

Read Novel Love Change Of Heart Chapter 731-740

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 731-Out of Control

Charlotte bit her lip and tears fell from her eyes. She muttered, "But anyone would still feel sad. Didn't you cry when Old Mr. Woodley died?" "No." Charlotte stared at him in disbelief. She couldn't believe Lachlan could be this cold-blooded. Lachlan checked the time. "We have half an hour before we land. If you want to cry, now's the time. Tears are worthless, you know. Crying can't solve anything." Charlotte choked up, but she didn't cry out loud. Instead, she went into her bedroom and locked the door, and only then did she lie on her bed and cry her heart out. Half an hour later, the plane landed at a private airport. On the way to the hospital, Charlotte leaned on the car window, still sobbing. Her eyes were puffy. A lot of reporters were waiting outside the hospital. For some reason, they got news about Philip's condition, and they wanted exclusive news about it. There were a lot of Woodleys going around too, each scheming to get something. A black car stopped by the side door of the hospital. There were already a few cars here, all belonging to the people who didn't want to get disturbed by the media. Charlotte got out of the car and rushed into the hospital, but then Lachlan said, "Hold it right there." Charlotte turned around. Through sobs, she said, "You..." Lachlan got closer, and she tried to back off. Lachlan said, "Don't move." Charlotte did as she was told. Lachlan took off his coat and draped it over her shoulders, then he walked ahead. Charlotte paused for a moment and looked down, then she realized she was still in her pajamas. Quickly, she clutched on the coat and followed Lachlan inside. There was already a crowd outside the ward. The tension in the air turned even more rife when Lachlan appeared, and everyone had different looks on their faces when Charlotte showed up.

Charles came out of the ward, and Charlotte approached him. She was ready to receive any punishment. "Dad..." Unexpectedly, Charles didn't yell at her but said, "You should see him. It might be

your last time." The tears that Charlotte tried hard to hold back fell down her face again, then she went into the ward. Philip was lying on his bed, looking like he was asleep. Charlotte knelt beside him and sobbed. "Great-grandpa..." Philip opened his eyes and whispered, "Charlotte..." Charlotte was beside herself. "I'm sorry. I shouldn't have run away to Highside. I'll be good. Please don't go..." Philip had a look of relief on his face, and with difficulty, he patted her head. He whispered, "It's... good to see you." And then he flatlined. "Great-grandpa!" ... The afternoon sun shone brightly, its rays shining into the

house, and the temperature slowly rose. Leanna woke up, perhaps from the light and the heat. She sat up and tried her best to move her neck. Her whole body was sore, and her head was hurting from the hangover. Oh my God... She felt for her phone and checked the time. Five minutes to twelve. I wonder where Aidan is. Just as she lifted the blanket and was about to get out of bed, Aidan opened the door and came in. Leanna rubbed her eyes. "It's late. You should've woken—" Aidan said, "Get prepared. We're going to Jamesdon this afternoon."

Leanna froze for a moment and looked at him. "I thought that was on the weekend." Aidan walked toward her. "Not when Philip just died." "When did that happen?" "A few hours ago." "What about Charlotte?" "Lachlan took her home last night. She was with Philip when he died." Leanna heaved a sigh of relief. Good thing she made it back in time, or it would have haunted her for the rest of her life. She got out of bed. "We should..." The moment Leanna stood up, her legs trembled and she almost fell. Aidan held her, and she turned around, shooting him a glare. This is your fault. Aidan looked away and made up an excuse. "That was an emergency. I was not in control, so it wasn't my fault."

Leanna grumbled, "Just won't own up to it, huh?" Leanna went into the bathroom and washed herself up. After she took a hot shower, her soreness was greatly relieved. Since she had no idea how long

this trip would last, Leanna packed some clothes when she came back to the condo. After she was done, she thought it was still early, so she went to the studio.

Aidan had something to do at Crossley Group, and he would pick her up when he was done. When Zoe saw Leanna, she stopped working and went into the office with her. "Just in time. Can you call Charlotte for me? I tried calling her, but she didn't pick up. What happened?" Leanna nodded. "Her great-grandfather died. She went back to Jamesdon overnight." The answer took Zoe by surprise, and she sighed. Leanna said, "Zoe, Aidan and I are going to Jamesdon this afternoon, and I have no idea when we're coming back." Zoe said, "Go. I can handle things on this end." Leanna tucked her draft book in her bag. A moment of silence later, she said, "I have something to tell you." "What is it?" Leanna looked at her. "It's about Daniel. Aidan started an investigation, and things aren't what you think they are. We have no idea what his relationship with that woman is, but we know she's kept him captive." Zoe waved her hand, smiling. "I know you just want to cheer me up. That woman is about our size, so there's no way she could..." "We found a syringe with

remnants of sedatives inside, and..." Leanna paused for a moment. "Daniel never did heal up, so it's possible that the woman managed to take him captive. Easily too." Zoe didn't believe it. "But he was fine when I saw him last time." Leanna took out her phone and showed Zoe the photo of the threat message. "It hasn't been two weeks since Daniel escaped Leroy. There's no way he could have recovered that fast."

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 732-We Still Have Time

Zoe took the phone, and the moment she saw the photo, her smile disappeared from her face. Daniel was blindfolded and gagged in that photo, and his whole body—his shoulder, his chest, his waist—was riddled with wounds. No wonder he was wearing a long-sleeved shirt that night even though the weather's been like an oven lately. He was hiding these wounds. A moment later, Zoe handed the phone back to Leanna. "Fine. At least I can feel better now." "Zoe..." Zoe smiled again. "I know what you want to say, but I know our relationship. We weren't even a couple. That didn't use to matter, but now I see we're from different worlds. We should really go our own ways, but still, I hope he can escape with his life. He was my friend after all." Leanna said nothing more. As Aidan said, this was Zoe's choice. Zoe said, "Just go to Jamesdon and leave everything here to me." Leanna nodded. "Keep an eye on Louis. I don't want him finding trouble with Theodore again." "Sure. He's coming back because school is starting soon. I'll keep an eye on him. If anything happens, I'll call." As she sent Leanna off, she asked, "Will Charlotte come back?" Leanna stared ahead. "I don't know about that." ... On the way to Jamesdon, Leanna stared out the window and spaced out. Aidan pinched her nose. "What's wrong?" Leanna snapped out of it. "The elders are dead, and now Philip's gone too. Now that Lachlan's the family head, Naomi might be able to..." Aidan said, "Philip's death is going to plunge that family further into chaos."

