

Divorced but Delighted By Millie Huffman Chapter 246-250

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Chapter 246 Why Don't You Give Me a Chance

As it was William's birthday, and he hadn't come back for years, the Dunphy mansion had been busy since early morning.

Even Charlie got up early and didn't go to the company as usual.

Although the relationship between the father and son was not good, they still cared about each other. Besides, William's beloved Cierra had come back, so they couldn't be

careless.

Cierra didn't slack off either.

She planned to handle all the food for William's birthday herself, so she couldn't take a break.

Moreover, there were two or, to be precise, three important guests in the house.

After Freddy and Dr. Charles were picked up yesterday, Sarah and Wanda had a long talk and later Wanda agreed to stay at the mansion.

She had thought that Wanda, with her personality, would hide from Jaquan when she saw him.

The Dunphy family mansion was spacious and accommodated Joshua and Fanny until they had both moved out to start their own families and to leave more room for Sarah to rest.

Only during holidays would they all gather together to liven up the place.

The mansion, which had been almost empty for a long time, suddenly became lively with so many people around, and everyone was brimming with happiness.

Mrs. Taylor had gotten up early to buy groceries and prepare the food.

Charlie was in the backyard, playing chess with the elders, while Wanda was playing with Will in the grape arbor.

Jaquan who didn't want to disturb Wanda was sitting with Mrs. Chester on the other side. He watched as his mother laughed kindly, her eyes fixed on Wanda and Will.

"Jaquan, I heard from Cici that you have feelings for that girl. When are you going to marry her?"

Jaquan nearly burned himself as he heard his mother's words, but he quickly recovered and acted as if nothing had happened.

"Mom, I can't rush this kind of thing."

"What do you mean you can't rush it? Your child needs a good mother. If you don't act fast, that girl might run away with someone else. Where are you going to find another girl as pretty and kind-hearted as her, who will also be good to your child?"

Sarah glared at Jaquan, frustrated with his indecisiveness, and took the cup of tea that Jaquan had handed her.

"If you really like her, you have to treat her a hundred times better than anyone else. Do you understand me?"

Jaquan looked up to see Wanda patiently helping Will pick fruit.

Her face was glowing with a beautiful smile, and she was great with Will. He didn't know what they were talking about, but she was speaking to Will with great care and attention.

Jaquan was mesmerized by the scene and nodded his head slightly as he held the cup of tea. He understood what his mother meant.

As Cierra and Mrs. Chester had warned, if Jaquan didn't handle the situation properly, Wanda would likely find herself a husband soon.

After all, if Wanda had already set her sights on someone, she wouldn't have been alone for so long and working alongside Jaquan almost every day of the year.

Jaquan had initially thought that Wanda's excuse last time on the riverbank was just a casual one.

But after meeting Wanda's father and understanding her family situation, he had a good idea why she had refused him.

Wanda had always been a self-sufficient person who preferred to handle everything herself and not burden others.

Even when she couldn't handle it, she would rather suppress her emotions than ask for help.

If the man from last night was indeed her father, then Wanda was likely worried that he would negatively affect the Dunphy family and had refused Jaquan's proposal because of that.

If that were true, then Jaquan felt a glimmer of hope.

A hint of joy appeared on his face.

If that was the case, then dealing with the situation would be easy.

As his mother had said, if Wanda married him, he should treat her well.

With that in mind, he got up and made his way toward Wanda and Will, who were

playing together.

Wanda had rarely seen Will, except for the two months before his birth.

If Sarah hadn't told Wanda that she could stay and sleep with Will, Wanda would have left.

After all, Wanda had given birth to Will. Although she could only occasionally get close to him; it was a source of joy for her.

Jaquan's sudden appearance startled Wanda.

Immediately, the smile on her face disappeared, and she looked slightly nervous as she glanced at Jaquan.

"Mr. Dunphy."

"You've been working by my side for many years. There's no need to be so formal," Jaquan said with a slight frown.

