

## Love from My Dominant Boss Chapter 471

### Chapter 471 Two Options

I had thought I would be released soon since it was a summon for investigations and not an arrest. However, it seemed like it was merely wishful thinking on my part. They did not release me even till late at night.

What made me even more frantic was how I was broken off from all forms of contact with the outside world. As much as I had been through many hardships and matured a lot, it would be a lie if I said I was not scared about what I was going through at this point.

That night, I was all alone when a police officer came to me and flatly remarked, "Someone is here to visit you."

A pang of joy hit me when I heard that, and without hesitation, I followed behind him.

Upon walking out, I realized it was Lincoln. That made me disappointed as I had thought it would be Michael.

"Ms. Garcia, it sure doesn't feel good to be inside for the whole day, isn't it?" Lincoln coldly muttered as he sat down opposite me.

I tamped down the roaring rage in my chest as I took my seat. The hint of guilt residing in me, if there was any, had entirely faded away at that point. I might appear as cold as ice on the outside, but I was in a full-blown inferno deep inside.

"Isn't this all part of your setup? Did you already bribe the police to charge me with the crime of causing intentional hurt? I've said before that I didn't do it on purpose. Why are you still doing that?"

There was no way I could wrap my head around why Lincoln would do that. How could he be so heartless? Did he not spare a thought for Michael and Amaury's feelings?

"How smart you are. You've got the right answer with one try." His tone was still as calm as before.

The lack of denial was enough to prove that he had given his silent agreement and, undeniably, I was mad about it.

"Don't you think you've crossed the line? Don't you see how cruel your actions are toward me?" I spoke stoically with an icy glare while trying to keep my cool.

“I know what I did will bring you trouble. I have no intention to land you in jail either. Otherwise, I wouldn’t be here right now.”

Lincoln’s face remained the same even when faced with my questioning. The gaze he shot at me was still as calm as how he always appeared to be.

I had to admit that I looked a little too immature in front of an experienced man like him.

“No intention of sending me to jail? Then why am I locked in here right now? Is this not what you wanted to see?”

His words sounded so much like sarcasm to me, considering my situation at that point. I could not believe that the thought of settling things amicably with him had even crossed my mind once.

“Anna, you’re actually a good girl. But you’ve hurt Michael’s mom, my wife. She’s my beloved woman in my entire life. Like how Michael loves and protects you, how can I allow anyone to harm my woman? Having lived with her for a whole decade, I’ve already gotten used to her nonsense. But because of you, she’s lying on the hospital bed now! She hasn’t talked to me or even opened her eyes for a year!” Lincoln stared at me as he went on and on, as though he just needed a listening ear to hear him pour his heart out.

Surprising enough, upon hearing his confession, the deeply-rooted resentment within me had seemed to fade away. Even though I hated him for doing all those things to me, I knew he was doing it for the sake of the woman he loved, just like how Michael would do to me.

I realized I had only thought about my feelings but never concerned about his. And somehow, that made me a little guilty.

Even with that said, it did not mean that I no longer bore a hatred toward him. I could relate to the pain he was going through, but there was no way I could pretend that nothing had happened after what he had done to me.

“If I am you, I’ll surely be in pain too. I’m also very guilty and regretful, but since things have gotten to this stage, there’s no way we can go back to how we were no matter what you do. Instead, your despicable tactics will only estrange your relationship with Michael and Amaury.”

I could not be sure if I would be able to forgive if I was in the shoes of Lincoln, but the only way out for me now was to fight for Michael and my happiness.

“I know what you want to say. But I’ll be frank with you. Never mind if Michael hates or blames me, I won’t let you two be together. You’re the one who hurt his mother, so there’s no way you two can get together!” Lincoln responded indifferently.

From his tone, I figured there was nothing I said that would make him change his mind.

“So you’re sending me to jail just because you don’t want us to be together?” I took a deep breath to suppress the turmoil of emotions in me before asking coldly.

“You have two options now. First, take the money and leave as far as you can from here. Second, a jail term for you. If you choose the former because you hope that you can lead a happy ending with Michael, think again. Even if that’ll happen, it’ll only be many years from now. He’s in his prime now; do you think he’ll be willing to wait for you till then?”

Regardless of which option it was, his ultimate motive was to break my relationship with Michael.

The truth was, he had tried to negotiate with me, but I firmly rejected him. Perhaps that was why he was forcing me to make a decision now.

I burst into bitter laughter as distress overwhelmed me. None of the options Lincoln offered were reasonable and fair to me. All I wanted was something as simple as leading a peaceful life with Michael, yet it appeared so out of reach for me.

“I won’t make a choice. I believe Michael will think of a way to help me. He will never watch me go to jail without doing anything.” Those words came from the bottom of my heart. I was positive Michael would never allow such a thing to happen to me.

“I’ll give you two days to consider. If you can’t come to a decision after two days, then don’t blame me for being heartless. I don’t want to do this to you either. I always believe that you’re a good girl and think it’s our honor to have a daughter-in-law like you. If not that you hurt my wife, I’ll never do this to you. I used to like you so much, but I can’t believe you’d disappoint me!” Lincoln stood up and spoke harshly.

Initially, he was indeed very nice to me. He would even stand up for me when Josephine was against me. If not that she was in a vegetative state, he would, perhaps, still love me like how a father would.

In fact, I felt a little suffocated by what he had said, so much that I had an impulse to reveal the truth. But that said, I ultimately quashed it with my willpower.

## **Love from My Dominant Boss Chapter 472**

### **Chapter 472 Tell The Truth**

Watching the back of Lincoln as he left, I felt a tension building up in my chest. Anxiousness crept within me when Michael did not appear at the police station the following day.

According to my understanding of the man, he would definitely come upon finding out that I was at the station. Yet, he did not turn up after such a long time. I was beginning to question whether the housekeeper did reveal the matter to him.

Locked up in the station for the entire night, I could not sleep. I was feeling awfully insecure as I had no idea what exactly Lincoln wants from me. I was even worried he would really keep to his words if I chose not to agree to his request.

Every minute and every second in there was a torment to me. It was a feeling I had never been through before.

Only on the afternoon two days later did Michael make his presence. Tears instantly welled up on the rims of my eyes when I caught sight of him as I was feeling extremely aggrieved.

Sitting before Michael, I felt my nose stinging.

“I thought you wouldn’t show up. Why did it take you so long before coming here to meet me?”

I was living in fear for the whole of last night as he did not appear, but now that I saw him, I began grumbling about why he did not come earlier.

“I only know today that you’re locked up in the police station. I’ve been searching everywhere for you since last night!”

