

## Chapter 17 Feeling of Guilt

"No... it can't be!" Grandpa Adam immediately denied it without a second thought.

"Yes, you do require a kidney transplant, and we searched for a suitable match for a long time, but there's more to this matter..." Grandfather Adam paused abruptly, a sudden realization making him glance at Theodore with astonishment. In that fleeting gaze, Theo understood that his grandfather might be unaware of the true events from the past.

"What makes you come to such a conjecture?" Grandfather Adam still required evidence to be convinced. Otherwise, this answer alone would burden him with a lifetime of regret!

Theo nodded subtly, and Ezra promptly handed the documents to Grandfather Adam. With just a cursory glance, Grandfather Adam found his answer.

"So, that's how it is. I never imagined he would go to such lengths!" Grandfather Adam's shocked

expression deepened Theo's confusion. What was the real situation back then?

"At that time, you were in urgent need of surgery, but we couldn't find a suitable kidney donor within those few days. Cecilia's grandfather was my dear friend for many years. When he learned about this matter, he volunteered to help and later informed me that a suitable kidney source had been found."

Grandfather Adam spoke slowly, "He also requested me to keep it a secret!" He cast a profound gaze at the lifeless body on the operating table, and his sorrow intensified.

"Why did you hide the truth from me and tell me it was an appendectomy?" This deliberate deceit prevented him from ever knowing that it was Cecilia who saved him!

"Because at that time, Cecilia's grandfather also informed me that the chances of the little girl who donated her kidney to you surviving were slim. I was afraid that if you knew, it would burden you mentally. So, I instructed everyone to tell you it was an

appendectomy." Grandfather Adam began to question the correctness of the decision he made back then.

The truth was both unexpected and unimaginable. Grandfather Adam let out a deep sigh, truly realizing the sincerity of his old friend. "Dave, I fear I can never repay you for your boundless kindness." Adam choked on his words, his voice trembling.

"Grandfather... so, this is the truth, isn't it?" The piercing pain caused Theo's hands to quiver slightly.

"I am astounded as well. It turns out Dave had his own granddaughter donate the kidney back then." Grandfather Adam pondered for a moment, surprised. "Is Cecilia unaware of this?"

Theo recalled that when Cecilia discovered she had only one kidney, she also revealed great astonishment. "She doesn't know. She believes she underwent an appendectomy." Theo explained, his strength waning with each passing moment.

Now they gradually connected all the fragments into a cohesive narrative.

“So we have been misunderstanding Ceci?”

Grandfather Adam slowly expressed his speculation, realizing that perhaps everything wasn't as they had perceived.

Theo forced a bitter smile and hesitated before nodding. Recalling Cecilia's illness, the final call, and the words she left, Theo's expression appeared somewhat dazed. It seemed as if fate had played a deadly prank on him, and he probably would spend his entire life trying to make amends for this mistake.

Overwhelmed by a myriad of complex emotions, Theo took two stumbling steps backward, his face growing unusually pale. Ezra wanted to step forward and offer assistance but was waved off by Theo.

He considered himself the heir of Heimann family who had led Heimann Corporation toward further success. Today, his pride lay shattered on the ground because he hated his own blindness to Cecilia's love. He took several deep breaths, making a strenuous effort to maintain composure.

Observing this, Luke emitted a cold snort and walked past Theo. Meanwhile, Theo remained engulfed in self-condemnation, unable to extricate himself from it. Grandfather Adam, after learning the truth, closed his sorrowful eyes and made up his mind. Now that Cecilia had died, then her mother...



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