

Chapter 18 Attend the Funeral

Grandfather Adam dispatched his men to search for any trace of Cecilia's mother, but their efforts yielded no results.

A few days later, a shroud of ominous clouds hung in the sky. And this day was the funeral of Cecilia. During her lifetime, she had few true friends, so only a handful of people attended her funeral today.

Cecilia's mother, Valerie, wore a grave expression, her gaze vacant, as if lost in thought.

Silas Payne, bearing his sorrow, approached his mother and gently offered solace. He had already lost his sister and couldn't bear the thought of losing his mother as well.

"Mom, rest assured, I will uncover the truth behind this matter. I won't let my sister's death remain a mystery."

Silas couldn't believe that Cecilia had taken her own life. He knew his sister better than anyone, and

though her life had been arduous, she would not easily commit suicide.

Valerie glanced to her son, her lips parted, and silently nodded in agreement.

As the two spoke, Luke made his way towards them. "Mrs. Payne, this is Cecilia's urn." Apparently Cecilia's death had left Luke looking worn out, his voice carrying a hint of weariness.

Valerie choked back her tears, her hand covering her mouth to stifle her sobs. Observing the scene, Silas quickly moved to take hold of his sister's urn.

"I'll do it!" Valerie insisted on doing it in person. She wished to handle it herself, for Cecilia was her most cherished daughter.

"How dare you show up here!" Silas interrogated the newcomer with a sharp tone.

Cloaked in black suit, Theo held a delicate bouquet of white calla-lily in his hands.

Silas contemplated chasing Theo away, but his mother tugged gently at his sleeve, restraining him.

Theo arrived midway through the funeral ceremony. Whispers circulated among the onlookers upon spotting him, for they were well aware of the relationship between him and Cecilia.

Valerie swept an expressionless gaze across Theo, seemingly harboring a deep-rooted aversion toward him, reaching the point of disregarding his presence entirely.

Theo approached and put down the flowers before the tombstone. Upon completing the solemn ritual, he turned his attention to Valerie, walking to her.

Valerie completely turned a blind eye to Theo as if he didn't exist.

"Mom, I'm sorry!" It was the first time Theo called Valerie mom since his marriage to Cecilia.

He had never wanted to know anything about Cecilia before, let alone talking to her ailing mother.

Theodore stood before Valerie like a guilty child, his posture upright.

He knew that he could never obtain Valerie's forgiveness. However, he yearned to do something,

anything, to atone for his mistakes. Now, he had become the one burdened with remorse. His guilt, it seemed, could never be fully absolved.

Theo stood before Valerie for a prolonged moment, humbly bowing his head, expressing his remorse.

Eventually, Valerie slowly lifted her head. Her eyes were swollen, tear stains marking her face, and her voice trembled as she spoke.

"Go, I believe Ceci doesn't want to see you either!" She once again lowered her head, her eyes blinking with a hint of sorrow. She should be careful not to make this man perceive anything.

Theo didn't give up. Instead, he continued to apologize to Valerie. He hoped that he could earn the right to do something for Cecilia.

"Mom, Ceci has already left. Let me be the one to take care of you from now on." Theo cautiously proposed, his heart filled with apprehension, afraid of Valerie's rejection.

"No need! I don't need your care!" Valerie coldly refused. She would never forget how Theodore had

instructed the hospitals to drive her out.

"I'm sorry, mom. I know I was wrong. I realize the extent of my unforgivable mistake, losing the person who loved me the most in this world."

Theo's heart had been consumed by deep regret since his returning from the hospital. He felt an immense void within. He had lost someone of greatest importance.

The sky grew increasingly dark, initially adorned with dense clouds, now resonating with thunder, pouring down torrents of rain.

"She truly loved you, for many years she loved you. But what about you? Relentlessly, you inflicted pain upon her!" Valerie tearfully questioned Theo, her words intertwining with her tears.

"Ceci is a good girl. She gave me all the money. She voluntarily give up treatment for my sake. Now that she's dead, she will no longer trouble you. Are you pleased?" Valerie's gaze pierced Theo with bitterness, her heart aflame with resentment.