I supposed he must be exhausted since his dark eye circles were visible to the eyes, most likely due to his lack of sleep for the entire night.

His words had given me instant comfort, and like what I had expected, he would never leave me in the lurch.

“You should know by now why I’m here. It’s all because of your father.”

At the thought that Lincoln was the culprit for my predicament, I could not help but feel my blood boil.

“Mmm, I know. Rest assured that I won’t let you go to jail. I’ll get you out.” Michael’s face sank after hearing my words. But he soon recovered and held onto my hands firmly as he said that.

His assurance had somewhat acted like the antidote to my immense fear. I felt a weight off my shoulders to learn that he cared so much about me.

“Yeah, I believe you. But I think if your father is adamant about splitting us up, he won’t give up so easily.”

Convinced how Lincoln must have hated me to the core, I figured it would not be an easy task for Michael to change the former’s mindset.

“There’s an easier solution right now,” Michael placidly muttered as he looked into my eyes.

“What is it?” I hastily asked.

Even though I knew he would do his best to protect me, I still wished that I could leave this place as soon as possible. Being detained at the police station only made me insecure as I was constantly worried that they would convict me of a charge at any time.

“Tell the truth. Tell the police you didn’t do that, and reveal who’s the one who harmed my mom. I know you have an idea who the culprit is.” Michael sounded serious.

I could only stare at him in astoundment as I felt my heart beating violently. In truth, the man before my eyes was not that easy to fool as he had a good idea of how things worked.

I lowered my head, my mind in turmoil as I struggled to make a decision.

Perhaps I would choose to tell the truth when things had escalated to a point where there was no other way out. But since the situation had not gotten to that stage, if anyone learned that it was all Steven’s doings, he would have to go through everything I did.

Knowing well how Steven meant everything to my parents, there was no way they could continue living their lives if he was to go to jail. They would blame me for their entire lives instead.

Despite knowing that I would be able to break free from being faulted and lessened the hatred Lincoln had toward me, I still could not steel myself and testify against Steven.

“You’re still hesitating at this point? Do you wish to go to jail? That’s the easiest solution. In fact, I have an answer even without you telling me. Who else other than your kins would you be so willing to take the blame? The only thing I haven’t figured out is who between the three of them did it.”

Seeing how unresponsive I was, Michael questioned me again. This round, the calmness within him had seemed to be replaced by some agitation and anxiousness.

Sheer astonishment inundated me. It turned out that it was not just his suspicions but his actual knowledge of the entire situation.

“M-Michael, stop your wild guesses.”

I felt uneasy as I had no idea what Michael would do if he found out that Steven was the culprit. But knowing how I had a special place in his heart, it would not be a wonder that he would expose him in exchange for my innocence.

“Wild guesses? Anna, do you think you’re too smart, or do you think I’m that dumb? Do you think I can’t tell what you’re trying to do?”

Upon hearing my words, Michael furrowed his brows tightly. The gazes he threw toward me had a spark of anger in them.

“Can you let me think about it carefully? I don’t know what I should do now. Please don’t force me...”

At that moment, I was losing control of my emotions. I was conflicted about the choices to make. Despite knowing I would be able to get out of this mess as long as I exposed Steven, I could not bring myself to do that. Well, I had to say I did hate myself for my indecisiveness at times.

Watching me suffering in agony, Michael knitted his brows tightly. I could sense that he was seething in anger even though he remained silent.

“Listen, Dad won’t compromise that easily. When I tried to bail you out earlier, the police made the excuse that you’re a suspect and aren’t allowed to leave this place. I believe Dad has ordered them to do that.” After a long while of silence, Michael spoke again.

That stormy expression on his face was enough to show how this matter was no easy feat to solve.

“I’m fine. I believe we’ll be able to find a solution. Michael, you should know what I cared about the most. I know you’re worried about me, but this is the last thing I’ll do for them. I’ll never make such a silly choice again.” I looked into his eyes as I said those words earnestly.

I was worried that Michael would investigate which of my family member had harmed Josephine. Even though I made my words subtle, I knew he had understood my meaning to it.

“You’ve done so much for them, but they’ve never taken you as their family. Anna, sometimes I wonder if you’re too affectionate or plain foolish. They have such an important place in your heart, yet to them, you’re nothing!”

## **Love from My Dominant Boss Chapter 473**

Given how sharp-witted Michael was, there was no way he could not understand the meaning of my words. His eyes were blazing as he waited for my response.

“This is the last time, I promise. After this matter gets resolved, I will never get involved in anything about them. Just help me one last time, Michael.”

On one end, I knew Michael was concerned about me, but on the other, I was not able to betray Steven. He was, after all, my younger brother, and it would surely break my heart to send him to jail.

“Anna, do you know your biggest problem is that you’re too softhearted? They’re doing this because they’ve seen through you! Are you really going to let the real culprit off the hook? The person he has hurt is my mom!”

A terrifying expression was all that remained on his face. It was plain easy to tell that he was trying his best to suppress the raging storm within him as his face turned increasingly forbidding.

A shiver ran down my spine when I heard his last sentence. At that instance, I realized I had only thought of myself and forgotten how the victim was Michael’s mother. That sudden revelation made me recognize how he must be eager to find the truth and the culprit’s identity more than anyone else.

I lowered my head slightly, knowing well how my request was a little way too overboard. Nonetheless, I had no other choice since there was no way I could watch Steven go to jail.

“You really can’t help me this time? I promise that nothing like this incident will happen again in the future.” I looked at Michael with determination and popped the same request again.

“Anna!”

The flames of anger burned in his eyes as he was that close to blowing his top off. While the man was utterly furious, I was full of indignance. Given there were other choices, I would not have wanted things to get to where it was.

“This will be the last time! Anna, I hope you’ll treat them as strangers the next time they appear before your eyes. It’s not that I want to turn you into a heartless creature. I only want you to learn how to protect yourself. They’ll never be thankful and appreciative of what you’ve done for them.”

Eventually, Michael still chose to give in to me. Undoubtedly, the immense anger and indignity were bothering him, yet, he was willing to do that because he could not bear to watch me plead.

“I got it. It’ll be the last time, I promise.” I looked into his eyes and nodded my head in earnest.

Indeed, I refused to go through the same situation again after experiencing such pressure. I have to live for myself and my loved ones.

“I probably won’t be able to take you with me today. But trust me, I’ll think of a solution so that you won’t go to jail,” Michael flatly said after shooting a glance at me.

I knew he was frustrated for not being able to bring me with him to leave this place.

Nevertheless, I did not blame him at all. I was confident Lincoln was the culprit for my current plight, and his motive was to force me to take my leave from Michael’s side. Since that was so, it was impossible he would let me leave the station that easily. The only exception was unless I agreed to his terms.