Leanna stopped for a moment. "Why is that?" "Most of the dissenters have died, but their families are still alive. And there are also Joseph's spies. These people didn't dare to make a move when Philip was alive, but now that he's gone, they're going

to launch a coup." "But I thought Lachlan had dealt with them." "On the surface, yeah. The most impatient of the lot." I see. With people like Joseph messing the family up, Jamesdon is going to be in a chaotic state for a while. She raised her head. "Wait, so Naomi and the child..." "Don't worry. They're focused on the funeral for now, so we still have time." Leanna heaved a sigh of relief. If that is so, then that means Aidan already has a game plan. The

plane landed two hours later, and the couple got into a car. Leanna felt that even breathing was a bit hard. "Waylen forbade us from seeing the child because the child might feel worse after we were separated again. Now that Jamesdon isn't safe anymore, can I see him and take him back to Highside?" Aidan patted her head and said, "Yes." A smile curled Leanna's lips and her eyes twinkled with delight. After being separated for so long, she could finally see the child again. Aidan pursed his lips and said nothing. I don't want to ruin her mood. Best keep future affairs for the future. More than an hour later, they finally arrived at the mountainside. It was a quiet place and the air was fresh. Leanna got out of the car and rushed into the villa. Waylen walked out of the villa at the same time. Waylen waved at her. "It's been a while." Leanna nodded and quickly asked, "Where's the child?" "In a treatment session. Do you want to see him?" "Yeah." The third floor was converted into a lab. Even though it wasn't as big as the one in Jamesdon, they had all the equipment they needed. The doctors were working away. Waylen led the couple to the treatment room. "You don't have to go inside. Just watch him from beyond the window."

The boy was a lot taller compared to when Waylen took those photos of him. He was sitting on a bed, working with the doctor who was administering his treatment. It looked like he was used to this. Leanna teared up, and with a trembling voice, she asked, "How long will this treatment take?" "At least two to three years. Maybe one to two decades."

Leanna closed her eyes and held Aidan's arm tightly, and Aidan pulled her into his embrace, comforting her in silence.

Noticing his visitors, the boys turned around and grinned at them toothily. Waylen smiled and waved at the boy. After the doctor took the boy away for another treatment, Waylen said, "Let's go. It's going to take another hour." Leanna teared up and shook her head. "I'll stay." Aidan pulled her away and took her with him. "You wouldn't be of much help. You'd hinder the doctor too." Just like that, Leanna was taken away. Waylen clicked his tongue and followed them. Once downstairs, Aidan's phone rang, so he left to take the call. Waylen plopped down on the couch. "Told you you shouldn't come. I knew this would happen. You're making my work harder than necessary." Leanna took a deep breath and calmed herself down. "Aren't you going back to the Woodleys?" "Are you talking about the funeral?" Leanna nodded. Waylen said, "Hey, the guy's nearly a hundred years old. The funeral's not meant to be sad at this point. He died a natural death anyway. Not like my attendance matters, not when he has a ton of descendants to send him off. Charlotte's there, right? Then that's all that matters." He continued, "Besides,

I'm the attending physician here. I can't leave my post." "You can still delegate your work to the other doctors." "Oh, I was kidding. The fact that I'm an attending physician doesn't change the fact that I can leave

whenever I want. However, the Woodleys are keeping a close eye on me. If I leave, then everyone in this villa gets it." Leanna frowned. Jamesdon is a terrifying place now. Waylen said, "But don't worry. We're still safe. At least so far."

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 733-Behind Your Back

After a short while, a doctor asked Waylen to look at some statistics, so Waylen stood up. "Just look around if you want. I'll tell them to bring the boy to you once the treatment's over." Leanna nodded. "Thank you." Once Waylen was gone, she sat around for a while, but Aidan still wasn't back yet after some time, so she explored the house. There was a big garden in the backyard, and Leanna stepped into it. She was greeted by a gust of breeze, and the air was filled with the scent of flowers. It's a better living space compared to anything the city has to offer. Leanna sat down on a bench and stared into the distance. Not too long later, someone sat beside her. Thinking it was Aidan, Leanna turned around. "Hey..." She froze for a moment when she saw who it was. Delighted, she said, "Naomi?" Naomi asked, "You've been staring into space for a while now. What's on your mind?" Leanna stared ahead and looked at the ground. "Nothing. Just random thoughts." "Still worried about the child?" "I know he's living well here. With you and Waylen taking care of him, he's slowly healing, but I just feel like I've not been a good mother to him. I barely have time for the boy, and even when he's sick, all I can do is watch." Naomi said, "He was born prematurely, and his constitution was and still is weak. He worked hard to get better, and then this happened. I know you're upset, but this is not your fault. I've always wanted to tell you that." Naomi continued, "I know you went through a lot to give birth to him. You might not be there for him often, but the fact you gave birth to him under those circumstances is proof that you did your best. We all want our children to grow up healthy, but some people will not stop until the boy is ruined. If you want to blame someone, blame me and Aidan. We shouldn't have hidden the child from you. You had the right to know." Leanna looked at her toes as she whispered, "That's what I used to think, but I understand why you did that. If I had known about the boy, it wouldn't have been good for him. I couldn't have taken care of him well. Aidan made the right call."

Naomi sighed silently and patted her shoulder. "Just leave the past in the past. The future's always shining." Leanna heaved a sigh as well. Yeah, the

worst has passed. Everything's getting better. The boy's getting better with every treatment too. Leanna smiled at Naomi. "Thank you, Naomi."

"It's nothing. I just hope you won't hold anything against me." Leanna held her arm and purred, "You raised the boy so well. I only have gratitude for you." Naomi smiled and held her hand, then she stared into the distance. Aidan came to the garden just in time to see this, and he stopped at the doorway. A smile curled his lips, and he cocked his eyebrow. A while later, he felt something bumping against his leg, and he stared down at the wobbling child. Aidan crouched down and held his chin with a finger. "You shouldn't approach strangers that easily, you know." The boy was scared. Staring at Aidan, he wobbled backward and puckered his lips. He looked like he was about to cry. Aidan said, "No crying." The boy understood that and sniffled instead, but he was still staring at Aidan like a hurt puppy. Aidan glanced at Leanna and Naomi before muttering, "I'm done for if you cry." The boy lost interest in him and waddled to the garden, but then he fell down. He didn't cry and turned to look at Aidan. The doctor who took the boy here wanted to pick him up, but Waylen stopped her. "Our business here is done. Go do something else." Aidan crouched in front of the boy. "Stand up."

