

Kissed AOM 1711

Chapter 1711

Adam wanted to smoke a cigar to compose himself. He felt a little embarrassed, and he became even more so when Melinda threw his cigar away.

"Mel, I understand everything you're saying. I admit I was unfair to Lilin, and I could've done better as a husband and a father. But you shouldn't rush into divorce like this. Think about how this will affect Lilin! Do you really want to let her grow up in a broken home? She's still so young..."

Lilin, who was sitting beside Melinda and eating a burger, suddenly chimed in, "Please don't use me as an excuse. I'm really fine with the divorce; a complete home is wherever Mom is. "Why you..."

Melinda rolled her eyes at Adam. "Hear that? It doesn't matter to Lilin whether you're in her life at all."

Adam slapped his own thigh out of agitation. After a long while of silence, he looked up and said, "How can you think that I won't leave anything for you and Lilin? I didn't want to let you know because I didn't want to burden you with the knowledge. I was also worried Sophia would kick up a fuss again if word got out. Mel, I'm disappointed in you. You've been with me for so many years, so you should know better than that."

Melinda was a little taken aback, but then she frowned with consternation. "What are you talking about? Explain yourself this instant!"

Lilin looked at Adam with her big, bright eyes, too. She wanted to see what kind of lame excuse her father would come up again.

"While it's true I'm preparing to give Sophia all of my assets, a few years ago, I've been secretly investing in other businesses and properties under your and Lilin's name. And trust me when I say, those assets combined are no less than what I'm giving Sophia.

"I did this because I know my children the best! Sophia lost her mother when she was little, and it caused her to grow up to be a sensitive and easily jealous person. It'll just

make her hate you more if I give everyone an equal share of the inheritance. She's going to think you stole away what rightfully belongs to her.

"So for the sake of peace in the family, I had no choice but to keep your and Lilin's inheritance a secret. That way, there'll be less conflict in the family, and everyone comes out a winner in the end. As to why I didn't tell you... It's because I know you're not very good at keeping secrets. You're like an open book, and I fear Sophia will find out.

"I admit I do favor Sophia more, but that's because she lost her mom when she was little. I just want her to know I have her back no matter what. But that doesn't mean I don't love Lilin as much as I love Sophia. Why can't you understand that, Mel?"

Adam lowered his head, put his hand to his forehead, and sighed. He could not believe that he, a man known for his cutthroat business acumen, would actually have to humble himself to deal with trivial family matters in his old age.

Melinda was a little shocked by Adam's explanation. She never thought her husband had made arrangements for her and Lilin in secret. She exchanged glances with Lilin, and both of them thought they had unjustly accused Adam.

"Brian... You should've told me sooner," said Melinda remorsefully.

"I didn't expect things would turn out like this... I mean, you even wanted to divorce me!" said Adam, his head hurting.

Chapter 1712

Melinda was speechless.

Lilin moved closer and said, "Daddy, you shouldn't blame Mommy. I also think you favor Sophia over me!"

Adam lifted his head to look at her. "You ungrateful child. Don't I spoil you as well?"

Lilin put down her half-eaten burger and crossed her arms. "You do! But only when Sophia isn't around. You'll do anything she says as soon as she appears and try to drive a wedge between us!"

Adam recognized that he favored Sophia most of the time, but it was not because he loved her more than Lilin! It was only because Sophia lost her mother when she was so little, so he thought he would make it up to her.

"Lilin, how can you say that about your sister? Sophia can be a drama queen sometimes, but she doesn't try to drive a wedge between us! You're not allowed to talk like that about your sister anymore!" said Adam sternly.

Lilin simply rolled her eyes until she could not roll them anymore. "See! You're doing it again. You're so blinded to the truth whenever it comes to Sophia! You know what I think? I think the reason her personality is so twisted is because you've spoiled her rotten!"

Melinda patted Lilin's shoulder. "That's enough, Lilin."

Lilin pouted and sat a little further away.

Adam looked at his wife. "Mel, can you come home with me now? I love both Sophia and Lilin the same."

Melinda looked back at him. The anger in her eyes had lessened somewhat, and there was even some regret.