“Don’t worry about me. I’ll take good care of myself.” I forced a smile on my face as I answered.

No matter who it was, no one would feel emotionless about someone getting detained in the police station. That was the same for Michael. Besides the tremendous pressure mounting on him, he still had to stress himself out for me. That was why I did not want to add more worries for him.

The line forming between his brows had revealed his reluctance to leave. I was upset to bid him goodbye, but I understood that many matters were waiting for him to complete.

“I’ll take care of myself. Go settle your work. I’m sure there are lots of work waiting for you to settle.” Seeing how he fixed his gaze on me without uttering a word, I reminded him in a low voice.

“Wait for me here. Give me two days; I promise I’ll get you out of this place!” Michael reached out to grab my hands tightly as he told me those determination-filled words.

I solely replied with a nod. I knew he would keep to his words as he would not bear to see me suffering in pain all by myself.

He gave me a last glance before he stood up and left.

As I watched him walk further away from me, tears welled up in my eyes uncontrollably. There seemed to be a surge of mixed emotions inside me—it felt suffocating and terrible.



Time crawled so slowly while I was locked up in the police station. Every second spent inside was excruciating torture, and my mind was constantly thinking about Michael.

The time limit Lincoln had given me would be due in no time. I was clear about my decision, but at the same time, I was worried he would mercilessly send me to jail.

After all, it was no doubt anyone would be unintimidated by the mere thought of imprisonment.

In the afternoon the next day, Lincoln came to look for me. The expression on his face was dour, and his gazes had not an ounce of warmth. Like before, we sat face to face with each other.

"It's been two days. Have you come to a decision yet?" That was the first thing he said upon meeting me. I reckoned he could not wait to make me leave.

"I've made it clear the last time; no matter what you do, I'll never leave Michael," I solemnly replied while retaining my composure.

That was indeed all that I hoped. Although I was unsure how ruthless Lincoln would be toward me for making that decision, I was firm that I wanted to lead a blissful life with my husband and child.

"Seems like you're very stubborn, huh? Are you not afraid of going to jail? Do you think you'll still be able to stay by Michael's side if that really happens to you?" Lincoln scrunched his brows and threw daggers at me.

"No matter what the outcome is, my decision won't change. I will stay by Michael and Amaury's side!" I fixed my gazes on him and repeated my decision in resolute.

It was not that I was fearless of his threats, but I had high confidence in Michael. I believed that he would be able to find a solution to solve this matter.

"Well then, I guess there are no other choices. I didn't want to be too harsh on you because you've, after all, given birth to the child of the Shaw family. But I have to do things the hard way since you're adamant about going against me." Lincoln's face grew glacial after hearing my words.

Instead of uttering a response, I merely looked at him in his eyes unwaveringly. I would never change my stand regardless of whatever actions he would take.

Perhaps because he had sensed the resolution I had in me, he said nothing more and gestured to his lawyer standing behind. Upon receiving the order, the latter headed out of the room and returned with a police officer shortly after.

The officer tossed out a document, which resembled a confession statement, on the table before me and indifferently instructed, "Sign on it."

My brows snapped together in concern. I figured signing on the papers was tantamount to an admission of charges. Hence, I had no intention of signing my name.

"It's not too late to regret now." It was as though Lincoln noticed my hesitation that his expression seemed to have softened a little.

## **Love from My Dominant Boss Chapter 474**

### **Chapter 474 Truth Come To Light**

I shifted my gaze away from the document to glance at the police officer. "I won't sign my name on it, and I most certainly won't be leaving Michael," I said icily.

I wasn't a fool. Once I signed the document, there would be no going back. Before Michael arrived, I was determined not to sign it.

"Do you really think you have a choice? This is a police station." A flash of anger and impatience flitted across the officer's gaze.

"Why are you insisting on my signature when you have yet to launch a proper investigation? Is this how you do things around here? Aren't police officers supposed to be fair and honest?" I snapped in reply.

I couldn't help but feel annoyed when I heard his threat. They'd never investigated this matter right from the very start. Although I already planned to take the blame for Steven's crimes, I had no intention of letting them convict me so quickly.

Regardless of the pressure, I was determined to wait for Michael to come to my rescue.

"Anna, do you really think your protests will make a difference? You brought this on yourself when you refused to accept the generous choices that I bestowed upon you. Right now, you only have yourself to blame for this situation," Lincoln thundered as a dark expression loomed across his face.

As I opened my mouth to reply, our conversation was interrupted by his phone's ringtone.

Furrowing his brows, Lincoln answered the phone.

“What? Are you serious? That’s great news!” Although I was clueless about his exchange with the caller, he instantly lit up with joy. It was the first time I’d seen him with such a broad beam on his face.

Once Lincoln hung up, he shot to his feet. The sight of his happiness caused me to knit my brows together. What on earth made him so happy?

“Captain Walker, I’ve just received a call from the hospital informing me that my wife has regained consciousness. I need to hurry over to there right now. Can we discuss this matter on another day?” he asked agitatedly.

Upon hearing that Josephine had awoken, I couldn’t help but heave out a heavy sigh of relief. Although I played no part in causing her current condition, I still felt slightly guilty. Now that she was no longer unconscious, it felt as if someone had lifted a heavy weight off my shoulders.

“No problem, Mr. Shaw. Please attend to your urgent matters. This case will probably take a couple of days to settle anyway.”

Given Lincoln’s prominent status, the police officer didn’t hesitate to agree with him. Upon hearing that Lincoln planned to depart, he merely agreed readily and even offered logical reasoning in assurance.

“All right, I’ll take my leave now. I’m sorry for the trouble,” Lincoln replied in a rush. Clearly, he was dying to return to the hospital.

With a final glance in my direction, he spun on his heel and left.

It was great that Josephine, an innocent victim, had regained consciousness. This way, Michael would feel much more at ease.

The longer I remained cooped up in the police station, the more my anxiety grew. How is the situation outside right now? Since Josephine woke up, does this mean she’s no longer in a critical condition?

After an entire day of worrying, Michael and Lincoln finally showed up in the afternoon.

I became even more confused when I caught sight of the father and son duo.

“Michael, why are you here? Is Mrs. Shaw feeling better?” Even though Michael and I had divorced for a year, I still had a habit of addressing Josephine as “Mom.” Nevertheless, I changed my mind when I recalled Lincoln’s attitude toward me and used “Mrs. Shaw” instead.

“Yeah, Mom is fine. Because she’d been in a slumber for a year, her body became slightly weaker than usual. Hence, she’ll remain under observation in the hospital for a

few more days. If everything goes smooth sailing, she can return home,” Michael replied with a smile. It was clear that Josephine’s recovery had put him in high spirits.