The boy got up and wobbled for a bit, then he stared at Aidan again. Aidan got what he meant. "Do you want me to take you there?" The boy swung his arms around and babbled, perhaps agreeing with what Aidan said. Aidan smiled. "You know what you should say." The boy tilted his head to the side, wondering what Aidan was talking about. Aidan said slowly, "Call me Daddy." The boy narrowed his eyes and clapped his hands, then he grinned. "Da... da..." Aidan nodded. "Good. You're more obedient than your mother, that's for sure." Aidan carried the boy in one arm and walked to the garden. Leanna was still chatting with Naomi when she felt something looming over her. She looked up and was

met with a cute little face. Her eyes lit up and she extended her hand. The boy extended his arms as well and leaned forward, then he fell into her embrace. The moment she held the boy, everything felt right. The void in her heart was filled. The boy had grown a lot, both in height and weight. Naomi got up. "It's late. You guys have fun. What do you want for dinner?"

Holding the boy, Leanna said, "I'm fine with anything." Naomi looked at Aidan. "Same here." "I'll whip something up then." "Sure," said Leanna. After Naomi was gone, Aidan sat beside Leanna. "So what were you two talking about?" "You, and not the good stuff," answered Leanna. Aidan said slowly, "No wonder you were smiling all the time." Leanna smiled and looked at her boy.

“Still remember me, sweetie?” The boy held a lock of his mother’s hair and smiled. “Mama...” Aidan asked, “What about me?” The boy looked at him, puckered his lips, and looked away. Yeah, he got that from his mother.

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 734-The boy was tired from the treatment, so he fell asleep not long after he lay in Leanna’s arms.

Leanna held him gently, and she asked, “That was a long phone call. Did something happen?”

Aidan put his arm behind Leanna on the bench.

“It was from Jonathan. He has news about Daniel.”

“What is it?”

“It’s complicated. He can tell you all about it if you want to, but not now.”

Leanna pouted, and then she said, “So is he in Highside, or is he somewhere else?”

“The former, but Jonathan needs some time to find out exactly where he is.”

Leanna said, “I see.”

The boy was leaning on her right shoulder and her arm was getting numb, so she tried to change positions.

Noticing that, Aidan took the child from her.

“I’ll hold him.”

Leanna looked at the boy.

He looked so cute in her arms and his face was so chubby.

A smile curled her lips, and she didn’t move her eyes away.

“He’s grown a lot.”

Aidan said, “Really? I think it’s par for the course.”

Leanna ignored him and took the boy back, then she went back into the villa.

“I’ll put him on a bed so he can sleep better.”

Aidan straightened his clothes and followed her, then the servant led them to a room on the second floor. It was Naomi’s abode, and there was a cot beside the bed.

There was also a mat on the ground for a baby to crawl as well as a baby walker.

Leanna placed the baby in the cot and tucked him in, then she sat beside him, refusing to look away.

Aidan watched her for a while from the doorway, then he went to the kitchen downstairs.

Naomi was preparing the vegetables.

When she saw him, she asked, “Is the boy asleep?”

Aidan sat across from her and nodded.

“Leanna’s with him.”

Naomi said, “It’s been a long time since she got separated from him. No mother could take that. She has never brought it up, but I know she’s sad.”

“I know.”

“So what next?”

A moment of silence later, Aidan said, “Jamesdon isn’t safe anymore.”

I see.

Naomi said, “Highside isn’t much better either.”

Aidan said nothing, but he pursed his lips.

“I thought things would come to an end with Sienna’s death, but it has only just begun, huh?”

After a short pause, Aidan said, “It’ll come to an end soon.”

Naomi sighed.

“Poor boy.”

She then asked, “Have they settled on the funeral date?”

“Yeah, it’ll happen in two days.”

Naomi said, “I’m no longer a part of the Woodleys, so I won’t be attending just in case everyone gets up in arms.”

Aidan answered, “Lachlan said you’re always welcome if you want to return to the family.”

Naomi smiled.

“No. I made my choice, and it’s been so many years. My father’s gone, so it doesn’t matter if I go back home or not.”

“Do you regret it?”

“No. Even if there is one, it’s...”

Aidan said, “It’s in the past now.”

Naomi looked at him.

“It’s good to see you letting go. What happened was not your grandfather’s fault. Don’t blame him.”

The boy was at the age where he loved to move around.

After dinner, he took Leanna around the garden.

Even though he kept wobbling and falling, the boy still loved walking around anyway.

It was already nine-thirty when he was done, and Leanna took him to the bathroom for a shower.

The boy sat in the bathtub wearing nothing.

He then picked up the rubber duck and said, "Ducky...Leanna poked his nose and picked up another toy from the bathtub.

"What about this?"

"Piggy..."

"Which one do you like? The ducky or the piggy?"

The boy took both toys and then raised his right hand with a smile.

"Ducky!"

Leanna finished bathing him and realized she had left the towel outside, so she turned around and yelled, "Aidan, get me the towel!"

Aidan came in with the towel and draped it over the boy, but Leanna frowned.

"Gentler."

She took the towel off the boy's head, and the boy giggled like he just found something fun.

Leanna draped the towel over his head and pulled it down again.

The boy kept giggling. It seemed like he liked this.

Still, he was naked, and Leanna was worried he might get a cold, so she wiped him dry, changed him into his pajamas, and took him into the bedroom.

The boy found his energy again when he got to his bed. He crawled around and then pulled his shirt up to cover his face.

The next second, he pulled it down and smiled at Leanna.

Leanna knew he wanted to play, but she was sweating after bathing the boy, so she turned to Aidan, who introduced this game to the child.

"You're playing with him. I'm taking a shower."

Aidan said, "He's going to sleep soon. There's no need for that."

Still, he walked toward the boy.

Leanna said, "Don't make him cry."

Aidan cocked his eyebrow and muttered, "I will only make you cry."

What is he talking about? Aidan smiled and sat beside the boy. The boy quickly turned around and crawled away.

Leanna took out her pajamas and went into the bathroom, intending to take a short shower.

While she was showering, she couldn't stop worrying that Aidan might bully the boy, so she came back out after only a few moments.

Fortunately, the scene she was worried about did not happen.

Aidan was on the ground, playing that little game he showed the boy with a blanket. He was just going through the motions from the looks of it.

It felt a little awkward to look at, but she thought it was amusing.

Leanna went and picked the boy up, holding her laughter in.

"Alright, you get showered. I'll put him to sleep."

Aidan got up.

"He's sleeping here?"

Leanna said, "He might wake up at night, but I'll see if I can handle it. Naomi said she can take care of him if he cries at night."

Aidan paused for a moment, then he huddled closer.

"If he does cry at night, it's not my fault."

Is he...

Read Novel Love Change Of Heart Chapter 735

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 735-After some time, the boy got tired and fell asleep.

Leanna put him on the bed and turned around to look at Aidan.

Aidan met her eyes.

“What’s wrong?”

“I think you had a point.” Aidan smiled.

Just when he was about to take the boy to Naomi, Leanna said, “So you’re sleeping on the couch tonight.”

Damn it.

