

Chapter 19 Give the Game Away

Theodore parted his lips, eager to explain, but he found himself wordless in the face of Valerie's accusations. Even a feeble and pale explanation eluded him, leaving him speechless.

He stood in silence, the weight of self-blame settling upon him like never before. Confronted with Valerie's reproachful words, he was consumed by an overwhelming sense of guilt.

"I'm sorry! It's all my fault, to push Ceci to this. I would do anything to make amends. I know I can never attain your forgiveness. But please, grant me a chance to do something for Ceci."

Valerie coolly glanced at Theo. "What you can never attain is Ceci's forgiveness." With those words, Valerie, supported by Luke and Silas, left.

Theo remained rooted in place for a long time, bowing deeply to Cecilia's tombstone before turning and disappearing into the curtain of rain. Shortly after the car set off, he received a call from Ezra.

"Mr. Heimann, since you left your wife's funeral, someone has been persistently tracking and covertly photographing you!" Ezra's tone was serious, indicating the gravity of it.

Theo responded with a subtle "Hmm." As he settled into the car, he noticed through the rearview mirror that someone's acting suspiciously behind him. Theo presumed them be sent by his business rivals, but he had no intention of turning a blind eye.

"Investigate who they work for." Theo commanded. He's gonna teach them a good lesson.

The car swiftly halted at the entrance of the villa. Theo sat in the car for a while before finally pushing open the door and stepping out. For a split second, he felt the villa quite unfamiliar. Gathering his composure, Theo stood at the entrance, then produced the key, pushing open the door.

An overwhelming emptiness struck him. In the past, when he opened the door, he would at once see Cecilia. Ordinarily, he held nothing but contempt to her, never sparing a glance for her. At that time,

she was a person he detested profoundly, while his heart was devoted solely to Maeve.

Theo sat on the carpet, even though the heater was on, he couldn't shake off the bone-chilling coldness. For the first time, he curled up like a child, burying his head in his knees, his eyes tightly shut, pretending that Cecilia was right before him.

After a long time, Theo finally lifted his head to survey the entire villa. It felt eerily empty, devoid of any traces of warmth.

In the past, this time would find Cecilia bustling in the kitchen, though they had maids, she adamantly refused assistance when cooking for him. She always insisted on personally attending to everything.

Lost in a daze for a while, his reverie was abruptly shattered by a jarring ringtone. Taking out his phone, he saw Maeve's name flashing on the screen. Theo hesitated for a moment but eventually answered the call.

"What's the matter?" Theo's exhaustion was palpable, his voice weary.

"I miss you, you know? When are you coming to keep me company? I'm so bored here in the hospital all by myself!" At this moment, Theo couldn't muster a response.

"Not today. I'll find time to come tomorrow." Theo declined, a note of dissatisfaction lacing his words. Her melodious voice that once brought him joy now held no appeal. It was in this moment that Theo felt the utmost clarity.

After ending the call, the phone rang once more. Theo assumed it was Maeve again, feeling vexed as he reluctantly answered, only to hear the voice of his assistant on the other end. "Mr. Heimann, we have completed the investigation. The person who was secretly filming you was sent by Miss Maeve Payne." Ezra was taken aback by the finding, too.

Theo hung up the phone, his brows furrowed as he plunged into contemplation. Then, resolute, he rose from ground, clutching his car keys, and set off towards the hospital.