“That’s great! I’m glad Mrs. Shaw is fine.” I breathed a great sigh of relief. I had been vehemently praying for her recovery too.

“I came here today to bail you out of here. There’s no need for you to remain in the police station anymore.” Michael grasped my hand as he spoke.

“I don’t have to remain here anymore? Why?” I echoed in puzzlement.

Earlier today, Lincoln left me with a warning and nearly got me incarcerated. Hence, Michael’s words threw me into a stupor. I had an inkling that things weren’t as clear-cut as they appeared to be.

Michael’s tone was icy. “Mom told us all the truth when she woke up. You weren’t the one who pushed her; it was your brother, Steven.” All of a sudden, the cheery smile dropped off his face.

When Michael brought up Steven’s name, I could sense the fury rolling off his body in waves. The furious look that marred his face caused me to panic.

“Mrs. Shaw named Steven as the perpetrator? What do you plan to do? Are you going to lock him up?”

Though I was once part of the Shaw family, Lincoln did not hesitate to punish me for this incident. Now that the truth had come to light, he would be sure to punish Steven severely for his actions.

“Steven harmed her on purpose. His actions cannot go unpunished,” Michael replied evenly.

Though he appeared calm, I could tell they had no intention of being merciful toward Steven.

“Michael, is there truly no other way to resolve this? You know how much he means to my dad and mom. They’d go insane if he’s put behind bars,” I begged.

Deep down, I knew Steven’s actions were beyond redemption. Even so, the thought of how important he was to my parents caused me to plead on his behalf.

My words only served to make Michael even angrier.

“Even in a dire situation like this, you’re still thinking of others. If my mom hadn’t told the truth, you would have been the one in jail. What will happen to Amaury and me if that

happens? Don't you want to see us anymore?" The coldness in Michael's voice revealed his unhappiness and fury.

Truthfully, I could sympathize with his sentiment. He must be desperate to remove me from this mess and keep me out of harm's way.

Moreover, I was well aware that I was at fault because I tried to cover up for Steven. Yet, I recalled how my parents had begged for my help. As a daughter, I couldn't bear to see them in such suffering.

"Okay..." I hung up my head low. In reality, things had been set in stone right from the start. All this time, I was clinging to a sliver of hope that I'd be able to turn the tide and produce an unexpected outcome.

Lincoln made his way toward me. "Anna, you foolish child. How could you take the blame for your brother's crime? I hurt you because of this misunderstanding. Please accept my sincerest apologies," he murmured apologetically.

## **Love from My Dominant Boss Chapter 475**

### **Chapter 475 Dispelled The Barrier**

When Lincoln did those things to me, there was no denying the resentment that I harbored against him. Would he have misunderstood me if I hadn't tried to cover for Steven? Would he have done those things to hurt me if he knew the truth?

"You don't need to apologize. After all, I admitted to the crime," I mumbled. When I heard Lincoln's apology, all of my hatred vanished into thin air.

"Anna, I am at a loss for words. How could you be so foolish? Fortunately, Josephine revealed the truth. If this misunderstanding persists, you would have spent several years in jail for nothing." Though Lincoln's gaze was reproachful, I also noticed a glimmer of guilt in his eyes.

"At that time, I didn't think much about it or know what to do," I explained softly.

Since it was now revealed that Steven was the culprit, I was trapped in turmoil. What's going to happen to him?

Shortly after, they led me out of the police station. Since Josephine had revealed the truth, there was no need for the police to detain me any longer.

Nevertheless, I still felt guilty about her condition and requested Michael to drop me at the hospital for a visit.

Before her injury, we had a rocky and tense relationship because Josephine was never satisfied with me. She constantly nitpicked at every little thing I did. Nevertheless, she was still Michael's mother. I also found myself concerned about her well-being.

When I arrived at the ward, Josephine was resting on her bed. Yet, her eyes were wide open.

Carefully, I made my way over. An awkward silence blanketed the air as I struggled to come up with something to say.

Josephine was the first to shatter the silence. "You came?" she said weakly. The corners of her lips upturned into a small smile.

"I'm sorry..." The sight of her pale face and frail figure caused tears to well up in my eyes. Aside from an apology, I truly didn't know what else to say.

Although we weren't particularly close, she was still my elder. My heart ached to see her in such a feeble state.

"Michael has already explained everything to me. I'm sorry for all the trouble and suffering I put you through this past year." Josephine reached out her hand and spoke tenderly.

Her warm tone caught me entirely off-guard. Despite my surprise and skepticism, I still held onto her outstretched hand.

"No, you were the one who suffered the most. I was partly at fault for your coma," I replied while taking a seat next to the bed.

"Enough, stop apologizing." Josephine shook her head. "After this incident, I spent a lot of time reflecting on the past. I realized I have been too harsh on you and treated you horribly. It's all my fault."

Her sincere apology was unexpected to me. I could hardly believe my ears. Did she really just say that?

In the past, it was no secret that Josephine absolutely detested me. She was constantly scheming to get me away from Michael. In her eyes, I was not worthy enough for her son. Right now, she seemed like a wholly different person.

"I know you're a kind and sincere woman. You got together with Michael because you truly loved him. I won't get between the both of you ever again," Josephine continued, seeing that I remained silent.

When I heard this, tears rolled down my cheeks.

“Mom, thank you so much.” Her words moved me so much that I reached out to hug her.

From aside, a smile crossed Michael’s handsome face as he watched our heart-warming interaction.

Once the barrier between us was dispelled, I spent the rest of the days nursing Josephine back to health.

After she regained consciousness, it felt like she’d become someone else entirely. Following our heart-to-heart conversation, Josephine showered me with nothing but love and treated me akin to her own daughter.

Surrounded by the Shaw family’s affection, I felt like the happiest woman in the world.

After a week in the hospital, Josephine was finally well enough to be discharged. Nevertheless, she was still weak and had to rest at home.

Back then, I was always reluctant to visit the Shaw residence. There, Josephine used to ridicule me endlessly. In stark contrast, I now found myself enjoying her company.

After the events that transpired, I remarried Michael and spent the rest of my days in bliss.

It didn’t take long for the police to capture Steven. My heart skipped a beat when they called the Shaw residence to inform us of his imprisonment. In spite of everything he’d done, I still found myself concerned for him.

After all, he was still my younger brother. I couldn’t bear to see him locked behind bars. In the end, Michael forbade me from interfering with this matter as he claimed he was acting for the sake of Steven.

I also knew my brother’s personality like the back of my hand. If he continued to run free, he might land himself in more trouble. Michael’s right; Steven needs to be taught a lesson.