Leanna didn’t even give him time to respond. She sat on the bed and turned the lights off.

Darkness swooped down on the room, and silvery moonlight shone through the window.

The boy was sleeping soundly, but then he felt hot, so he kicked his blanket away.

Leanna pulled the boy’s blanket up and covered his belly.

She lay on the bed, staring at him silently, as if that was enough to make her content.

Eventually, Leanna fell asleep, and when she woke up again, the boy was already hemming and hawing at her. She tried to sit up, but before she could do anything, she felt an arm passing over her and patted the boy’s shoulder.

“No crying,” the man whispered.

Huh.

The boy was perhaps intimidated by his father, and he babbled for a bit before he turned to face his mother and fell asleep again.

Leanna was silent for a while.

Blood is powerful.

That was just a simple gesture, but it made the boy sleep immediately.

The man behind her lay down and wrapped his arm around her.

A smile curled Leanna's lips, and she closed her eyes, going back to sleep.

Morning came.

Leanna was still sleeping, but she felt something moving beside her.

Slowly, she opened her eyes, and she saw the boy sitting in front of her playing with his toy happily.

When he saw her waking up, the boy put his toy down, crawled over, and held her face.

"Mama..."

Leanna held the boy and kissed his cheek.

"Morning, sweetie."

The boy giggled.

Leanna knew he must be hungry, and she was going to get him his food, but someone pushed her down.

Leanna turned around and whispered, "Go back to sleep. The boy needs his breakfast."

With exhaustion in his voice, Aidan asked, "What time is it?"

Leanna was in the middle of the bed.

The boy was on her right while Aidan was on her left.

The phone was nowhere to be found, so she looked outside the window.

The sun was rising, so she said, "Seven or eight, I guess."

The boy crawled over to Aidan and swung his hand, then he patted Aidan's cheek.

"Piggy!"

Aidan and Leanna were silent for a while.

Aidan opened his eyes and shot the little tyke an angry look.

Noticing the impending doom, the boy went back to his mother and buried his head in her embrace.

Leanna bit her lip and held her laughter back, then she got out of bed and left the room.

Once the door was closed, Aidan sat up and licked his lip.

He hit me hard.

Naomi was already making breakfast when Leanna came down with the boy.

“Here, give me the boy. You sleep in.”

Leanna shook her head.

“I slept early last night.”

She said, “You catch a break, Naomi. I’ll make breakfast.”

“No. Just put him in the highchair and play with him. The egg’s going to be ready in a moment.”

“Sure.”

Leanna left the kitchen, and she had just put the boy down when Waylen came from behind.

“Morning.”

Leanna turned around and saw him sitting down while yawning. He obviously wanted to sleep more.

She handed a toy to the boy and asked Waylen, “Why didn’t you sleep in?”

“And miss breakfast? Nah.”

There was a kitchen on the third floor to make sure someone would cook for the doctors, but Waylen insisted on having Naomi’s breakfast.

Naomi didn’t say anything to that.

As long as he came during meal times, he would have something to eat.

If he was late, he'd have to get his own food.

Leanna was not surprised by Naomi's behavior as she was also like that when they were in Underwood Lane.

Leanna said, "Can't believe you'd wake up early just for a meal."

"Not just a meal. It's Naomi's cooking. She's a great cook. I wouldn't miss it for the world."

Didn't take you for a brown-noser.

Naomi came out of the kitchen and placed the boy's eggs in front of Leanna. She was already used to Waylen's praise, and she said, "Stop buttering me up and get your plate."

Waylen chuckled and got up.

"Right away." Leanna picked up the eggs.

The boy was waiting patiently. He knew it was time to eat and had put his toy down.

Since the eggs were still hot, she blew on them and put them aside, then she wrapped a napkin around the boy's neck.

After she started feeding the boy, Aidan came down and sat beside her.

"Oh, you're awake." Aidan looked at the boy.

"Do you think I can still sleep after what happened?"

Leanna coughed and blocked his sight.

"It's good waking up early. Fresh air is good for the body."

Naomi and Waylen came out of the kitchen and placed the food and cutlery on the table.

Naomi said, "Leanna, you should eat. I'll feed the boy."

“It’s alright.He’s cooperating with me so it should be done in a bit.I’m not hungry just yet.”

Naomi went to her seat in silence, then she told Aidan, “Finish your food and play with the boy so Naomi can eat.”

Aidan cocked his eyebrow.

“I know.”

Waylen looked at Leanna, then at Aidan.He blurted, “Hey, have you guys ever thought of having another child?”

Leanna stopped feeding the boy for a moment, and Aidan met Waylen’s gaze.

“Shut up and eat.”

Oh, that’s not something I should say, huh? Waylen shut up.

Read Novel Love Change Of Heart Chapter 736

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 736-After Leanna was done feeding the boy, Aidan took him away.

Reminded of what happened earlier, she said, “Don’t bully him.”

Aidan said, “That should be the other way around.”

He then took the boy to the garden.

The boy lay on Aidan’s back, staring at his mother melancholically.

Naomi said, “Don’t worry.He knows what he’s doing.”

Leanna looked away and smiled.

“I know.”

Aidan was a softie, and he wouldn’t say what he was really feeling out loud.

After breakfast, Leanna was about to do the dishes, but Waylen coughed.

“Umm, come with me.We need to talk.”

“We’ll talk after...”

Naomi took the dishes from Leanna.

“Go.I’ll handle this.”

She went into the kitchen.

Leanna looked away and wiped her hand, then she followed Waylen out.

She muttered, “What’s wrong?”

Waylen rubbed his neck.

“Sorry if I said the wrong thing.”

Leanna smiled.

“It’s alright.”

Waylen said, “But I was serious about you guys getting another kid.An infant’s cord blood is filled with stem cells, and those are the seeds of life.They can turn into all kinds of cells the human body needs— blood cells, nerve cells, bone cells, you name it.”

He continued, “And there are hematopoietic stem cells in cord blood too.It can build the immune system, and it’ll be great for the boy’s treatment.Maybe you’ll get something more out of it too.”

Leanna paused for a moment.

“Is that true?”

Waylen nodded.

“Yes.We’ve tried everything else but this.”

Leanna’s eyes shone with hope, but the next second, they dimmed.

“Can we find that in the cord blood bank?”

“We’re trying, but the boy’s body might reject it.Even if we can find a matching one, it won’t do much good for his treatment, so...”

Leanna hung her head low and whispered, "You need the cord blood of someone related to him for maximum efficacy."

Waylen nodded.

"That's the idea."

He huddled closer and mysteriously asked, "Is this because of Aidan? Tell me. I'm a doctor. I can give him some drugs that can help him stand up."

Sounds like a scam to me. She forced a smile.