He took Will's small hand and pinched it.

Children naturally respected their fathers, but they also liked to be close to them. Will unconsciously moved away from Wanda and leaned against Jaquan.

Jaquan touched his head and said warmly, "Will, go find your grandmother to play. I need to talk to Wanda. Is that okay?"

"Are you asking her if she wants to be my mom?" Will asked bluntly.

Both Jaquan and Wanda were dazed.

Will blinked, looked at Wanda seriously, and said, "If she's the one, I can accept her as my mother. So, Dad, good luck."

He turned around, smiled at Jaquan, and ran towards Sarah.

Now only Wanda and Jaquan remained under the arbor.

Jaquan smiled, his eyes full of laughter, as if he was still thinking about Will's words.

Wanda felt anxious. "Children speak their minds. Please don't take what he said to heart, Mr. Dunphy."

Jaquan looked up.

His deep black gaze was pressing and overwhelming.

"What if I do take it to heart?" he asked.

Wanda was slightly taken aback.

Jaquan said, "I was serious when I said those things last time, Wanda. I have feelings for you. If you're willing, we can try dating for a while. I can give you the best in this world. Is that okay?"

He spoke with a pleading tone, and his whole demeanor was gentle and sincere, unlike a

cold CEO.

Wanda was stunned.

It took her a moment to find her voice. "But Mr. Dunphy, I..."

"You still want to reject me?" Jaquan interrupted before Wanda could finish her sentence.

"Is it because of Will?" he continued, his tone almost pitiful. "Or do you think I'm too old to have room in my heart for love?"

Wanda's emotions were already in turmoil, but the mention of Will added another layer of complexity. She couldn't bring herself to dislike Will or Jaquan.

"No, it's not true," she replied firmly.

"Mr. Dunphy, you're still young and successful. And Will is adorable. A good boy."

She loved Will, in fact. She even wanted to give him all she had.

She didn't dislike the father or the son.

She just couldn't show love.

"Then why not give me a chance?"

Jaquan demanded, his tone becoming more forceful.

"If you don't dislike us, then what's stopping you from giving us a chance? My assets are considerable, my son is well-behaved and obedient, and my family is kind-hearted and generous. Wanda, why not take a chance on me?"

He took a step closer, his demeanor suddenly aggressive.

"I'm rich and not bad-looking, even with a son. And I promise you, my family will treat you well. So why not give me a chance, Wanda?"

Chapter 247 The Esteemed Guest

Although they weren't standing particularly close, Jaquan lowered his head as if he were pulling Wanda into his arms.

Feeling oppressed, Wanda dared not look up at him.

"Mr. Dunphy, as you said, you are handsome and come from a good family. There are countless good women in this world who are more suitable for you. We are not at match," she said stubbornly, taking a step back.

Marriage had always been about matching social status, and they simply didn't fit the bill.

But Jaquan didn't feel upset by her words.

He lowered his gaze and looked at her seriously.

"Wanda, you can't tell if we are a match or not until you live with me. And if you don't believe me, you can try. I will protect you, and so will my family."

The Dunphy family had started from scratch with his father's generation, and strictly speaking, his father Charle wasn't even good enough for Sarah.

The Chester family had dominated Los Angeles with their restaurant business, and their Sapidity franchise had a long history in the city.

When Charle married Sarah, he faced a lot of ridicule and criticism, Many people thought Sarah couldn't handle the hardships and that marrying Charlie was a mistake. They even assumed that she would go back to her family soon after.

But all these years later, Sapidity was struggling while the Dunphy family was thriving. The Chester family even had to come and talk to the Dunphy family about a potential partnership.

The neighboring L'Opera Restaurant in New York had become a shining star in New York, while Sapidity was laying off employees and closing stores, revealing the gap between them.

While some big families did follow the traditional rule of marrying within their own social circles, Jaquan was certain that the Dunphy family did not.