That night, we gathered around the table for dinner. While I was feeding Amaury, the butler suddenly burst in unannounced.

“Mr. Andy.” A flicker of hesitance flitted across the butler’s gaze when he noticed my presence amongst the Shaws.

“What’s the matter? Why are you so frantic? Can’t you see we’re in the midst of having dinner?” The sudden disturbance prompted Andy to scowl at the flushed-faced butler.

“Mr. Andy, the Garcia family is at our door. S-Should I invite them in?” the latter stammered. Once again, he stole another nervous glance in my direction.

He must be referring to Dad and Mom. This news didn't come across as a huge surprise. Ever since Steven was captured, I already anticipated that they would pay me a visit.

It'd been quite some time since I returned to the country. Yet, not once did my parents attempt to contact me. Their radio silence made me feel like a child whom they'd abandoned.

It was only in dire times like this that they would try to reach out to me, their only daughter.

As soon as the butler finished speaking, everyone's gaze fell on me. They must be waiting for me to respond.

Truthfully, I still felt conflicted over this matter. Nevertheless, I was well aware of the Shaw family's position in this matter and knew what to do in this precarious situation.

I lowered my head and continued feeding Amaury as if I heard nothing.

I've done enough for my family. This time, I won't give in to their demands.

“Tell them Anna's not home,” Andy instructed solemnly. From the somber tone of his voice, I could tell the Shaw family was still angry about the incident. It was a rare sight to see Andy outside of his light-hearted demeanor.

Though they'd forgiven me, it didn't mean they shared this same sentiment regarding my family.

Throughout the entire exchange, I kept my mouth shut. It amounted to a silent agreement toward Andy's decision.

## **Love from My Dominant Boss Chapter 476**

### **Chapter 476 Gave In**

The butler took one glance at me before leaving in a hurry. I kept my head down and said nothing. It would be a lie to claim that I did not feel anything at all. No matter what, they were my parents. I supposed they had come to look for me because of Steven.

After the meal, I went straight back to my room. Because of what had happened earlier on, I felt awful. However, I was pretty sure that I would not help them this time around and hoped that they would not force me to do so.



It had been a while since I returned. I did not take the initiative to contact them because when they wanted me to be the scapegoat for Steven back then, it had already broken my heart. From then on, I was utterly disappointed with them.

I knew very well that I meant nothing to my parents. Other than Steven, my well-being was of no relevance to them.

I was playing with Amaury in the bedroom when Michael walked in. He sat down beside me and looked at me with anguish.

“They’re still here. I know you’re very upset, but please don’t forget how they have treated you in the past.”

Michael spoke gently to me, but I could tell that he was trying to remind me not to give in to them again. My softheartedness toward my family had always been an issue of contempt for Michael.

In the past, he had advised me umpteen times, but I had always refused to listen. Now that things had blown out of proportion, I had to put my foot down. If I did not, Michael and even I would despise myself.

If I gave in again, I would be asking for it. I always ended up driving myself into a corner for people who did not care about me.

“I understand. I told you very clearly the last time that I won’t give in no matter what they say this time around. That was the last.”

Avoiding Michael’s eyes, I pretended to be unaffected.

“Whatever happens, I’ll always be by your side,” said Michael gently, and he pulled me into his arms.

I gave him a faint smile and a nonchalant look, but deep down, I felt terrible knowing that my own flesh and blood were standing outside the door.

Time trickled away. As Michael needed to attend to some work at the company, he left. I came to the window and saw my parents still standing out there. They kept looking into the house.

In reality, the Shaw family could have invited them in for a proper discussion, but they did not. The thing that happened a year ago had caused a barrier between them. The fact that my parents made me take the blame on Steven’s behalf had made things even worse. The Shaw family was certainly not happy with my parents.

They had made a clear stand when they refused to let my parents into the house. It might appear rude on their part, but I knew they were trying to protect me. For that, I was very touched.

The sky gradually darkened. Yet, my parents still refused to leave. They had been standing out there since noon, and six hours had passed. Knowing that Steven was the apple of their eye, I doubted they would leave if they did not get to see me.

I kept stopping myself from going out to see them. Initially, I thought they would leave if they did not see me. It turned out that I had underestimated the importance of Steven in their hearts. For my brother, they were willing to do anything.

Michael was not back by dinnertime. He had to work overtime because the workload had been accumulating.

Michael was a workaholic, so it was not a surprise to me. In the past, he used to work overtime too when we were together.

I could not concentrate on my dinner knowing that my parents were still out there.

Just then, I heard thunder. Nowadays, the weather changed in an instant without any warning. I looked out of the window and saw that it was about to rain.

I walked toward the window and wanted to see if my parents were still out there after so many hours. They should have left by now. After all, most people would not be able to take it after missing two meals in a row.

Under the faint light, I saw that they were still standing outside the door. When I returned to the country, I had my phone number change and did not contact them. Therefore, there was no way they could locate me unless I showed myself in front of them.

I wished they would leave soon because I really did not wish to see them.

The rumbling of the thunder went on, and soon, it started to pour. Looking at the wild storm going on outside, I became more worried. On the other hand, the Shaw family did not seem to be affected at all.

Just then, Josephine took one look at me and said, "Anna, come and eat your dinner. The food is getting cold."

I knew she was trying to distract me, and I was also aware that I had to be firm this time around. If I gave in, my parents would definitely demand unreasonable things.

"All right."

As I made my way to the dining table, I took another glance at my parents. That was when I knew they had no intention of leaving.

They were my parents after all. Knowing that my dad was unwell and they were standing in the rain despite their age, I was unable to have my dinner in peace. I admitted that I could not hold myself together. My heart softened.

I rushed to the door, picked up an umbrella, and ran out.

“Anna!”

I heard Josephine calling my name. I knew she wanted to stop me, but nobody would be able to sit around and do nothing if they saw their parents getting drenched. I knew I was an indecisive person, and I hated myself for it. However, there was no way I could be heartless toward my parents. Perhaps, I would always be so soft-hearted for the rest of my life.

I opened up the umbrella and hurried toward my parents.

When I got to them, they were thrilled to see me.

“Anna, I knew you are in there. You have finally come out.”

## **Love from My Dominant Boss Chapter 477**

### **Chapter 477 Put Her Foot Down**

My mom smiled when she saw it was me. At that moment, my parents were utterly drenched from head to toe. I started to tear up. I put the umbrella over them and said, “It’s raining so heavily. Why didn’t you find a shelter?”

I looked at them begrudgingly. Although I knew why they were there, I could not help but feel sorry when I saw them in that disheveled state.