"I had a miscarriage, and I didn't heal up well from that. When I was pregnant with the boy, the doctor told me I might find it hard to get pregnant with my constitution."

Waylen frowned.

"Is that so? Give me your hand. I want to check your pulse."

Leanna raised her hand and Waylen checked her pulse, then a frown furrowed his forehead.

Noticing that frown, Leanna knew what he was going to say.

A moment later, Waylen pulled his hand back.

"The doctor was right, but we're playing a game of chance here. If you nurse your health more, it's possible for you to get pregnant again."

"How?"

"Drugs, injections, workouts, early sleep schedule, work less, don't stress yourself out, and rest more."

"How long is that going to take?"

"Not a single day, that's for sure. Can't tell you the exact time frame either. And the meds and injections are torture. You should talk it through with Aidan."

"No. I can do this."

Leanna looked at her family in the garden.

“This is the only thing I can do for him.”

“Very well.I’ll come up with a prescription, then.”

Leanna looked away.

“Don’t tell Aidan just yet.I’ll look for a chance to bring this up to him.”

“Sure.The prescription is going to take a few days anyway.”

He looked at the time.

“I’m going to the lab now.Take the boy to me at nine- thirty.”

Leanna nodded.

“Okay.”

After Waylen went upstairs, Leanna stood around for a while before going back to her room.She took out her draft book and flipped through the pages.

A long while later, she closed up the book and stood beside the window.

The boy was wobbling in the garden while Aidan was crouched down beside him, the look on his face cool.

He didn’t seem to be paying attention to the boy, but every time the boy was about to fall, he would hold the boy up.

The boy was running happily.

Whenever he felt that he was falling, he would lean on Aidan’s legs and adjust his position before he ran ahead again.

It wasn’t exactly a heartwarming scene, but it looked fine nonetheless.It was the kind of bond only Aidan and the boy would have.She smiled and took her phone out to make a call.

“Hi, Lewis, it’s me, McK.Sorry for calling you out of the blue, but I need to talk to you about the fashion show.”

The sun was slowly rising higher into the sky, and its light was blinding.

The boy wanted to go back, perhaps because he was feeling hot. He then hugged Aidan's leg and stared up at him, refusing to move.

Aidan crouched down and scratched his chin.

"Do you want me to hold you?"

The boy narrowed his eyes and grinned toothily, then he blabbered, "Huggie."

"Ah, now you're brown-nosing me."

The boy had no idea what he was talking about, but he wouldn't let Aidan's leg go.

Obviously, he wanted his father to pick him up.

Aidan picked him up in one arm and walked around, but then his phone rang. He took the call.

"Speak."

Keaton said, "Sir, we received news of Joseph's departure. He's going to Jamesdon."

Aidan grunted.

"Anything new in Highside?"

"No. Things are normal."

"And Theodore?"

"He's in a dead end. No one can help him, and things are going to get much worse."

"Keep an eye on him and make sure nothing unexpected happens."

"Yes, sir, and there's something I think I should tell you..."

He's hesitating.

Aidan said, "If you're not sure about whether I should know about that, then don't say a word."

Keaton quickly said, "Someone from the Pearsons came this morning, and they wanted to see you."

"Reason?"

"I was not told. He wanted to see you, and I told him you went to Jamesdon. He wants you to call him the moment you return to Highside. It's important, according to him. Seems urgent."

Keaton continued, "I looked into him after he left. He's not working for Young Master Justin."

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 737-The moment Zoe came to the workshop, she got a call from Leanna. "So what's up, Nana? Did you see the boy?"

"Yep. I'll send you a video. He's starting to walk."

Zoe said, "Ooh, so he's going to call me godmother soon. You gotta teach him that."

Leanna smiled. "Of course." A moment of silence later, she said, "What about you and Brandon?"

Zoe went into Leanna's office and plopped down on the couch, then she sighed. "I'll give it a try. Everything aside, he'd make a good husband. He's mature, calm, collected, loves his family, has a stable job, opinionated, and independent. We can talk things out, and he would never cross any lines. I can see why my mom likes him." She continued, "If I try to get along with him, I might fall for him. Love is supposed to be nurtured after all."

Leanna pursed her lips. Well, she can't see the relationship through with Daniel, so might as well cut her losses and start anew. A moment later, Leanna said, "There's something I want to tell you."

"What is it?"

Leanna held her phone tightly. "I want to back out of the fashion show."

Zoe froze. "Why? This might be your big break."

Leanna told Zoe what Waylen suggested, and she softly said, "Sorry, but I have no choice. The show is in two to three months, and that means I'll have to delay my healing until then, but I can't. The sooner I settle this, the sooner

the boy can be released from his pain.” Zoe said, “Don’t apologize to me. I can

understand why you’re doing this. This is fine, but I just think it’s a shame that you’re backing out after all the effort you made. Still, there will be opportunities in the future. Once you and the boy are fine, we can find more big breaks.” Leanna whispered, “Thank you.” The workshop was something she and Zoe built together. She might be the designer, but without Zoe handling everything else, she could never have enough quiet moments to come up with any designs. The fashion show wasn’t just her big break; it was also a chance to expand their brand and fame. A lot of people put in a lot of work for this, but now they had to give up because of her. Zoe said, “Oh, don’t be a stranger. If it weren’t for you, I’d still be an office worker instead of a business owner. I’d probably be bald from all the stress. It’s a busy period for us, so backing out is a good idea too. We can have more time for ourselves. Did you tell them about it, though?” Leanna nodded. “I told Lewis. He wanted me to think it through, but I had already come to my decision.” “I see. We’ll make the arrangements post-cancellation, then we’ll talk when you come back.” “Alright. And Zoe…”

Zoe interrupted, “Don’t say thank you, and don’t apologize.”

Leanna smiled. “Okay.”

Zoe hung up and was about to go back to work, but her phone rang again. When she saw who the caller was, she hesitated for a while before picking it up. “What is it, Elijah?”

“Do you have some time, Zoe? I need to talk to you.”

Zoe went to the restaurant across from the workshop in the afternoon. She took a menu from the waiter and handed it to Elijah, then she smiled. “You treated me to a lot of good stuff before. Time for me to repay the favor. Sorry, the place isn’t as expensive as you might think, though.”

“It’s okay,” said Elijah. He looked through the menu and made his orders, then he handed it back to the

waiter. “That’s all.” Once the waiter was gone, he looked at Zoe. “I want to talk about Dan—”

Zoe interrupted, "I don't mind you catching up with me, but some people should never be brought up."

Elijah was silent for a while. "I just don't want you to misunderstand him."

"I know what you're going to say. Nana told me everything." Zoe took a sip of her water. "I was upset when I saw him together with that woman, and I cursed him for a long time, but then I got over it. You know we haven't been a couple. It was just me crushing on him, and he had a smidgen of feelings for me."