"Brian, I'm touched that you've done so much for Lilin. I'm sorry. I shouldn't have blamed you without first listening to your explanation," said Melinda.

Adam breathed a sigh of relief and reached out to hold her hand while saying, "Then let's get you packed up so we can all go home together."

However, Melinda refused to hold his hand. She shook her head and said, "I've thought about a lot of things these past few days. Even though we've cleared up the misunderstanding, nothing's going to change if Lilin and I go back with you now. The whole cycle is just going to repeat itself. Sophia is never going to accept Lilin or me, and you'll always be stuck in the middle. I'm really tired, and I'm sure you are too."

"So I think we should just give up. I want Lilin's childhood to be filled with happy memories, not fights after fights. It's enough for us to know that you've secretly invested

in businesses and properties under her name. You can give those assets to Sophia or donate them all away if you want. Just know that Lilin and I are never going back home with you anymore."

Adam did not understand. He did not understand why Melinda still refused to go home with him after he had explained everything.

"Mel, I can change. You just have to tell me what you want me to change about myself... Please don't do this..."

Melinda shook her head. "You don't need to change."

It was true. The biggest barrier to their relationship was Sophia, and he would never get rid of her just to please Melinda. They had had countless fights over the years because of her, and she was really, really tired.

It was not easy being a stepmother. She could not scold Sophia out of fear of being labeled an evil stepmother. Thus, she would rather raise Lilin on her own. At least that way, they would not have to live under Sophia's rule.

Adam frowned. "Mel! Just what the heck do you want me to do?"

"Nothing. I don't need you to do anything. I just think it'll be best for us to get a divorce."

Chapter 1713

Adam did not want to get divorced from Melinda; he loved her too much. Otherwise, he would not have come to beg her to go back home with him!

"Mel, I know you don't like Sophia, but she's my daughter. It's not like I can get rid of her!"

"I never said that I don't like Sophia. It's her who doesn't like me. I'm not going to force her to accept me, but I'm not going to force myself to stay in a place where I'm not welcome either! Brian, I really hope you can understand why I've made this decision," said Melinda lightly.

Adam started to panic. "I don't understand! I'm not going to divorce you! We've been together for more than half of our lives, so how can you even bring up divorce?"

"Brian..."

Adam held up his hand to stop her from talking. "That's enough. You don't have to say anything else. You can either come back with me, or I'm going to move in with you here!"

Melinda frowned. "What are you talking about? Can you stop being so stubbornly childish for one second?"

"Daddy, didn't you say this place is all cramped and shabby?" chimed Lilin.

Adam waved his cheeky daughter away. "Go play in another room, Lilin. You shouldn't be interrupting when the adults are talking. So, are you coming back with me, Mel? Or should I get the servants to send my things here?"

Melinda fell silent. She really did not know how to answer him. She knew his temper, and he was the type of man who did not make empty threats. Not to mention, her old friend might come back anytime to reclaim the house.

Melinda was racking her brain trying to come up with an answer when Lilin stood up and whispered into her ear. She was stunned to hear what she said. She looked at her and gave her idea some serious consideration.

Adam frowned when he saw that. "Lilin, what stupid idea did you give your mom again?"

Lilin spread out her hands innocently. "Daddy, I'm not the villain here. All I did was to persuade Mom to go back with you."

Adam looked at Melinda skeptically. "Mel, what did Lilin say to you?"

Melinda snapped out of her daze and looked up at him. "Lilin said we'll go back with you under one condition."

Adam immediately smiled happily when he heard that. "Okay, sure! I'll agree to whatever condition you want! I'll even get you the moon if I'm able to!"

Lilin clapped. "Yay! You have to keep your promise, okay, Daddy? I'm going to act as a witness."

Adam glanced at Lilin. He knew he had fallen into her trap but thought she probably just came up with some embarrassing condition for him.

"Mommy, tell Daddy our condition now before he takes back his promise!" said Lilin.

Melinda stared deeply into Adam's eyes and said, "Brian, Lilin and I will go back with you if you promise you'll let Zachary go back to his real wife and kids." Adam's expression froze. It never crossed his mind Melinda would come up with a condition like that.