“Anna, your dad and I have come to look for you today because of Steven. Do you know that he has been arrested?”

My mom ignored what I said. Instead, she grabbed hold of me like she was clinging to a lifesaver. I could hear the urgency in her words.

My heart sank. Although I knew they were there because of Steven, I kept quiet after hearing that. I had no wish in getting involved with that matter.

With my head down, I spoke calmly, “I know. Steven might go to jail this time around.”

The moment Josephine regained consciousness and told everyone what Steven had done, I already knew.

“Anna, you must help Steven. He mustn’t go to jail. If he does, what’s going to happen to your dad and me? The both of us count on Steven to take care of us.”

When my mom saw my calm demeanor, she became even more agitated. Her grip around my hands tightened, and she looked at me pleadingly.

Seeing my mom like that, I was heartbroken. Steven had always been their favorite. If he was found guilty and imprisoned, my parents would not be able to accept it. However, that matter was out of my hands.

Caught in a tight spot, I looked at my mom in silence for a long time before saying, “Mom, I’m sorry. I can’t do anything about this matter anymore. Steven has to be punished for what he has done.”

“Anna, what do you mean by that? Steven is your brother after all. He’s about to go to jail, and you aren’t going to do anything about it? How can you be so cruel? Your dad and I have been standing in the rain and waiting for you for so long. How can you be so heartless?”

My mom became angry after hearing my response. She glared at me, and I could hear the reproach in her tone.

At that moment, my dad finally opened his mouth. “Anna, Steven is the only son in our family. If he goes to prison, our family is gone. No one will look after us in our later years. Is that what you want?”

There was a frown on his forehead, and he looked at me with seriousness.

“Mom, things have gone to this extent. How do you expect me to help him? Steven has broken the law. What can I possibly do?”

If there was a way out of it, I would have done something. However, there was really nothing I could do about it. Their pleas only made things more difficult for me.

My mom held on to my hands and said when she saw the hesitation on my face, “Anna, try to talk to the Shaw family and get them to drop the charges, will you? After all, we’re related. Perhaps, they will consider letting the matter go because of you. Can you please talk to them?”

I already knew their intention for coming that day. When my mom said it out loud, I became more flustered. Back when Lincoln had thought I was the one who hurt Josephine, he had been so ruthless toward me. There was no way they would let it go now that they knew it was Steven who did it.

My parents were deluded. If someone has hurt the person they love the most, will they have forgiven the perpetrator so easily? The same logic applied in this case. I was upset to know that Steven would be going to prison, but I also understood how the Shaw family felt. Besides, I felt it was time for Steven to receive some punishment. Otherwise, he would never learn his lesson.

“Dad, Mom. Please stop. This matter has gone too far. But, don’t worry. Steven will only be in prison for a few years at the most. It won’t be too long.”

Although Steven would be persecuted by the law for injuring someone accidentally, I reckoned the imprisonment would not be more than three years.

My reason for not helping Steven was so that he could use the jail time to become more sensible and turn over a new leaf. Perhaps, this might be a blessing in disguise. In the future, he would think twice before doing anything.

“Looks like you’re very determined not to help your brother this time around, aren’t you? Anna, he’s your brother! He’s about to go to prison. How can you make it sound so trivial! Are you even his sister?”

My dad became angry when he heard what I said. He shuddered slightly, and his face looked pale. Perhaps, it was because he had been in the rain.

Faced with his rebuke, I was equally enraged. Then again, I understood that they must be worried, so I suppressed my anger and said to them, “Mom, Dad, it’s not that I don’t want to help. This matter is out of my hands. Stop forcing me, will you? A year ago, I took the fall for him. Do you know how I have been suffering for the past year?”

All they could think about right now was Steven. My feelings were not of their concern, and that made me feel terrible.

After being away for a year, they had yet to show any concern for me after seeing me. Other than Steven, I did not seem to exist in their hearts. Perhaps, they would not have come and looked for me if Steven had not been arrested.

For a brief moment, my mom seemed to have recalled something, and guilt flashed across her face. However, that look disappeared as soon as it appeared.

“Anna, I know you must have suffered a lot during the past year. We’re truly sorry about that.”

My eyes teared up upon hearing that. However, because of the rain, they could not see my tears flowing down.

“A year ago, we had no choice but to ask you to take the blame for Steven. We cannot watch Steven go to jail. After all, you’re part of the Shaw family. No matter how angry they are, they won’t let you go to prison, will they?”

When my mom expressed her guilt over what had happened a year ago, I was quite moved. However, when she made it clear that they had made the right decision back then, I could not help but smile wryly. At the end of the day, all they ever cared about was Steven.

“Let me get someone to send you home. Both of you have been in the rain for so long. Go back and take a hot shower. Don’t catch a cold.”

## **Love from My Dominant Boss Chapter 478**

### **Chapter 478 Hospitalized**

I tried my best to control my tears. After that, I got someone to arrange for a car to send my parents back.

My mom started to panic when she saw the security guards getting the car ready for them. “We are not leaving. Anna, we won’t leave until you agree to help Steven.”

“Mom, how many times do I have to tell you? There’s nothing I can do about this issue. Even if you continue to stay here, it won’t change a thing. Stop forcing me, will you?”

I was beginning to get annoyed. It was apparent that they were trying to force me to do what they wanted.

“Anna, if anything happens to Steven, your mom and I...”

Before my dad could finish what he was saying, he collapsed.

I was in shock and quickly supported my dad. His face was so pale that he looked frightening.

I was so freaked out that I quickly phoned Michael. Just then, the chauffeur drove to the gate.

Without any further delay, I told the chauffeur to send us to the hospital immediately.

When I was speaking to Michael, my voice was quavering. My dad had heart problems, and I did not think he was able to accept my rejection.

Michael had no wish to see me, but when he heard that my dad had collapsed, he was equally worried. He knew how important my family was to me.

Upon arriving at the hospital, my dad was taken to the emergency room. While waiting outside the door, I was really worried that the doctor would give me bad news.

Michael came up to me and pulled me into his arms. He consoled me in a soft voice, "Don't worry. Nothing untoward will happen. Believe me."

Michael's voice seemed to have a calming effect on me. My mom was badly affected by what had happened, and she was praying fervently for her husband.

The door of the operating theatre finally opened after a long time. Both my mom and I rushed up and inquired, "Doctor, how is he?"

The doctor removed his mask, sighed, and said, "The patient had a heart attack because he was getting too emotional. You know that he suffers from heart disease. How can you allow him to be upset?"

The doctor seemed to be blaming us for my dad's condition.

"Is my dad out of danger yet?"

The reprimand from the doctor did not bother me at all. Right now, my dad's health was of utmost concern.