"That's not what it is..."

"We're all adults, and I never wanted him to take responsibility." She shrugged. "That's how fate works. It's just one of his many relationships. I'm probably one of his many girlfriends, or I wasn't even his girlfriend, I don't care. I used to date Anthony, and we broke up, and life still went on."

Elijah held his glass, saying nothing. A while later, he said, "I just think you guys should not let this relationship go. Not so easily. Not when you two like each other."

Zoe said, "That's what I used to think, but put yourself in my shoes, Elijah. Can you accept your girlfriend never marrying you? Even if you can, I don't think your parents will allow it. I used to drown in love, but now my mind's been put right. I can't live in love forever. Someday I have to return to reality. I don't come from a rich family, and my parents are traditional. I won't comment on Daniel's choices in life, but I can't keep going on like this."

Elijah was silent for a long while, then he smiled. "I see. Sorry for asking you out all of a sudden."

Zoe said, "I know you're just worried about me as a friend. Don't beat yourself up. I'll still treat you to lunch, and you're invited to my wedding. Ready the present, alright?"

Elijah smiled. "I'll be there."

Food was served, and Zoe said, "I need to use the restroom." She left the table, and then she closed her eyes, then her smile faded. She could lie to everyone, including Elijah, but she couldn't lie to herself.

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 738-After lunch, Zoe parted ways with Elijah and went back to the studio.

As soon as she entered, a young woman came over with a bouquet of roses. "These flowers came for you, Zoe."

Zoe took the bouquet and checked the card.

"Is Daniel back?" the young woman pressed eagerly. "He's been gone for quite some time now."

Zoe saw the name and chuckled. "It's not from him."

"Oh? Then..."

Zoe held the flowers with one hand as she flicked her hair with the other. "I have several suitors, you know."

Then, she added, "Anyway, that's enough. Get back to work."

The young woman sensed the change in the atmosphere and scampered off.

Zoe went back to her office and set the flowers down before looking out the window with a sigh. She got what she wanted. There were new sparks in her love life, but she didn't feel as enthusiastic about it as she thought she would be.

Oh well. I'll just take things one step at a time and see how it goes.

She checked her phone and saw the news that had been reported half an hour ago. Daphne had officially ended her contract with Pearson Group. All of her current work commitments and deals were also ending.

The internet was abuzz with commentary. Some said that Daphne would most likely be signing with a new company that would offer her even better terms than Pearson Group did while others said she planned on starting her own company and retiring from the limelight to focus on nurturing new talents.

All kinds of scenarios abound.

Meanwhile, the news also reported that Pearson Group had signed on this year's hottest up-and-coming female celebrity.

Many industry insiders were predicting that she would soon take Daphne's place.

Zoe was exasperated by the gossip. She was just about to get off her phone when she spotted a new entry on the list of trending topics. The teasers for Daphne's latest variety show had been released and public interest was at an all-time high.

Ordinarily, Daphne's fame was enough to guarantee that her upcoming show rank among the top trending topics. However, for reasons beyond Daphne's control, the show only just barely made the trending list.

Zoe clicked on the entry to check the related commentary on social media. Apart from fans of the celebrities partaking in the show who were busy promoting the show, there were also a lot of people who were claiming that due to the disagreements between Zoe and Pearson Group, the show would most likely be taken off the broadcast schedule and buried instead. So, Zoe called Daphne. Daphne

was still getting her management team together, but for the time being, all of her work was proceeding as normal. It wasn't at all like what the netizens were claiming online. After chatting for a bit, Zoe asked, "Has that b*stard been pestering you lately?" "No. Jonathan told me that Theodore's overwhelmed with other matters right now, so I don't have to worry." "That's good." Leanna had asked Zoe to help keep an eye on Louis. Nothing would happen as long as Theodore didn't attempt any more funny business. "Let's all have a meal together once I'm free," Daphne suggested. "Invite Leanna for me." "Nana and President Pearson have gone off to Jamesdon," Zoe informed. "I don't know when they're coming back. Let's talk about it when she gets back." "Did something happen at Jamesdon?" "Charlotte's great-grandfather passed away, and Nana's kid is over there too, so they all went back together." "I see. We'll wait until she gets back then," Daphne said. Freddie helped out a great deal with Daphne's contract termination, but she thought it would be awkward if she invited him out for a meal alone, so she wanted to invite Leanna and Zoe along. Since the time wasn't right, the meal would have to wait. Zoe cleared her throat. "Anyway... Can I ask you something?" "Go on." "Have you and Louis been in touch lately?" Afraid that Daphne might get the wrong idea, Zoe quickly added, "I don't mean anything by it. It's just that your show is about to start airing, so I'm wondering if there are any upcoming work arrangements." Daphne remained silent for a spell before saying, "We're done with all the promotional material, so I don't think

so.” “I see. I was just asking. He’s about to start school and I wasn’t sure if work would get in the way of that,” Zoe said.

“It won’t.”

“That’s good. Anyway, you can get back to work now. I won’t keep you any longer.”

“Alright. See you,” Daphne said.

After ending the call, Zoe continued staring out the window with a look of preoccupation.

Just then, her assistant waved at her. “Zoe?”

Zoe snapped back to reality. “Ready?”

“Yeah,” her assistant answered. “Let’s go.”

Zoe turned around. “Let’s go.”

Of the entire team, only this assistant who had only been working here for less than six months followed after her.

Zoe left the office without looking back.

...

It was sometime in the afternoon. While Noah was with the doctor, Leanna stared at the draft in front of her and let out a long sigh. Then, she raised her head and called out, “Aidan.”

He hummed in response. “Hm?”

“Did you see the news?”

“Which one?”

“Daphne has officially terminated her contract with Pearson Group.”

“I did,” Aidan replied.

Leanna was still holding her pen as she pondered, “Do you think what they’re saying online will happen?”

He paused. He set down his laptop and came over to Leanna. As he pinched her ear, he remarked, “Why are you dwelling on such things? Are you done with work?”

“I just think that something’s wrong,” she voiced out.

“How so?”

“Your brother... What on earth does he intend to do?”

Now that Justin had taken over Pearson Group, he was free to slowly remove Aidan’s people and groom up his own team.

It was a normal occurrence in any company.

However, the series of events recently gave Leanna a strange feeling, including the fact that Justin was collaborating with Joseph and Theodore.

There was a high chance that Justin wouldn’t have ended his dealings with Theodore if they hadn’t been there that night to expose Theodore’s dirty deeds.

Now that Leanna thought about it, based on what was happening that night, it seemed as if Justin only did so because he had been left without a choice.

