

## Chapter 07 Make A Deal

"Maeve has been afflicted with end-stage uremia and requires a kidney transplant."

Cecilia stared at the matching report in Theo's hands, her heart pricked hard. She never expected Theo's love for Maeve would go to such lengths that he was willing to do matching testing to save her. His love for her had reached unfathomable depths. Sadly, fate did not showed its mercy, and their matching was unsuccessful.

If only... if she could match... a glimmer of hope flickered within Cecilia.

She pondered for a moment, a bitter taste rising in her throat. "I will do the matching testing later, but I won't disturb you for now."

Maeve suffered from uremia, while she herself battled late-stage cancer, yet she was met with indifference. Cecilia left the hospital, engulfed in a profound sense of helplessness.

...

Three days later, Cecilia received a notification from the hospital that she and Maeve could match.

It seemed that fate conspired against her.

Although Cecilia detested this outcome, it appeared that on the other hand fate had bestowed upon her a fortuitous opportunity. If she could exchange her kidney for her mother's medical expenses... she knew she had ventured onto an irrevocable path.

With this realization, she dialed Theo's number.

After a prolonged pause, he finally answered, his tone dripping with impatience,. "What's up?"

Gazing at the report in her hand, tears welled up in Cecilia's eyes as she whispered, "Will you be home tonight?"

"I'm busy. I have no time to waste on you." Theo's icy words shattered Cecilia's illusions.

A pang of agony shot through her heart as she pictured Theo by Maeve's side. With a bitter smile, she uttered, "The matching test said Maeve and I could match..." He fell into an immediate silence.

"Theo, I'll be waiting for you at home." With those words, Cecilia abruptly ended the call. ...

Night descended upon the city.

With a resounding bang, the sound of the door opening jolted Cecilia awake from her slumber on the couch. As she opened her eyes, she was greeted by the imposing figure of Theo. His figure looked formidable in darkness.

"Cecilia, this is your chance at redemption. If you fail to save Maeve, I shall take your life!" His voice, cold as if it emanated from the depths of hell, pierced the silence.

Her life? Even if he won't take it, her remaining days were numbered. Yet, his words still tore through her heart like a merciless blade.

Redemption, indeed. He held her responsible for Maeve's injured leg three years ago, rendering any defense unnecessary.

"Did I ever say I wouldn't save her?" Cecilia suppressed the pain in her chest. "I can save her, but, I have a condition."

"A condition? Cecilia Payne, who grants you the right to bargain with me?!" His anger flared, vowing

to snuff out her life without hesitation should she dare to play games.

"Because your beloved Maeve need my kidney!"
Cecilia fixed her gaze upon Theo, saying word by
word. "My request is simple. \$500,000. Once I
received this sum, I shall donate my kidney to her.
Furthermore, I will relinquish your wife's position to
her!"

Theo's expression grew more sullen hearing her words. Money! She was asking for money again! She was only driven by money. The realization ignited a tempest of fury within him. His fingers instantly constricted around her throat like a vise.

"So, you married me for my wealth! If you are so infatuated with money, why don't you chose that bastard Luke? Or is he unsatisfied with the service you provide?!"

The sense of suffocation intensified, yet Cecilia mustered another smile. "Whether you believe it or not, I require this money for emergency..."

"Enough!" Theo interjected with icy detachment.
"I'm fed up with your hypocritical words. I shall grant

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you the money, and you shall donate the kidney to Maeve."

To Theodore, \$500,000 might hold little significance, but for Cecilia, it could save her mother's life. What worth does self-esteem hold if it cannot cure illness? She could offer Maeve her kidney, for she herself was bound for demise.





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