The doctor advised, "At the moment, he's fine. But, he is still unconscious. Once he wakes up, please don't agitate him any further. Do you understand?"

The doctor cast an accusatory glance at me.

"I understand, Doctor. Thank you."

I knew the doctor meant well, so I did not take his accusation to heart. The most important thing right now was to make sure my dad got well.

Very soon, my dad was transferred to the regular ward. He was still unconscious. Looking at his haggard face, an inexplicable feeling came over me.

I was partly responsible for his current condition, and I felt guilty about it.

I came to the corridor and took a deep breath to suppress the urge to cry. I knew that it would be best not to get involved, but I was worried that his condition might worsen if I refused to help them out.

I did not know when Michael showed up behind me. He put his arms around me, and for some strange reason, I felt like crying.

“Don’t be upset. Didn’t the doctor say he will be fine?”

“Michael, do you think that I’m very selfish? My dad is in this condition because of me. If I didn’t turn him down, he wouldn’t have ended up in the hospital.”

I could no longer control my tears. I turned around and hugged Michael tightly.

“There’s no such thing. You didn’t do anything wrong. Stop blaming yourself. They forced you to do this.”

Michael tightened his hug around me. He sounded a little angry. I supposed it was because I was about to give in to my parents again.

I looked at him with brimming eyes and said, “But I really feel bad seeing that my family has turned out this way. Michael, is there no other way? Can you not forgive Steven this one time?”

I looked at Michael anxiously and hoped that there was something he could do to resolve the situation.

“Anna! It makes me really angry to see you being so soft-hearted!”

At that moment, Michael must be thoroughly disappointed and furious with me. I knew better than to give in. Yet, I could not help myself.

“I know. I won’t say anymore.”

I lowered my head. I already knew how Michael felt about the whole debacle. However, it still grieved me to hear him say it out loud.

Sigh...

Michael let out a helpless sigh and hugged me tightly again.

Michael had been very tolerant toward my family. If it was not because of his love for me, my family would not have been around Avenport given the things they had done.

Leaning on Michael’s chest, I said nothing more. Every single time I went against Michael’s advice, I ended up regretting it. This time around, I felt I really needed to stand firm and not give in.



I stayed in the ward for the entire night. Although the doctor had said he would be fine, I was still worried. I would not be at ease until I saw him regain consciousness with my own eyes.

My mom refused to talk to me during the entire night. I knew she blamed me for not helping them. If I had, my dad would not have collapsed.

I was well aware of their feelings, but I said nothing. Since I had already made a decision, I would keep to it.

It was a tormenting night for me. Thankfully, my dad woke up when morning came. I was so relieved. When he collapsed the day before, I was utterly terrified.

I placed a pillow behind his back and asked, "Dad, you're awake. How are you feeling? Are you hurting anywhere?"

Although the doctor had said that my dad was fine, he still looked frail, and his gaze was fixated on me.

## **Love from My Dominant Boss Chapter 479**

### **Chapter 479 Only When They Need Something**

"I'm fine. I just got a little too emotional, that's all. I'm feeling much better now," Dad said, sounding rather weak as he stared at me with his face all pale.

Seeing him in such a state only made me feel even worse. Tears rolled down my cheeks, and my eyes were filled with pain as I yelled at him, "You nearly scared me to death, Dad! What will Mom and I do if something were to happen to you?"

While he was inside the emergency room, I feared that the doctors would come out and tell me that they failed to save him.

Dad had always been a man of few words. but that wasn't the case this time. After hearing what I said, he forced a smile at me and said with a serious expression, "Anna, if you truly want me to be fine, then help your brother out. He really can't afford to go to prison. Your mom and I are very old now. What will we do if your brother gets locked up in prison?"

Just like that, Dad shifted the topic of the conversation back toward Steven. Honestly, it was quite difficult for me to refuse his request, especially when I saw the state he was in. I knew he wanted to get Steven out of prison, but there was nothing much I could do about that.

Unable to face that pleading look in his eyes, I averted my gaze as I replied, "Please stop forcing me, Dad! Steven is my brother! Do you think I'd let him go to prison if I had a choice?"

Do they think I'm not worried about Steven? He's my freaking brother! While our relationship may not have been the most pleasant, we are still family, and blood is thicker than water! As much as I dislike him, I wouldn't just sit by and watch as he gets locked up in prison!

"Look at the state I'm in, Anna! Are you still not going to help your brother out? Do you want to watch your parents die? How will your mom and I live on if your brother gets sent to prison?" Dad asked while staring at me in agony.

This was the first time I had ever seen Dad shed a tear. Being his daughter, it hurt me deeply to see him cry.

With my eyes all reddened, I quickly looked the other way. I had to avoid his gaze as I feared I would end up making promises I couldn't keep.

"I'm sorry, Dad. There really is nothing I can do about this..." I said while sobbing.

I have to stand firm on this no matter what Mom and Dad say. I'm not sure if the Shaw family will agree to stop pursuing this matter if I go beg them, but I have no right to do so. Josephine has been in a vegetative state for a year now, so there's no way they'd easily forgive Steven for this. He screwed up big time, so he has to take responsibility for his actions.

Dad's eyes were filled with anger as he shouted at me, "You seriously won't help your brother? Do you want to drive your mom and me to death?"

"You must be hungry after sleeping for so long, Dad. I'll go buy you some food."

Not wanting to continue the conversation any further, I stood up and ran out of the ward after saying that.

My tears started flowing uncontrollably the moment I closed the door behind me. I was running so fast that I ended up crashing into a guy as I made my way around a corner.

"I'm sorry! I'm sorry!"

Not wanting anyone to see me in such a terrible state, I quickly lowered my head and apologized without even getting a clear look at the man's face.

"What happened, Anna? Were you crying?" the man asked in a gentle voice.

I looked up and saw Ronan staring at me with a worried frown on his face.

“Oh, it’s you...”

I breathed a sigh of relief when I realized that I had bumped into Ronan.

“What happened to you? Why are you at a hospital? Are you feeling unwell?” Ronan asked anxiously while eyeing me from head to toe.

“No, it’s my dad. He had a heart attack and got admitted into the hospital last night.”

I knew Ronan was worried about me, so I decided to tell him the truth.

The frown on Ronan’s face loosened up a little as he asked, “Mr. Garcia is hospitalized? How is he now? Is his condition serious?”

“He’s fine now. He came to a while ago. I’m heading out to buy him some food right now.”

I kept my head low while talking to Ronan as I didn’t want him to see me in my current state.

“I’ll go with you and keep you company. You must be in a terrible mood right now,” Ronan said as he followed behind me.

“That won’t be necessary. I’ll go by myself.”