Aidan knew full well what kind of person Theodore was, and even though Pearson Group changed hands, Jonathan would’ve given Justin all the information too, and yet, he didn’t care.

It was the same situation with Joseph. All of Highside had heard about Joseph’s matters, and even if Justin didn’t mind or didn’t believe the rumors, he should at least look into the situation and unearth the facts instead of disregarding it entirely and continuing his dealings with Joseph as if nothing happened.

Not only was it illogical, but it was... rather inconceivable.

Aidan cocked his eyebrows. “I thought you were frowning all this time because you couldn’t find any inspiration. Why are you worrying about such nonsense?”

Leanna looked at him. “Did you choose not to extend Daphne’s contract because you knew this day would come?”

He withdrew his hand. “I’m sure you’ll create something even more amazing if you focused all of your brainpower onto your work instead.”

She was speechless since could sense that Aidan was avoiding her question, which meant that she had hit the nail on the head.

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 739-Ever since Charlotte came back from the hospital, she locked herself in her room and refused to eat anything.

Charles called her down a couple of times but Charlotte was more determined than she had ever been before. Furthermore, he had a lot of matters to deal with following Philip’s death, so he couldn’t spare the time to work through Charlotte’s grief with her.

He figured that things would get better with time.

Charlotte stayed in bed the whole time. She cried when she was awake and fell asleep when she was worn out from all her crying.

She became a lifeless, hollow shell of herself.

If I hadn’t stubbornly run off to Highside, Zoe wouldn’t have lost her baby because of me.

Grandpa Philip was so good to me. He loved me so much. I didn’t get to spend more time with him. I didn’t even get to say a few words to him, and now he’s gone forever.

At some point, she heard a knock on her door. She exhausted her final ounce of energy to cry out, “I’m not hungry! Just leave me be—”

Before she could finish her sentence, a male voice called out icily, “I’m giving you one minute to open the door.”

Charlotte froze. She immediately tried to get out of bed, but the fact that she skipped her meals for two

days now seemed to have taken a toll on her. She barely had the strength to move.

After falling back onto the bed, she had a thought. I'm home now anyway, so why do I need to be afraid of his threats?

She didn't think he could do anything to her right in her own home.

Thus, she closed her eyes and pulled the covers over her.

After a while, she heard some commotion outside her door.

Charlotte pulled down the covers and looked out with teary eyes. The sudden influx of light made her squint.

A few seconds later, she finally reacted.

Where's my door?

Just then, a servant rushed in with some food and said worriedly, "You should eat something, Miss Charlotte."

Charlotte was still adamant about punishing herself, so she stubbornly declared, "I'm not eating."

"If she isn't going to eat by herself then pour it down her throat. It doesn't matter how much of it gets into her stomach."

Charlotte was speechless.

She turned back to the door but the figure who had been standing there earlier was gone.

The servant helped Charlotte up in bed. "Just take a few mouthfuls, Miss Charlotte. It's Mr. Philip's funeral this afternoon. I'm afraid you won't even be able to get past the door in this state."

"It's Grandpa Philip's funeral today?" Charlotte realized belatedly.

"That's right. Mr. Charles is busy with the funeral proceedings so that's why Mr. Lachlan is here to pick you up."

Charlotte lowered her head in silence.

The servant held up a bowl of soup and advised consolingly, “Miss Charlotte, I know you’re grieving, but Mr. Philip had a good life and he left without having to suffer. It was the best we could’ve hoped for.”

Charlotte’s tears poured down her cheeks once more. “But... But I...”

“Death is a natural part of life, Miss Charlotte. It’s okay to grieve, but you shouldn’t let your grief consume you. I’m sure Mr. Philip would want you to carry on living a happy, blissful life.”

While it wasn’t certain whether Charlotte took the servant’s advice, she began to drink the soup, though her tears kept falling anyway.

Once she finished the food, she took a shower and changed into the black dress the servant prepared for her.

Charlotte rubbed her puffy eyes before heading downstairs.

Lachlan had been sitting in the living room the whole time, and now that Charlotte had come down, he got up and walked off without saying anything.

Charlotte quickly tagged along behind him.

Once they were outside, she walked over to the car and was about to open the door to the front passenger seat out of habit when she saw Lachlan getting into the driver’s seat.

Charlotte was startled.

Her hand froze midway as she didn’t know whether to get in or not.

Lachlan glanced at her.

Before he said anything, Charlotte immediately got into the car and grabbed the seatbelt. “I’m ready!”

Alas, the seatbelt seemed to have it in for her. It refused to lock securely no matter how hard she tried.

Lachlan grew impatient and leaned over. He grabbed the seatbelt and buckled Charlotte in with ease.

Charlotte pressed herself flat against the seat to keep her distance.

Once they hit the road, Charlotte gripped her seatbelt and muttered, “Uncle...”

“Out with it,” Lachlan said coolly without looking at her.

“Will there be a lot of people at Grandpa Philip’s funeral?”

“Yes.”

“Will they... urge me to marry you?” Charlotte’s voice was barely audible.

Lachlan didn’t see this coming.

“Is that all you think about with that brain of yours?”

Charlotte pouted. “It’s only because a lot of people seem to want me to marry you. Grandpa Philip, Dad, and all those other relatives. There are so many of them. Will they be satisfied if I marry you?”

Lachlan side-eyed her. “So, you’re thinking about making a sacrifice for the greater good again?”

Charlotte lowered her head. “When I think about it, it’s not like I’m someone who can accomplish much in life. If this is something that’ll let Grandpa Philip rest in peace and let Dad be less stressed out, then it’s not like I’m totally—”

“I’m not interested in you.”

“Oh,” Charlotte mumbled feebly.

Charlotte stayed silent for the rest of the way. She lowered the window and stared blankly at the scenery.

Half an hour later, the car came to a stop.

Charlotte unbuckled her seatbelt and shuffled out of the car despondently.

The Woodleys weren’t the only ones gathered at the entrance to attend the funeral. There were also reporters and other people who came to pay their final respects to Philip.

As soon as Charlotte showed up, a crowd gathered around her to comfort her.

Charlotte was a little stunned by the cameras. Her eyes were red and she didn't know what to say.

Just then, a hand reached in to pull her out of the crowd.

"Who's that?" someone from the crowd asked. "Is he a Woodley?"

"I don't recall any of the Woodleys looking like that. He..."

"Hang on. Isn't that Lachlan Woodley? I caught a vague glimpse of him in the past..."

"What did you say?!"

Lachlan had never appeared in public so barely anyone apart from the Woodleys knew what he looked like.

They could scarcely believe that the legendary Lachlan Woodley had just brushed past them.

There were a lot less random people inside the funeral hall.