Jeremy was Sophia's husband. That morning, Sophia even took him to the hospital to prepare for IVF. She would never allow him to go back to Corinne and the kids.

Chapter 1714

Seeing that Adam was not saying anything, Lilin said, "Daddy, you can't do it, right? Then I suggest you go home now."

Adam frowned at his wife and daughter. "Why do you two want him to go back to his real wife and kids? What good does that bring to you?"

Melinda did not know where to begin, but Lilin answered righteously, "It doesn't bring us any good, but it's fair to Zachary! Daddy, you should know very well Zachary's real name isn't Zachary Finnix, but Jeremy Holden! Sophia brainwashed him into losing his memory because she wanted him for herself! She then gave him the name Zachary Finnix and told him they were husband and wife! But we all know he already had a wife and kids back home. Just think about what his real wife and kids must've been feeling to not know whether he's dead or missing. It's time we end this."

Adam became furious at Lilin telling the truth. "That's enough! You're not allowed to bring this matter up again. Zachary is our family now, and his past has nothing to do with him!"

Lilin looked at Adam disappointedly. "Does that mean you won't accept the condition?"

"That's a stupid condition, and you know it! Who taught you to meddle in our affairs and encourage your mother to make an unreasonable condition like that?"

"Hmph! How is that unreasonable? Everything I said was the truth, and you knew it! Daddy, you can't even tell what's wrong from what's right because you're so insistent on protecting Sophia! That's what Mom and I hate the most about you!"

Adam frowned and ignored her. He turned to Melinda instead, saying, "Mel, Lilin is still a kid, but you should know better. Come on, let's go home."

Melinda looked helplessly at Adam. "Brian, I didn't come up with that condition to make your life difficult. I really hope you'd at least consider letting Zachary reunite with his real wife and kids. Otherwise, you're just enabling Sophia, and that's never going to end well."

Adam could not understand why they were so insistent about the matter. "What do those people have to do with us? Sophia can't live without Zachary, so you're as good as telling her to take her own life by asking me to send Zachary back."

Melinda disagreed. "Sophia's going to be just fine without Zachary. You should know her better than that. When has she ever let herself suffer? She loves herself too much to ever take her own life because of someone else. From the way I see it, she doesn't love Zachary at all. She only wanted him to satisfy her own desire for control and possession. After all, could you bear to put someone you love in the position Zachary is right now? Brian, you've really spoiled Sophia rotten. You never disagreed with anything she wanted since she was young, but you're only setting her up to fail by doing that. If you don't stop her now sooner or later, she'll come across someone or something she can't get. That might cause her to go crazy and do something extreme."

"Stop! That's enough!" Adam was getting more agitated. "Sophia's my daughter. What's so wrong about giving her what she wants if it's within my capabilities? Isn't that what a good father should do?"

Melinda was extremely disappointed. "If that's the case, you should leave. I don't want to go back to a place where I have to be implicated in a crime."

Adam's expression darkened. He leaned back into his sofa and took out his phone to call his subordinate, who was waiting outside. "Pack up my things from home and bring them over here."

"This is my friend's home! We don't welcome you here, so leave right now!" shouted Melinda angrily.

Lilin put his hands on her lips and said, "Yeah! Get out of Mommy's friend's house now! We don't welcome a stinky old man like you!"

Chapter 1715

Adam did not get angry at Melinda. He did, however, get angry at Lilin. "How dare you talk to me like that! Who are you calling a stinky old man?!" he shouted sternly. Lilin immediately hid behind Melinda and stuck out her tongue at him. "You're the stinky old man! Bleh, bleh, bleh. You're not only stinky but a fool as well!" "Why you!" Adam was livid.

Melinda put her hand on Lilin to shield her from Adam. "That's enough. She's my daughter, so it's up to me to discipline her. You should head back to keep Sophia company."

Adam reached out to grab her hand. "Mel, let's all go back together."

Melinda moved her hand away. "Like I said, I'll consider going back if you agree to the condition just now."

"No! I don't understand why you'll go to this length to help out a stranger! Do you not want to see Sophia happy?" asked Adam frustratedly.

Melinda frowned. "Happy? Do you really think Sophia has been happy over the years? She's only lying to herself! Zachary doesn't love her at all, so what's the use of her keeping him by her side? Plus, Zachary's real wife isn't a stranger!"