After all, his own family had climbed their way up from controversy and criticism. How could he make others experience the same bitterness as his father had experienced?

When he then thought of his parents, who were still as loving as ever, Jaquan's eyes softened even more.

"Wanda, can you give me a chance?"

His extreme tenderness was more difficult to resist than the pressure he had put on her, especially since he was standing in front of her.

Wanda closed her eyes and tried to rid her mind of the fantasies.

When she opened them again, all she had left was her rationality and determination.

"Mr. Dunphy, I have already made myself clear. I have someone I love and cannot be with you."

"Who is he?"

"It's none of your business."

"Where is he? Are you in love?"

“I said it’s none of your business!”

Wanda couldn’t take it anymore and suddenly confronted him with reddened eyes.

After her fierce words, there was a moment of silence.

Jaquan lowered his gaze and didn’t say anything, while Wanda faced him with flushed eyes.

After a few seconds, she realized her mistake and looked away. “Sorry, Mr. Dunphy. I got a little too emotional and acted out of line.”

“No, it was my fault for being too forward.”

Jaquan reached into his pocket and pulled out a piece of candy.

“I’m sorry, Wanda. I was too impatient and pushed you for an answer. You have every right to refuse to answer, so you don’t need to apologize.

But what I said was sincere. I love you and have never lied to you. If it’s because of your family situation that you’re using an excuse to reject me, you don’t have to. I’m willing to swear that I’ll spend the rest of my life taking care of you, loving you, and solving all your problems.

Of course, if you have feelings for someone else, then I’m just being presumptuous and should have kept my mouth shut. Here, have a candy. Life is already hard enough, we need something sweet.”

He held out the candy that was resting in his palm to Wanda.

She froze and hadn’t yet fully calmed down from his words. He knew? He knew about her family situation?

The candy felt like a small hammer, slowly breaking down the wall she had built in her heart.

She couldn’t resist and eventually reached out to take the candy from his palm.

As he said, life was already hard enough, and she deserved something sweet.

Being abandoned at birth and raised by her grandmother, she had faced many obstacles just to get an education.

But luckily, there were still many good people in the world.

She managed to finish her studies and even met him in college, where he awarded her a scholarship.

He was already a great benefactor in her life, and she didn't dare to rely on him forever.

The sweet taste of the candy filled her mouth, and Wanda decided to fully weave the lie.

She looked up to speak to Jaquan when a sharp female voice interrupted her.

"Hey, Jaquan!"

Cherry's voice had a distinct tone to it. It wasn't exactly soft, but she made a conscious effort to sound cute and girlish, which made her come across as peculiar.

Wanda had been about to say something when she heard Cherry's voice, and her eyes darted to Jaquan instinctively.

Jaquan seemed irritated. "What are you doing here?" he asked.

Cherry pouted. "Why can't I be here? This is my aunt's house, and I'm her niece. It's strange that you're even asking that, Jaquan."

She then glanced over at Wanda and rolled her eyes without hesitation.

"Why can she show up here, but I can't?"

"Watch your language." Jaquan's expression grew stern.

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He was trying his best to win Wanda's heart, but Cherry had the audacity to speak so rudely in front of them.

He had just sworn that his family would treat her well, and now Cherry's disdain toward her made him embarrassed.

Fortunately, Cherry did not represent the Dunphy family.

He moved in front of Wanda protectively to block Cherry's sight.

"I haven't blamed you for the trouble you caused here last time. Do you want me to kick you out?"

Cherry wanted to argue instinctively. Would she get kicked out for merely saying a few words to Wanda?

She understood why Jaquan had been protective of Will the last time, but what was Wanda to him?

However, when she caught Jaquan's gaze, all the words she had in mind vanished.

"I understand," she said weakly.

Jaquan had been kind to her before, so why was he suddenly treating her this way? She couldn't wrap her head around it.

Although Cherry was displeased, she didn't dare show it to Jaquan.