Unsure if there had been any changes in Ronan’s feelings toward me, I instinctively tried to keep my distance from him.

“Why are you still avoiding me like you did a year ago?” he asked with a lighthearted chuckle, but I could hear a hint of bitterness in his tone.

I looked up at him and saw that he still had that devilish smile on his face. However, he no longer looked like the carefree guy he was when we first met.

Ronan already knows it’s impossible for us to be together, so rejecting such offers from him is just plain cruel. Besides, he might’ve already moved on. Maybe I’m just overthinking things here.

With that in mind, I said, “Let’s go.”

Having gotten the green light, Ronan broke into a wide grin and walked side by side with me. Although Ronan didn’t change much in terms of his appearance, he was giving off a much more mature vibe than he did a year ago.

“I heard your brother got arrested.”

Ronan spoke up after a prolonged moment of silence, and Steven's case was the first thing he mentioned.

Everything I had been hearing since last night was about Steven. For some reason, I really didn't want to talk about it at the time.

"I know. That's what my parents came to me about," I replied with a sigh.

The stress from not knowing what to do was driving me insane.

"I figured as much. Your parents only come to you whenever they need something, don't they? I don't think they ever show up in front of you otherwise."

Ronan didn't sound surprised at all. It was as if he already anticipated my answer.

## **Love from My Dominant Boss Chapter 480**

### **Chapter 480 Take His Place In Prison**

Even an outsider knows that my parents would only think of me when they need my help. I'm the only one who's still lying to myself that they love me. I flashed him a wry smile in response.

"Well? What are you planning on doing about it?" Ronan pressed on when he heard no response from me, the look in his eyes still as calm as ever.

"I don't know. My mind is in a complete mess right now, and I have no idea what I should do."

I knew I should stand firm against their request, but I simply couldn't bring myself to do so. That weakness of mine was something that I hated very much about myself.

I felt like I was losing my mind from my parents forcing me to save Steven, and the fact that I didn't know what to do only made things worse.

Ronan had heartache written all over his face as he looked at me.

"I think you should listen to Michael's advice if you want to truly solve your family's problems. You might find it cruel, but this is the only solution. You have no other choice, Anna. Unless, of course, you want your parents to continue forcing you like this."

Ronan's suggestions in the past had always been on point. Although I was a little surprised that he took Michael's side in this, I knew full well that his reasoning made sense.

Everyone else could clearly see what was going on here. I hated the fact that I kept lying to myself about it.

“I know what needs to be done, but I just can’t bring myself to do it! What am I supposed to do about this?” I asked Ronan with a helpless look on my face.

It’s easy for outsiders like him to say such things, but these are my family members we’re talking about here! How am I supposed to be so cruel toward them?

Ronan frowned slightly as he said with a pained expression, “You don’t have a choice in this, Anna. You have to do it or you’ll end up suffering. Do you want to spend the rest of your life like this?”

Of course, I knew Ronan meant well. After taking a deep breath, I told myself I had to stop being so indecisive or I would just end up being hurt.

I thought Ronan would leave soon, but he kept on following me all the way to Dad’s ward.

Standing at the door, I turned to face him and said, “I’m here. You can carry on with whatever it is you have to do. Don’t worry about me.”

“Since I’m already here, I might as well go in with you. He is your father, so I should pay him a visit anyway.”

Instead of leaving, Ronan took the initiative and pushed the door open before I could even react. For some reason, I could sense that his feelings for me hadn’t changed even though he didn’t do anything to express them.

Because he had been behaving like a friend the whole time, I wasn’t really sure if I was just overthinking things. In fact, I didn’t even know what exactly gave me that idea, to begin with.

After following Ronan into the ward, I realized that my parents weren’t the only ones inside. Michael had dropped by while I was gone earlier, and a slight frown formed on his face when he saw me and Ronan come in together.

I know that Michael doesn’t like me being around Ronan. He has warned me about it many times a year ago, but a lot of things have changed by now. He wouldn’t still get jealous, would he?

Ronan paused slightly when he saw Michael, but was quick to regain his composure.

“Oh, you’re here too? Shouldn’t you be at work today?” Ronan asked in his usual carefree tone while wrapping his arm around Michael’s shoulder.

After shooting Ronan a glance, Michael ignored him and shifted his gaze toward me as he asked in a questioning tone, "Why are you two together?"

"I..."

"We ran into each other downstairs. I heard Anna's father had been hospitalized, so I decided to drop by for a visit."

Ronan spoke up while I was struggling to find the words to explain myself. I felt a little grateful as I knew he was trying to help me out and prevent Michael from suspecting me.

I then looked away to avoid Michael's hostile gaze as I walked up to my dad.

"I bought you some sandwiches, Dad. Here you go," I said while serving up the sandwiches.

Dad simply gave me a look and began eating the sandwiches.

The entire ward then fell into complete silence, and the atmosphere felt incredibly awkward despite there being so many people around.

After finishing the sandwiches, Dad handed me the empty plate and turned to look at Michael.

"You and Anna are married, so that makes Steven your brother-in-law. Are you guys seriously going to have him locked up in prison?" he asked in a weak voice.

I knew exactly what Dad was going to say next when I heard that. He knew I would never agree to his request, so he was trying his luck with Michael instead.

Unhappy with what he was doing, I protested, "We've talked about this, Dad! There is nothing we can do! Steven brought this upon himself! He has to pay the price for his actions!"

What Steven did was reprehensible, and he should be punished for his actions. If we forgive him so easily, he might end up doing far worse things in the future! Is the Shaw family supposed to just put up with his bullsh\*t every time?

Michael simply kept quiet and maintained a cold look on his face.

"Anna, have you forgotten your roots after marrying into the Shaw family? Your brother is the one going to prison right now! Shouldn't you be doing everything you can to save him? What are you trying to imply with that statement of yours, huh? Do you want your brother to remain locked up in prison?" Dad shouted while glaring at me angrily.

His eyes were filled with a burning rage that I had never seen before.

“I don’t mean it that way, Dad. I told you, Steven won’t remain in prison forever! He’ll be locked up for a few years at most. In fact, they’ll even release him early if he shows good behavior,” I replied with a frown.

Hearing what Dad said left a rather unpleasant feeling in my heart. Despite everything I have done for their sake, they saw me as nothing but an ungrateful person who had forgotten her roots.

“For a few years at most? That’s easy for you to say! Why don’t you take his place in prison, then? I bet you told the Shaw family the truth on purpose! You were worried that you’d get sent back to prison, weren’t you?”

Mom spoke up all of a sudden. Every sentence she said was filled with hatred toward me, and every word stabbed at my heart like a knife.