Adam did not dare to comment on Sophia's happiness over the years, but the same could not be said about what Melinda said about Corinne not being a stranger.

"How is his real wife not a stranger? She doesn't have anything to do with us, so why are you helping her?!"

Melinda frowned deeply. "Who said his real wife doesn't have anything to do with us? Do you remember four years ago when I left home with Lilin after we had a big fight, and we got into a car accident where I needed an urgent blood transfusion? The only reason I was saved was because a kind girl, who despite being pregnant, still donated her blood to me! And let me tell you something: that girl is none other than Zachary's real wife, Corinne Carew! I owe her for saving my life, so I'll never continue to help you cover up Sophia's crime!"

"What?! She was the one who saved you?" exclaimed Adam in shock.

"Yes, Miss Corinne was the one who saved Mom! The hospital was running low on donated blood then, and Mom was that close to dying. It was only because she donated her blood in time that Mom was able to be here with us now. She even got her friends to donate their blood, too! Daddy, we would've lost Mom if Corinne didn't happen to be at the hospital at that time. Haven't you always taught me to repay other people's kindness? Well, not only did we not repay Miss Corinne's kindness, but we broke up her family!" said Lilin vehemently.

Adam was too shocked to say anything for a long time. He could not believe there would actually be such a coincidence in this world.

Melinda sighed sadly. "Brian, I know you still love me, but we've come to an impasse. I can't see from Sophia's point of view, and you can't see from mine, too. So I think we should just get a divorce."

Chapter 1716

"No! I'm not going to do that!" retorted Adam. He pinched the bridge of his nose. "I hear what you two are saying. Please give me some time to think about it."

Melinda and Lilin exchanged glances. It seemed there was hope.

Adam stood up and said, "You two can stay here for as long as you want. I'm going to get out of your hair first. But I'll arrange for a few bodyguards to protect you two. I'll come back to pick you two up after I've thought everything through."

After that, he turned around and walked out of the door.

Lilin watched as he left, then turned to ask Melinda, "Mommy, do you think Daddy will agree to our condition?"

Melinda shook her head. "I'm not sure. Sophia is just too important to him, after all."

Lilin spread out her hands. "Sigh! I wish Daddy would wake up soon. I hate to see Sophia emotionally manipulating him like that."

Melinda sighed and was about to say something when her phone buzzed with the sound of a notification. She took out her phone and saw it was a text message from her best friend, Emily.

[Mel, have you found the photo of the girl you said looked like my daughter? Don't forget to send it to me if you have.]

Melinda had almost forgotten that she promised Emily to send her a photo of Corinne. She could not find any photo of her online and did not know anywhere else to look.

Seeing that Melinda was in a dilemma, Lilin asked her, "Mommy, what's wrong? Did something happen?"

Melinda sighed again. "Your art teacher wants to see a photo of Corinne because I think she really looked like her when she was young. But I can't find any photo of her. I'm afraid your art teacher's going to be disappointed."

Lilin immediately came up with an idea. "Mommy, have you forgotten that I'm a painter? I can just draw a picture of Corinne if there's no photo of her!"

"Oh yeah, you're right! Hurry up, and do it now! I'll take a photo of the drawing once it's completed and send it to your art teacher!"

Lilin nodded and ran to get some paper and a pencil.

Meanwhile, at the Holdens' mansion.

Bryan and Christine were getting bored with their handwriting practice, and since Corinne had not come back, they thought they would look for her.

The two maids in charge of looking after them immediately chased after them after they ran out of the room. They were worried the two kids would barge into Pamela's room and interrupt her conversation with Corinne.

They tried to persuade them not to run around, but the kids would not listen. In a fit of desperation, the two maids told them they would give them two bags of potato chips if they went back to their room quietly to continue with their handwriting practice.

With the promise of potato chips dangling over them, the two kids thought about it and agreed to the deal. Thus, they obediently went back to the room and picked up their pens again. Keeping their part of the deal, the maids went to get the two bags of potato chips they secretly hid away and gave the kids each a bag.

