

Chapter 56 What She Deserved

The City Hall was bustling with people today. It was easy for onlookers to tell Norah and Derek were a couple seeking to divorce while Madeline was shameless the other woman.

Their presence at the entrance quickly became the center of attention, attracting increasing onlookers to watch the unfolding drama.

Right after Norah stopped talking, numerous people spun around, muffling their giggles behind their hands.

In the eyes of many, Madeline, the unmistakable other woman here, regardless of her beauty, was a figure of disdain.

Norah and Madeline were striking in their own ways. Norah was gleamingly gorgeous while Madeline was with a more delicate appeal. The crowd secretly envied Derek for being in the company of these two attractive women.

"Miss Wilson, if you're unwilling to sign, just be upfront. Why resort to embarrassing both Derek and me? Derek didn't ask for more. After all, you're not exactly in need. Why insist on holding onto those assets?" Madeline asked, visibly upset.

Norah responded with a scoff, "Whether I need them or not is for me to decide. I'm merely claiming what's rightfully mine."

Norah cursed Derek's shamelessness silently. The nerve of him wanting to reclaim what he had offered to her back when he asked her to sign the divorce papers! Yes, she was wealthy enough to give up on what he had promised her, but she was reluctant to let Derek have his way, given his repeated unwillingness to finalize the divorce swiftly.

"Mr. Carter, I once thought you were a man of integrity. Now you're withdrawing from your promises? Ugh!" Norah made a face.

Derek suddenly remembered what Norah had said when Madeline wanted the lakeside villa he had intended for Norah. "Mr. Carter, you ought to stand by your word. The choice is yours."

Norah reflected on the same lines, saying, "I acted foolishly before. Now, it's time I claimed what's rightfully mine."

Norah regretted the time she had wasted on Derek over the past two years and was resolved not to walk away empty-handed. Without her efforts of waking him up from the coma and helping him with his recovery, he couldn't have been here arguing with her. Her goal was straightforward. She was set on obtaining her rightful share before finalizing the divorce and severing ties with Derek.

Remembering Norah's lines on Derek's terms on the allocation of the villas, Madeline waved her hand dismissively. "Miss Wilson, why continue this standoff?"

Madeline clung to Derek's arm, urging, "Derek, please explain to Miss Wilson that I want the lakeside villa to be our new home. Speak with her."

Derek met Norah's gaze, attempting to soften the situation, saying, "Norah, let's not escalate this. The court's involvement changes nothing. The outcome of any legal battle remains uncertain."

Norah's gaze grew sharp. It made sense why Derek remained unfazed upon receiving the summons. Did he have a contingency in place? However, he was the one caught in an affair. How dare he stand there and speak those words to her?

"Mr. Carter, you're well aware of my demands. These possessions are trivial to you. Why the reluctance to settle?" Norah retorted.

Derek clenched his jaw, remembering his initial offer to Norah, which included thirty million dollars, three properties, and a car, amounting to a third of his assets, as a gesture of compensation for her efforts in taking care of him over the past two years. Back then, he was playing generous.

Influenced by Madeline's insinuations about Norah's supposed new affluent connection, Derek had reconsidered his generosity. The notion that Norah could have been involved with someone else long before and

that he was oblivious infuriated him. Why should he hand over anything to her then?

"Norah, you're really testing my patience."

"Mr. Carter, am I the one testing your patience? You're the one seeking a divorce so that you could be with your lover, yet you're reluctant to give me what we had agreed previously. Derek, it turns out I never really knew you." Norah crossed her arms, her jaw tilted slightly.

Derek's gaze fell, shadowed with turmoil. "Two years into our marriage, I realize I've never truly known you."

Their conversation reached an impasse.

Norah, growing impatient, pressed, "Enough with the delays. Are we finalizing our divorce today or not?"

Derek stood firm, saying, "Just sign the paper, and I'll go through the formalities with you immediately."

Madeline interrupted with feigned concern to Norah, "Miss Wilson, just sign, and you'll be free. Why hesitate over such a straightforward decision?"

"If it's truly inconsequential, why doesn't Derek just relent? Derek, your actions reveal how petty you are!" Norah pointed out.

Norah's comment struck a nerve in Derek, who felt diminished compared to Sean and Kason. In terms of family stature, the Carter family paled in comparison, and aesthetically, Sean and Kason were in a league of their own.

"I'm petty? Damn! I dare you to say that again! I once had you completely under my thumb. You never dared defy me. Yet, you..." Derek's outburst startled Madeline. "Derek..."

Norah's fleeting amusement vanished, replaced by a steely gaze at Derek. Derek's words were her routine existence among his family's members. Whether in his villa or at Carter Manor, she conducted herself with the humility of a maid, never once defying him with the illusion that he might see merits in her one day and fall for her.

"Now, you label me petty? So what if I am? How bold you have become since you signed the divorce papers! Shall I provide additional instances?" Derek spat out in a fit of anger.

Holding onto Derek's arm, Madeline regarded Norah complacently, gaining pleasure from Derek's revelation of Norah's married life. It made sense now why Derek had once described Norah as merely a servant of the Carter family.

"Derek, since we can't reach an agreement today, let's leave it at that. See you in court." Norah's expression was icy, adding, "I won't give up what's rightfully mine."

Regardless of the circumstances, Norah was determined to claim her due, steadfast in her resolve to fight for her rights.

Norah's steadfast stance irritated both Derek and Madeline.

With a grim expression, Derek tightly rolled the document and said, "We'll just have to see who comes out on top in court."

Barely hiding her smugness, Madeline said, "We'll meet again, Miss Wilson."

As Derek and Madeline walked away, Norah felt a surge of frustration. Once again, Derek had managed to irk her while delaying the finalization of their divorce.

Settling back onto a chair nearby, a moment of reflection brought a wry smile to Norah's face.

A kind janitor approached, offered Norah a glass of water, and sat beside her. "Here, have some water."


Gratefully accepting the glass, Norah held it without taking a sip. "Thank you."

"Everyone here caught wind of your conversation. That man's no good, cheating and refusing to offer any settlement. My advice? Drag it out and see who becomes desperate first. They'll likely beg for a divorce once they're eager to get married. You'll hold all the cards then." The janitor said with an air of wisdom, "I've seen plenty like this in my years here. The eager party for remarriage usually ends up compromising."

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 +120 Points at most

"Appreciate it. You're right," Norah responded, contemplative, and agreed with the janitor's perspective.



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