Instead, she sent a resentful look in Wanda's direction.

She could only glare at her once, afraid that Jaquan would scold her again.

"Oh, by the way, my mother is here too. She's out back, and I got here first."

Cherry changed the subject. Her aggrieved expression suddenly turned into a bright smile.

"My mother said that Cierra has come back for a few days, but she hasn't visited us yet. I know she's shy, and my aunt's health isn't great either. So my mother brought me here today to see Cierra first."

Cherry's words were ordinary and there wasn't much to comment on, but it still took Jaquan by surprise.

It was true that news of Cierra's return had spread, and he had informed the elders of the Chester family. They had agreed to let Cierra settle in Los Angeles for a few days before visiting her grandparents. However, Cherry and her mother were too impatient to wait.

Jaquan didn't say anything and just nodded briefly.

Cherry went on, "My mother also brought two important guests with her today. They used to do business in New York, and you can talk to them about business at the table later."

She looked somehow proud as if waiting for Jaquan to praise her.

Chapter 248 Good Luck

"New York?"

Jaquan had intended to take Wanda away, but he suddenly heard the familiar name and froze in his tracks.

His expression turned sour as he remembered what his aunt had done last time.

She had taken it upon herself to arrange a marriage for Cierra without even meeting her, ready to marry Cierra off to a member of the Trevino family.

And now she was here, visiting and even bringing a New York guest along.

Cherry was still oblivious to Jaquan's unease, her face beaming with pride.

She stepped closer to Jaquan and said, "Yeah, the guest should be arriving soon. Do you want to come with me to greet them?"

"Sure," replied Jaquan, his face expressionless. He turned and put some distance between himself and Cherry.

He looked down at Wanda and spoke in a gentler tone, "There might be a lot of guests at home later, so try to stay with my mom and not wander around, okay?"

The inquiring tone and the gentle words made Wanda's face flush with heat, but she couldn't argue with him in front of others.

She could only glance at him and nod slightly.

Will usually stayed with Sarah. As long as she was asked to take care of Will, it didn't matter who else was around her. Moreover, Sarah was extremely kind to her, so she didn't mind being with her either.

For Jaquan, Wanda's glare didn't make him feel angry at all. He also found her especially cute.

Wanda, who rarely smiled, had shown some extra emotion, which surprised him.

Now, a smile formed on his face, dispelling the coldness he had displayed towards Cherry earlier.

However, Cherry saw their little exchange and felt a sharp pain in her heart, as if a small stone had been thrown in her eye and a needle had pierced her chest.

Her face also turned cold as she said to Jaquan, "Jaquan, didn't we agree to greet my mom and the guest together? If we wait any longer, they might already be inside."

Jaquan snapped out of his thoughts and looked at her with a poker face as he replied, "If they're inside, they're inside. They can also be asked to leave if necessary. Why rush? The Dunphy family doesn't need one or two more guests, and if you're not

satisfied, you can ask them to leave now. After all, my family didn't invite them in the first place. It's better than getting a bad review for being a bad host later on."

His tone was far from friendly.

Cherry pouted, her face full of dissatisfaction. She lowered her head unhappily as if she was about to stomp her foot.

It was obvious that she was angry and needed him to comfort her.

But he didn't even look at her and walked past her without a second glance.

It was only after he had walked a few steps away from her that she raised her head. She saw that he was already several steps away and didn't even bother to give her any attention.

She quickly lifted her skirt and followed him.

"Jaquan, wait for me!"

The path leading to the Dunphy family's old house was lined with trees, which made the

walk slow and could take several minutes. Not to mention Belle wanted to introduce the trees' origins to her esteemed guests while walking.

"Mr. Trevino, most of these trees were planted by my brother-in-law for my sister. Since my niece went missing, my sister's health hasn't been good. In the last few years, her health deteriorated to the point where she could hardly walk, and she almost didn't make it!"