Even though Corinne grounded them from eating junk food for a month, they had to do what they had to do. They were sure Corinne would understand once they had explained the situation to her. After all, Corinne had always been a very understanding employer.

However, Joey-who had just woken up-came into the room to find Corinne before she returned. It had always been his habit to look for his favorite person in the whole world after he had just woken up, but when he went into the room, he only saw Bryan and Christine doing their handwriting practice with the two maids supervising them.

Chapter 1717

Joey walked over to Bryan and Christine to see how they were getting on with their handwriting practice. It was then he saw a bag of unopened potato chips next to them each.

Joey had asked specifically for this specific type of potato chip from Corinne a while ago, but she told him they had run out of it.

'Didn't Mommy say we don't have that kind of potato chips already? Where did Bryan and Christine get them from? Did Mommy secretly keep it for them, and that was why she told me we had run out?' he wondered.

He looked at the two bags of potato chips sadly. True to his nature, he did not explode with anger. He simply left the room quietly.

"Mister Joey, where are you going? Miss Corinne was asking about you just now," said the maid when she finally noticed.

"I... I'm going back to my room," answered Joey listlessly. After that, he went back to the nursery with his drooping shoulder and back, cutting a lonesome figure.

The maid thought Joey was acting a little weird. However, she did not think much about it as she was busy looking after Bryan and Christine.

Two hours later, Corinne finally came out of Pamela's room. The old lady did not ask her anything. She just kept telling her about the recent dreams she had, of which every one of them had to do with Jeremy. Pamela sorely missed Jeremy, and she thought she would find a kindred spirit in Corinne.

Corinne noticed Pamela's complexion was looking a little too pale for comfort, so she stayed behind to give her a head massage. After that, she talked to her until she fell asleep.

Corinne went back to the room where Bryan and Christine were. They had both fallen asleep. The maids told her both kids dozed off halfway through their handwriting practice, and seeing that they had done well, they carried the two kids to bed to let them continue sleeping.

Corinne sat by the window to watch the two kids sleep. Suddenly, she sighed tiredly, and thought, 'I hope they'll get along with each other more and fight less.'

She then turned to the maid and asked, "Where's Joey?"

"He came here just now to take a look and went back to his room after that," answered the maid.

Corinne frowned. 'Hmm, that's odd.'

Even though Joey was a little older, he never got rid of his habit of clinging to Corinne. Thus, she found it odd that he did not look for her and instead stayed in his room. Corinne straightened Bryan and Christine's blankets, instructed the maids to keep an eye on them, and went to look for Joey in his room.

She knocked on the door, and a response quickly came from the inside.

"Who is it?"

"Joey, it's me, your mommy."

There was a pause before Joey said, "Come in, Mommy."

Corinne pushed open the door and saw Joey sitting on his desk, reading a picture book. She walked over, sat next to him, and glanced at his picture book before turning her attention to him. "Why are you here all alone? Don't you want to play with Bryan and Christine?"

Joey instinctively pouted. "I... I'm a big boy now. I need to learn to be independent and not be a burden to Mommy..."

Corinne narrowed her eyes. "Who told you you're a burden to Mommy?"

Joey shook his head. "No one. I just think it's already hard enough for Mommy to take care of Bryan and Christine, so I don't want to add to the burden..."

Corinne stroked his head. "Silly boy, you're not a burden to Mommy at all."

Chapter 1718

Corinne's voice was soft, and her eyes were filled with sincere maternal love. Seeing this, Joey could not help but throw himself into her embrace. However, the next second, he sobered up to the fact he should not vie for Corinne's love and attention with the other kids since he was not her son by birth. Otherwise, he would get sent away to live somewhere else.

"Thank you for being so good to me all the time, Mommy. But I'm a big boy now, so I need to learn to be independent. I'm going to sleep alone from now on," said Joey seriously.

"You're only five years old. There'll be plenty of time for you to learn to be independent when you're older," said Corinne helplessly.

Joey pursed his lips tightly as if trying to keep himself from crying.

Seeing this, Corinne gave up on persuading him. She gently stroked his head and said, "Okay. You can sleep alone if you want to. I'm not going to bother you. But you can come find me whenever you miss me, okay?"