Charlotte suddenly spotted a familiar silhouette. Her eyes lit up and she ran over to hug the person. "Leanna!"

Leanna stumbled backward. Once she regained her balance, she patted Charlotte on the back. "Are you okay?"

"I'm fine..." Charlotte choked out. "I thought I'd never see you again..."

Alas, her tears hadn't even fallen yet when the icy voice of a man rang out beside her. "Since you're fine, let go and stand upright before you continue talking."

Love Change Of Heart Chapter 740-Charlotte let go of Leanna with great reluctance and took a step back before gripping Leanna's hand with a pout.

Leanna stroked Charlotte's head. She saw the latter's reddened, puffy eyes and softly asked, "Have you been skipping your meals these days? You look like you lost a lot of weight."

"I couldn't bring myself to eat... but I did have something before I left the house just now."

Leanna sighed. She didn't know what to say to comfort Charlotte, so she simply held Charlotte's hand and said, "Let's go."

Charlotte looked around her but Lachlan was nowhere to be seen.

Once they entered the main hall, the first thing they saw was Philip's picture which was right in the center. He had a warm, benign smile.

Charlotte's nose prickled when she saw the picture. She followed Aidan and Leanna over. Once they had all paid their respects, she said quietly, "Grandpa Philip, from now on, I'll do whatever Dad tells me to and I won't make him angry anymore."

She bowed deeply to Philip's picture.

The three of them were about to head over to the side hall when they heard a commotion outside.

Leanna turned around and saw someone from the crowd slowly making his way over.

It was Joseph.

Some of the Woodleys were shocked by his appearance while others were confused, but quite a number of them were terrified as well.

After all, everyone thought he died ten years ago.

Joseph didn't care about the looks everyone was giving him. He kept a faint smile on his face as he walked over to Charlotte and called out to her, "Charlotte."

Charlotte felt a deep sense of aversion when she saw him. She instinctively retreated to hide behind Leanna.

Joseph adjusted his glasses. His smile widened as he looked at Leanna. "You and President Pearson are here too, Miss McKinney."

"Your presence seems to be even less welcomed than ours," Aidan remarked curtly.

"No one's presence would be welcomed at such an occasion," Joseph responded evenly.

He gave a cursory look around and didn't even bother to pay his respects to the deceased.

It was a highly disrespectful gesture.

One of the older Woodleys couldn't help but come forward with a frown. "How could you..."

Joseph wasn't bothered by their admonishment. He shrugged and said, "The rules only matter when a

person's alive. Who cares about these things when they're dead?"

The older Woodley was furious. Even his cane was shaking as he trembled with anger. Charlotte quickly held him steady. She looked at Joseph and cried out, "You've gone too far, Uncle Joseph!"

Joseph chuckled. "You're still young, Charlotte. Once you're older, you'll realize that I was right."

"Mr. Woodley, since you think there are too many rules to follow and have no intention of paying your final respects to the deceased, why did you bother going out of your way to attend the funeral?" Leanna asked.

Joseph turned to her. "That's an excellent question, Miss McKinney. I'm not here just for the sake of the funeral. I've left the family for far too long now. It's time I came back."

Leanna pursed her lips and was about to speak when Aidan stopped her.

"There's no point wasting your breath on him," Aidan drawled.

Aidan knew that Joseph would be more than happy if someone picked a fight with him right now. He was here to cause a scene at the funeral, and the uglier it got, the happier he was.

At that very moment, Charles came over from the side hall. His expression darkened when he spotted Joseph. "Why did you come back?"

Joseph smirked. "It's been a long time, Charles."

Charles looked around the hall. A lot of people were muttering thoughtfully among themselves due to

Joseph's sudden appearance.

Charles frowned. His expression turned even grimmer.

After a brief moment of silence, he said, "Whatever it is, let's take it to the side hall first."

"That won't be necessary. Let's just do it here," Joseph declared. "I'm sure you all have a lot of questions. For example, you must be wondering how I rose from the dead."

Then, he looked at Aidan. "You must also be wondering who this is and why he looks so much like Lachlan."

Charles figured out what Joseph was about to say and snarled, "That's enough of your nonsense!"

"I'm just pointing out the things that everyone is curious about," Joseph retorted. "What I say is nothing but the truth. Are you trying to stop me because you want to bury the secret along with Philip Woodley's casket?"

Thanks to Joseph, an even larger crowd had gathered inside the main hall. Nearly every single Woodley was here.

Joseph turned around and looked at them. "What if I let you in on a twenty-year-old secret that few know about? I'm sure you all know that the previous head of the family had a daughter, Naomi Woodley, who willingly chose to be disowned from the family and cut off all ties due to her private affairs. As the head of the family, Kian Woodley should've made an example of himself, but what did he do instead?"

"After sending his people to Highside, he found out that the relationship his daughter sacrificed everything for was merely her being the mistress of a married man, and she even gave birth to that man's illegitimate son. For the sake of making the Pearsons accept the illegitimate son into the family, he went so far as to cause an accident so that the Pearsons' eldest son, the original successor, will have to spend the rest of his life confined to a wheelchair."

Leanna slowly tightened her hand around Aidan's without speaking.

Joseph continued, “For the sake of his selfish desires, for the sake of the person who should’ve been removed from the family tree in the first place, not only did the entire Woodley Family go against the family traditions, but an innocent person was harmed in the process and the Woodley Family’s reputation was destroyed. Let me ask you this. How can someone like that be the head of the family?”

Someone in the crowd spoke up, “But... Kian Woodley has passed away, and the current head of the family is—”

“So what if he’s dead? Does that mean we should all forget about what he did just like that?” Joseph hissed.

One of the older Woodleys piped up, “What Kian did was wrong, and if want to settle the score because you have a problem with his actions, you should be taking it up with Lachlan. This is your grandfather’s funeral. You shouldn’t be saying these things in front of him—”

“What makes you think he didn’t know what Kian Woodley did twenty years ago? He obviously hid everything intentionally. Not a single Woodley can claim innocence in this matter!”

“That’s enough!” Charles snarled. “What’s the point in bringing this up now? Stop trying to cause trouble.”

Joseph laughed. “I nearly forgot that you were involved in this too, Charles. You know, there’s something I’ve been so curious about all this while. How can you speak of the Woodley Family rules and traditions, speak of honesty, decency, and morality, and yet do such a shameless thing that would make the family ancestors roll in their graves?”

“Does all your resentment stem from the fact that you weren’t part of the exception and got driven out of the family?”

Joseph turned around and looked at the person who spoke. His smile deepened as he retorted coolly, “Don’t bother trying to use me as a shield, President Pearson. You’re the one in question right now. What about it? How does it feel to steal everything that belonged to your half-brother and lead the life he was supposed to lead by ruining his legs?”