Belle explained while Draven followed behind her, appearing like a courteous nobleman.

Ryan, who was walking beside them, was the one who kept up the conversation, exaggerating both his tone and manner. "Really? How is Mrs. Dunphy now?"

"She's doing well!" Belle replied.

She recalled that Sarah had given her a phone call with a harsh tone of voice when she told Draven about Cierra's information a few days ago. Her heart sank.

She had good intentions. Draven was a great catch and, apart from his ex-wife, he had no other flaws.

Moreover, Cierra had been missing for so many years, and no one knew what kind of life she had led outside or whether she had even received an education. Belle guessed that Cierra might not be a clean girl already.

Maybe Draven didn't even want to marry Cierra, she thought to herself.

After all, the Trevino family was also a top-notch rich family and on par with the Dunphy family.

Belle thought that she was just too kind-hearted, like now, being scolded by her sister but still bringing Mr. Trevino to visit.

In her opinion, Draven was a good-looking man. Even if he had an ex-wife, he was more than enough to match her niece, who had not dared to show up yet.

"Initially, my sister was in bad shape, but her daughter, who went missing for a while, returned recently. With the right care and medication, she naturally got better," Belle continued, taking a cue from Ryan's previous statement.

"May I ask how she went missing?"

Draven, who had been silent until then, suddenly asked. It was a mystery that had been on his mind lately, given the number of coincidences.

Belle was unaware of the situation and thought they were just curious. She didn't mind telling the story.

"It's all because of my sister's love for travel. She was heavily pregnant and still insisted on going to New York for a vacation, hoping to relax and move around more to aid in natural childbirth. But unfortunately, an earthquake occurred, and she had to deliver the premature baby.

The hospital staff, who were afraid of not being able to fulfill their duties, took my sister's child and gave it to someone else. It was truly a tragic incident!

Fortunately, my sister's two children were persistent in searching for their younger sister, and they eventually found her and solved the mystery. But I'm not sure of the details since they didn't tell me much."

When the Dunphy family almost donated a billion dollars, Belle had wanted to ask what was really going on behind the scenes, but her sister no longer saw her as family and wouldn't tell her anything.

It was really frustrating,

Talking about those dollars just made her more upset.

With so much money to spare, why didn't they give her any?

In her eyes, they didn't even care about the Chester family anymore.

She now thought less of her sister and the Dunphy family.

Also, she thought herself a forgiving person who was still quite kind-hearted to them.

She had even tried to help her niece find a partner, waiting to see if they would appreciate her efforts.

Thinking about meeting up with Cierra and the others soon made Belle's heart leap with excitement.

'We need to hurry up and go. If we keep chatting like this, it'll take a long time to see them.'

Draven and Ryan, who were following behind, were both stunned by the story that Belle just told.

The wealthy heiress who had been lost in the chaos of the New York earthquake had been taken away by someone.

If it was true, did that mean Cierra's disappearance was not an accident, but rather, something done intentionally?

But there was no time to think about it further, as Belle interrupted their thoughts.

The two of them nodded in agreement and hurried to catch up with the flamboyant woman ahead of them.

'I have to say, my sister's life is pretty good. She married a great husband and had a few cute kids. Her sisters-in-law don't bother her as they all moved out on their own, so they got this huge mansion all to themselves. They really lucked out.'

It was just a shame that fate had other plans, and Sarah's daughter was taken away.

Belle sighed silently.

Just then, a deep, indifferent voice came from up ahead.

'I remember a few years ago, you didn't speak so kindly in front of my mother.'

Chapter 249 The Reunion

As they turned their heads, they met Jaquan's icy and indifferent gaze.

In that instant, Belle felt a wave of guilt wash over her.

Her sister was easily fooled, but her nephew was no fool.

Belle quickly tried to cover up her mistake with a smile. "Oh Jaquan, you personality. I speak before I think. Don't you know how I treat you guys?"