Joey nodded. "Okay."

Corinne stood up. "Enjoy reading your book, then. I'll call you when dinner's ready."

"Okay, Mommy..." said Joey sadly as he watched her turn around. He did not actually want her to go. He wanted her to spend more time with him, but he did not dare to tell her as he felt like he did not have the right to do that.

'Mommy's probably going back to spend time with Bryan and Christine, so I shouldn't stop her...' he thought.

What he did not know was Corinne went down to the kitchen instead of Bryan and Christine's room. She was starving, so she went to the kitchen to find something to eat, and also to ask the kitchen staff to cook something nice for the kids.

...

Adam happened to bump into Sophia, who had just come back from buying groceries, at the elevator when he got back to the hotel.

He frowned when he noticed she, who had never done any chores around the house since young, was carrying a huge bag of groceries. "Why did you go out to buy so many

groceries when the hotel has everything? And why didn't you get someone to do it for you?" he asked.

"Dad, what's wrong with me going out to buy groceries when I have so much free time? All that walking is a good workout, you know. Besides, Zachary said he's gotten bored of the food in the hotel, so I want to cook for him. It's also healthier that way."

Adam was startled by this. He waved his hand to signal his subordinate to help Sophia carry the groceries, then said, "Did you learn how to cook for that good-for-nothing invalid?"

Sophia frowned. "Dad! How many times do I have to tell you not to call Zachary an invalid? And yes, I learned to cook for him. I feel incredibly happy when I see him eating the food I cook!"

'Huh! This silly girl knows nothing at all. He should be the one cooking for her if he really loves her,' thought Adam. He did not say it out loud as he did not want to hurt Sophia. However, he did not really expect that his daughter, who never stepped foot in a kitchen at home before, would learn how to cook for a useless man!

Sophia used to always complain that the smoke and grease in the kitchen would cause her skin to age faster, so she avoided the kitchen like the plague.

'Yet that stupid invalid is treating her like a maid? Huh!'

Chapter 1719

Adam wondered whether Jeremy had ever cooked for Corinne before when the elevator door opened with a ding. "Dad, why don't you come over to our suite to try my cooking? I have under my belt quite a few dishes!" said Sophia.

Even though Adam was not in the mood to eat anything, he still wanted to see how Sophia and Jeremy usually interact with each other, so he nodded and said, "Okay, sure. I guess I have Zachary to thank for getting a chance to try your cooking."

Sophia simply smiled happily. Her father coming over was not the only reason she was happy. She was also happy at the fact that she would become pregnant with Jeremy's baby soon. She was so happy that she did not even care that Jeremy was still angry at her.

Adam followed Sophia to her suite. After they went in, Sophia ordered Adam's subordinate to put the groceries in the kitchen before passing a bottle of water to her father.

"Take a seat for now, Dad. Dinner will be ready soon," she said.

Adam sat on the sofa and took a look around the room. Jeremy and that wild child of his were nowhere to be seen.

"Hmph! Where are they? Why aren't they helping you out?" he asked.

Sophia was in the kitchen prepping the food, and when she heard the question, she answered helplessly, "Jeremy's sleeping in the bedroom right now. I'm afraid he's not feeling his best. I'll wake him up when dinner's ready, so don't worry."

Adam scoffed. 'Who does Zachary think he is? How dare he treat my precious daughter like a maid?'

Even Adam would help Melinda when she was cooking at home, yet Jeremy was sleeping soundly in the bedroom!

Speaking of which, he suddenly thought of what Melinda and Lilin told him when he went to find them.

'Is Sophia really happy? Isn't she lying to herself? Zachary doesn't love her at all. Not when he had his memory, and especially not after he lost his memory!' thought Adam. He was discomfited at the thought of his precious daughter being reduced to an obsequious people-pleaser just to get Jeremy to love her.

He put down his bottle of water and went to the kitchen to talk to Sophia.

Sophia could feel her father's burning gaze on her, so she looked up and asked quizzically, "What's the matter, Dad? Why did you come to the kitchen? You can just sit back and watch the television. I'm perfectly capable of cooking dinner all by myself."

Adam wanted to smoke really badly but decided against it in the end.

