has a collection of luxurious cars. I ensured he had enough money in his bank account, but why couldn't he appreciate it?"

Suddenly, the crisp sound of a shattered vase disturbed Anthony from his contemplation. When Anthony looked out the door, he saw Linda with a guilty look on her face and a broken vase on the floor.

"Linda?" Anthony wiped his face carelessly. His former house caretaker had just seen him cry! "What are you doing here? Didn't you already switch sides with Adrian?"

"And why are you in Freya's room - No, you didn't? You came here to steal what Adrian wanted," Anthony angrily pointed out.

Linda had served the Kings for a long time. So, like one other worker in the mansion, she knew the passcode to the master bedroom. It had never changed. Anthony simply did not tell Tonet.



"Um, would you put me in jail?" Linda asked, making a face. Then, she suddenly kneeled before Anthony, suggesting, "Mister King. Your wife loved Adrian so much. She would give anything to him. Besides, what are you going to do with it? You just keep locking it in the safe?"

"Freya was my wife! I will decide whether I will give it to Adrian," Anthony declared. "Go back to Adrian. You have a busy day tomorrow. It's his wedding!"

Anthony was still wiping his tears. He gave Linda his back, utterly embarrassed of having found out.

"Okay, I will," Linda said. "But allow me to say this. Money can't buy love, Mister King."

"What?" Anthony asked.

"Money can't buy love. You gave Adrian everything that money could buy, but you never gave him love," Linda declared. "Don't you see? He couldn't afford your love."

Anthony could hear Linda sniffing. Clearly, she was crying. She said, "I am not a King, but I have been with this family long enough to care. Mister King, will you bring this misunderstanding between you and Adrian to the grave when you die?"

"There is still time. I hope it isn't too late for you to form that bond with Adrian," Linda said with conviction. "Please, give him what he wants."

After much consideration, Anthony opened the safe inside the master's bedroom. He took the thing that Adrian wanted. He quickly changed and ordered his driver to take him to Adrian's villa.

When Anthony arrived, Abner opened the door. His father was holding a



shotgun and pointing it at Anthony. Abner said, "I don't want anyone disturbing my grandson."

"I'm not here to disturb Adrian," Anthony responded. He passed the velvet box to Abner and said, "Here, give it to him."

Abner frowned. He grabbed the box and opened it. Seeing what was inside, his eyes lit up, and just as he was taken aback, Abner quickly wept. He pulled Anthony into his embrace and declared, "I think I'm not going to shoot you tonight."

"Get in the living room!" Abner said while walking in and urging Anthony to follow. "Wait here. It's procreation time, so you must be a little patient." 

"What?" Anthony reacted.

"Just wait here. I'll get those two. Don't leave, okay. You should personally give it to Riley and Adrian," Abner insisted.

Anthony waited ten minutes, and eventually, Adrian and Riley came out from the lift.

"Dad? What brings you here?" Adrian asked.

Anthony gasped and gave Adrian the velvet box. He said, "I thought about it, and you were right. Your mom would have wanted you to have this—to give it to the woman you cared about."

Next, he stuttered in his words, "And you – you have repeatedly insisted that you loved Riley that much."

It was still difficult for Anthony to lower his pride, but Linda's words knocked some sense into him. Linda was right. He might die anytime and



never get a chance to resolve things between him and Adrian. So, he had to try.

He did not know if he could, but this time, he will try.

"What is it?" Riley asked.

Adrian smiled as he held the velvet box. He shifted his attention to Riley. He forced himself off his wheelchair and got down on one knee.

Holding the velvet box up to Riley, Adrian said, "Riley, this isn't a fancy proposal, but holding this ring and giving it to you is very meaningful to me."

Adrian opened the box and revealed the eighteen-carat pink diamond ring.

Riley was a bit confused about what Adrian meant, so Anthony filled her in, "It was my wife's ring. I gave this to Freya when I proposed to her."

"Oh!" Riley's eyes watered, and she accepted the ring quickly. "It's beautiful!" She embraced Adrian and expressed, "Your proposal is wonderful, especially since I am wearing your mother's ring."

Anthony watched as Adrian and Riley embraced. Their exchange of words was the most heartfelt he had ever heard, and it reminded him of how much he loved his departed wife. 1

"Well, Um. I guess I better go," Anthony suddenly said. He did not know what else to say. He did not know how to react to the situation either. 1

He stepped back when he unexpectedly felt a hand on his wrist. Riley quickly embraced him and said, "Thank you, Dad. I will cherish this ring with my life. I promise you, I am worthy. I love Adrian with all my heart."