How did she treat them? Jaquan hadn't forgotten.

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When his parents were still struggling, Belle used to badmouth Sarah, saying that Sarah had married the wrong person and asked for trouble.

Belle also would say things like, "The Chester family is a well-known family in Los Angeles, why marry a laborer?". Her speeching was always annoying.

But times changed quickly, and the Dunphy family had firmly established themselves in Los Angeles, becoming part of the upper class, completely silencing Belle.

Belle's attitude had also changed just as quickly as the times.

She no longer spoke those irritating words, and would often visit Sarah, asking about the Dunphy family's business and Charle's situation whenever she had the chance.

Even a young Jaquan could see Belle's intentions clearly.

Sarah was too naive and sheltered by Charle, so she didn't realize Belle's true intentions, always greeting her with a smile.

But Belle's schemes had never received a response from Sarah or anyone else. She was always left in the dark.

Back then, Belle was arranged to marry someone in New York.

If Sarah weren't afraid that Belle would suffer in the new family, she wouldn't have traveled all the way to New York during her pregnancy.

But Belle used the visit as gossip material to chat with others behind Sarah's back.

She said that Sarah went on a trip when she was heavily pregnant, and because of fate, she lost Cierra during the earthquake.

So the Dunphy family was unlucky and everything was their own fault? Jaquan sneered in his heart.

Belle's gossip finally shattered Sarah's naivete, and Sarah never again opened up to Belle.

But their blood relationship could not be broken, and they had to maintain contact as sisters.

Sarah began to give Belle a cold shoulder. When Cierra was still not found and Belle divorced her husband, Belle would often come and advise them to give up the search for Cierra, saying, "Life and death are predetermined."

At the time, Jaquan's father was furious and almost had a falling out with the Chester family. But after Belle's father forced Belle to apologize, the matter was finally resolved.

In the years that followed, because of their unpleasant past, Belle rarely visited.

Jaquan didn't feel like confronting Belle today, so he looked up and locked eyes with Draven instead.

What an esteemed guest, he snorted.

As they stared at each other, sparks seemed to fly in the air.

Both were in positions of power, exuding an intimidating aura.

Unfortunately for Draven, he was much younger than Jaquan and couldn't bear the pressure.

Moreover, he had come to apologize rather than engage in a verbal sparring match, so he took the initiative to back down.

"Mr. Dunphy, it's a pleasure to meet you," Draven extended his hand to Jaquan. "I've heard of your legendary achievements since New York, and recently, I came to Los Angeles with some friends for a two-day trip. I asked Mrs. Chester to bring me here. I hope I'm not disturbing."

Jaquan raised an eyebrow and sneered, "What if I do feel disturbed?"

He thought to himself, how dare Draven come to pay a visit?

In his eyes, Draven now must be quite something to associate with people like Belle.

Jaquan used to admire Draven in the business world, but now that he had heard about Cierra's experience and Belle's negative opinion of Sarah, all the appreciation he had for Draven had vanished. Disgust was all that remained.

Given his current state of mind, Jaquan had no desire to even touch Draven's hand.

The atmosphere became tense.

Draven didn't seem to find the situation awkward, but Ryan next to him was feeling anxious and uncomfortable.

If it weren't for Cici, he would have pulled Draven away immediately.

He was aware that Jaquan didn't respect Draven at all.

Draven, on the other hand, was the most composed among them, withdrawing his hand as if nothing had happened and flashing a faint smile on his handsome face.

"It's understandable that you have some prejudices against me, and I'm aware that I've done some things wrong. I came prepared to face the consequences before I arrived, and I'm here to apologize. But as the old saying goes, it's good to be amiable to guests, and Mr. Dunphy, you're also a master of strategy in the business world. You wouldn't want to hurt a potential partner's feelings, would you?"

Jaquan didn't hear the apology in Draven's words, although he could detect a hint of willingness to make amends. However, he wasn't in the mood to shake hands and make

peace.