"Sophia, I want to ask you something. Are you really happy with Zachary?"

Sophia suddenly stopped washing the vegetables out of surprise. "Dad, why are you suddenly asking me that?"

Adam sighed. "It pains me to see you slaving over the kitchen for a husband who doesn't even appreciate or love you! I didn't raise you to become a maid for someone else! You don't even know where the kitchen in our home is, yet you're here cooking up a storm for him? Sophia, why don't we let Zachary go back to his family and let them take care of him?"

Sophia frowned with alarm. "Dad, what are you talking about?! Zachary and I are getting along just fine. I love him, and he loves me as well! We're going to have our own baby soon. How can you say something like that to hurt me at this time?"

"He loves you? As if! If he does, he'd be out here helping you to cook dinner! If he really loves you, you wouldn't have had to use medical intervention to become pregnant with his baby! Sophia, stop lying to yourself! Get rid of him, and I'll find a better and more handsome man for you! I don't get why you want to tie yourself to a stupid invalid like him!"

"Dad! What's the matter with you? Where's all this coming from? Did someone say something to you?" asked Sophia angrily.

Chapter 1720

Adam looked deeply into Sophia's eyes. "I don't need anyone to say anything to me for me to see how Zachary has treated you over the past three years. What I don't get is why you're bending backward to please him."

Sophia looked down and continued washing the vegetables. "Leave me alone, Dad. I know what I want, and I know what I'm doing."

"You're telling me to leave you alone?! Have you forgotten you wouldn't even be able to keep Zachary by your side if I didn't help you out back then? He would've left you a long time ago if he still had his memory! Sophia, it's time for you to face reality and find a man who really loves you!" said Adam frustratedly.

"That's enough!" Sophia threw the vegetables she was washing angrily down on the floor. "Just stop! Zachary and I are fine. I'm not going to leave him, nor am I going to let him leave me! You'll be kissing my cold dead body if you take him away from me!"

"Why you!" Adam was really at a loss on what to do with his stubborn daughter. No parent could ever remain calm when their children are threatening to take their own life.

He did consider letting Jeremy go back to Corinne after talking to Melinda and Lilin. After all, Corinne did save his wife, and he always abided by the sentiment that one must repay kindness where it was due. Unfortunately, his eldest daughter was his biggest obstacle at that moment. After thinking about it, he decided to give both of them some time to cool off.

"You're not calm right now, so I'm going to give you some time to think about what I just said. I'm leaving now. Enjoy your dinner," he said as he waved goodbye to her. He was afraid Sophia would pick up a kitchen knife and take her life if he pushed her too far.

Sophia glared at Adam as he was walking out of the suite. It took her some time to finally compose herself. She bent down to pick up the vegetables from the floor, and it was only then she noticed Jeremy's bedroom door was open.

She quickly straightened up herself and immediately saw Jeremy sitting in his wheelchair by the door, looking impassively at her.

'When did he come out? Did he hear everything?' wondered Sophia.

"Uh... Hey, Zachary. How was your sleep?" she asked sheepishly.

"It was good. Are you making dinner?" he asked.

Sophia laughed awkwardly. "Yeah... I went out to buy more groceries when you and Benjamin were sleeping. I want to make dinner extra special tonight."

Jeremy nodded. "Okay. Appreciate it."

Sophia was overjoyed to hear him say that. 'Does that mean he's not angry with me anymore?' she thought.

"Oh, it's nothing. Plus, I like cooking for you both. It makes me feel like I'm taking care of you two well as a wife and as a mother."

"Sure."

Jeremy's attitude was very indifferent. He wheeled himself from the door to the living room as if nothing happened before. Benjamin, who looked like he had just woken up, followed him from behind while rubbing his eyes. He then started playing with his toys on the sofa.

Sophia could not help but feel anxious when she saw how Jeremy and Bryan were acting, and she thought back to the fight she just had with Adam.

"Zachary, did my father's voice wake you up?" she asked.

Jeremy turned to look at her. "Your father was here?"

His expression was unusually calm. There was not a shred of evidence to show he was lying.

"Yeah. We talked for a while before he left. I thought you guys woke up because my father was talking too loudly," said Sophia skeptically.