He looked at Draven provocatively.

"It's a pity that I'm not that kind of person. Being friendly may be a good thing, but the Dunphy family has no interest in going down the same road as you. You and I won't get along well with each other, actually; What's the point of being amiable to you?"

Jaquan just wanted Draven to fuck off immediately.

Draven didn't seem to understand the underlying message in his words and continued to speak politely, "Even if we have no common interests, making a friend is better than having an enemy, isn't it?"

As soon as he finished speaking, Jaquan sneered.

He didn't hold back his laughter, and it was impolite, but he couldn't help himself.

The Dunphy family already considered the Fu family as their enemy ever since he found out about the mistreatment Cierra had endured in New York, so there was no need for him to remind them.

It was ridiculous for Draven's attempts to make peace with him.

Draven furrowed his brow slightly, and after recalling Belle's previous words, he began to suspect that Jaquan harbored ill will towards him.

If Cierra truly was the Dunphy family's daughter, then it made sense for Jaquan to feel that way as her brother.

It was really ridiculous for him to try to make friends with Jaquan.

Although Jaquan and Draven were locked in a silent struggle, it didn't mean that everyone knew what was going on.

Belle didn't understand why Draven, who had traveled all the way from New York to visit them with a gift, was being treated this way. They didn't even offer him a drink of water, let alone hospitality.

She then raised her voice. "Jaquan, I don't mean to criticize you, but you're usually such a headstrong kid. How come you can't distinguish right from wrong today? Mr. Trevino is our guest, no matter how you look at it. Why are you talking to him like that?"

Jaquan gave Belle a disdainful look, but Belle felt confident that she was right.

"Alright, it's getting late, and if you two businessmen have any misunderstandings, you shouldn't discuss them here. Why don't you both take a step back and talk after dinner? By the way, did your family hire a new chef? It smells delicious."

As she spoke, she sniffed the air.

Just then, a sweet voice came from behind the trees.

"Jaquan, did you say you had a guest? Why are you still standing there?"

Chapter 250 Cierra's Appearance

A woman's voice came from behind the trees, shattering the tense atmosphere that had been brewing between them all.

Everyone turned their heads in the direction of the sound, especially Draven, who immediately looked in the direction of the familiar voice, hoping to catch a glimpse of the face that had been haunting him in his dreams.

Belle was also curious about this niece she had never met before.

She didn't notice the change in Draven's expression and craned her neck to get a better

view.

Cherry, on the other hand, was less impressed.

To her, Cierra was just a wild girl they had found somewhere, and she couldn't understand why everyone was paying so much attention to her.

After all, Cierra had been raised outside the family for over twenty years now and probably didn't have any feelings for the family. She wondered why Sarah and Jaquan were so eager to welcome Cierra back into the fold.

It was not like she had grown up with them or anything, so why bothered?

She watched with reluctance and curiosity as Cierra slowly emerged from behind the trees, under the watchful eyes of the others.

Cierra was not wearing a flashy outfit or jewelry, even not a pretty dress.

Her hair was tied up in a simple bun, not a single strand out of place, and she was wearing casual clothes. She was even in Mrs. Taylor's old apron.

Despite this, she had a beautiful smile on her face and her eyes were shining with anticipation as if she was looking forward to meeting someone she had been waiting to see for a long time.

But as she laid eyes on the approaching group, her smile suddenly disappeared, especially when she saw Draven among them.

She put her hands casually in the pockets of her apron and slowed down as she walked over to Jaquan, her eyes fixed warily on Draven.

As for Ryan, she didn't seem to react much at all.

She then saw Belle and Cherry but didn't know who they were, so she didn't show much

interest.

Cierra's appearance seemed to bring back the tension that had been simmering just below the surface.

Cierra didn't say anything.

She didn't know what was going on or why Draven and Ryan were here, or what they were doing.

And she didn't know what had been said between Draven and Jaquan before she arrived.

She didn't want to say anything either, because she didn't want to get in the way of Jaquan.

Besides, she didn't want to talk to Draven at all.

That creepy man!

So she stood quietly behind Jaquan, feeling safe with him here to protect her.

But her small movements unknowingly annoyed someone.

Cherry was already angry at being ignored earlier, and seeing Cierra standing close to Jaquan only made her more jealous.

She looked at Cierra with contempt.

"Who do you think you are, not even coming out to greet the guests and hiding behind Jaquan?" Cherry's angry shout shattered the tense silence, drawing the attention of the others.

Belle looked puzzled, wondering what was going on.

Jaquan remained his usual aloof self.

Cierra regarded Cherry as a fool.

Cierra had thought that Cherry knew she was Jaquan's younger sister, but apparently Cherry had no idea.

As soon as she saw Cierra's cheap clothes as well as her appearance, Cherry dismissed all her previous assumptions.

Ignoring Jaquan's cold stare, Cherry continued to complain, "Jaquan, this girl smells like grease. You should keep your distance from her, in case you get any stains on your expensive shirt!"

Jaquan's expression grew even colder, especially when Cherry failed to read his mood and tried to drag Cierra away.

Luckily, Belle was quick to act. She pulled her own embarrassing daughter back.

Then she turned to Jaquan, smiling apologetically. "You know how it is with Cherry. Her brain has never been the sharpest tool in the shed. She can't even understand something when you explain it to her three times. Don't blame her."

"Mom!" Cherry protested, but she was cut off by a sudden pain in her waist.

Belle turned her attention to Cierra with a friendly smile.

and “So you’re Cici. I’m your aunt, and I heard you are home finally, so I wanted to come see you. You’re so pretty, just like your brother, but a bit shorter and thinner. You must have been through a lot.”

She took Cierra’s hand and looked her up and down, as if she really cared about her lost

niece.

Cierra felt uncomfortable under her scrutiny and didn’t like her touch.

She pulled her hand back politely and said, “Auntie.”

Then she glanced at Cherry and forced a smile. “Hey, Cherry.”

Cierra didn’t forget her friend Ryan from New York and greeted him, “Long time no see.”

As for Draven, she simply ignored him.

He gazed at her with a hint of sadness in his eyes but didn’t show any displeasure.

Ryan was always cheerful no matter where he went. As soon as Cierra greeted him, he’ beamed with a smile.

“Long time no see, Cici!”

He winked at Cierra and jokingly blew her a kiss, “Or should I call you Ms. Dunphy?”

Cierra was amused by his actions and chuckled, adding, “Call me whatever you like.”

Ryan was always a joker, but he had a friendly personality and knew how to make people happy.

He was a happy-go-lucky guy.

Cierra had no ill feelings toward him. But Draven, who was standing next to Ryan, didn’t seem pleased and glanced at Ryan coldly.

Ryan shrugged innocently.

In the midst of the greeting, Cherry finally snapped out of her shock.

“You...you are Cici?”

“How many times do I have to introduce her to you, Cherry? Are you really that slow?”

Jaquan’s cold words interrupted Cherry.

Cherry’s arrogance vanished in an instant.

She had never thought that Cierra could be her cousin.

Last time, when Cierra was with William and Jaquan, she held Jaquan’s arm to make

Cherry misunderstand their relationship.

This time was no different. Cierra, dressed in a shabby apron with the smell of cooking oil, was unrecognizable as Jaquan’s sister.

“What a disgraceful outfit to wear in front of guests. Doesn’t she feel embarrassed?”
Cherry silently criticized in her mind.

But seeing Jaquan’s anger, even someone as slow as Cherry could tell that he was upset because of her own rudeness to Cierra.

Even though Cierra wasn’t raised by the Dunphy family, she was the true heiress of their bloodline. Cherry should never have humiliated her in the Dunphy mansion like that.