

## Chapter 100 Heartless Father And Husband

He admitted he was at fault, yet he refused to mention his extramarital affair?

Michaela had mixed feelings for Jacob. It was as if she had no idea who the man was anymore.

At this point, she still could not believe what she saw. She could not help but feel disgusted by everything that had happened before her eyes.

Michaela clenched her fists so tight that her nails dug into her palms.

She could not believe that the man before her was the same man who shoved her and her mother into the abyss. As a father and a husband, how could he do this to us?

During the conversation, Jacob stood up and tried to grab Michaela's hand, but Michaela dodged him right away.

Jacob cleared his throat to hide his awkwardness. He then continued, "Mich, I shouldn't have reprimanded you the other day, but I only did that because I was worried. You should know I've put my blood, sweat, and tears into Jacob Real Estate. I'll protect this company at all costs."

He explained, "The business world is like a battlefield. I didn't have a choice, Mich. I'm getting old and will one day pass away. Jacob Real Estate is the only legacy I can pass on to you. I'm safeguarding the company for you!

"Mich, it's all right if you don't understand what adulthood is like, but I think you wouldn't want to see your mom and I divorced, would you? You wouldn't want to live without a father, right? I promise I'll take good care of you and your mom if she's willing to forgive me. Please put in a good word for me, will you? She'll listen to you, Mich."

Michaela would have bought his story had she not witnessed the turn of events earlier.

As of then, she just stood still and stared blankly at the man she called her father. She clenched the corner of her shirt and tried to pull herself together.

Jacob continued trying to convince Michaela with the vision he had in mind. "The three of us will live happily ever after. Since you've already completed your studies at the university, you can help me run the company. Besides, Jonathan would also take good care of you since the Simmons family has a close relationship with the Xanders. By then, everyone will regard you as the princess of the business world. Isn't that great?"

"Princess of the business world?" Upon hearing that, Michaela's eyes gleamed with disappointment and disgust.

Yet, Jacob, who was blinded by greed, failed to notice her reaction. He went on, "Yeah, that's right! I've laid the foundation for you. All you have to do now is to work hard to expand the company. Look at all the things I've done for you, Mich. You must understand how much I love you!"

Jacob continued to act like an affectionate father, thinking he had successfully lured his daughter into the dream he had woven.

Michaela let out a cold snort. "Love me? You threw Mom and me under the bus. Is that how you express your love for us? You said you're sorry and wanted me to speak to Mom so that she would forgive you. But do you think you can keep your extramarital affair a secret by doing so? Aren't you aware that everyone knows you're a playboy? Do you really think Mom is oblivious of it?"

She continued, "Yes. I study hard in school because I know how hard you've worked, and I hope I can one day share your burden. But do you really love Mom and me? I don't think so. You're only trying to keep this family together because of the Simmons family's relationship with the Xanders. In other words, you merely want the Xanders to help you fulfill your ambition!"

"And I don't think you're sorry for the things you had done. You decided to stay in the hospital because you're waiting for Mom to give in! In your eyes, Mom and I are just like pawns. You'll only keep us by your side when you think we're useful and kick us to the curb when you're done taking advantage of us!" she added.

Michaela had been trying to suppress her anger the moment she stepped into the ward, but all hell broke loose when Jacob made those remarks.

Naturally, Jacob took offense in what she said.

He exploded with rage and swung his hand across her cheek, giving her a loud, tight slap.

Triggered by her words, Jacob, whose eyes had turned bloodshot, slapped his daughter with all his might.

The sound reverberated through the ward. After venting his frustration on Michaela, Jacob could feel his hands trembling.

He was used to people licking his boots. No one in his company had the guts to speak to him in such a manner.

How dare she yell at me and make those remarks?

Jacob could not tolerate it any longer. He glared at Michaela, who looked to the side after being slapped. He then bellowed, "Watch your mouth, Michaela Lingard! How dare you speak to me like that? I took care of you and gave you everything, yet this is how you repay me? Do you want to know the truth? Fine! Yes, I planned everything. So what?"

He continued, "I refuse to sign the papers, and I'll continue to take advantage of Hannah. I want people to reprimand and ridicule her! And there's nothing you can do about it. So go back, ask your mom to think about it, and discuss it with me when she's ready. Don't test my patience anymore. Just so you know, I can do more than this!"

The swelling on Michaela's cheek became more pronounced since she had a fair complexion.

But the tingling sensation on her cheek was not half as painful as the agony in her heart. She gradually tilted her face and looked in Jacob's direction as if she was looking at a stranger.

"I hope you're done venting your anger and frustration. Listen carefully, Mr. Lingard. You'd better sign the divorce papers before things spiral out of control. You can take over the company and do what you want with it. Mom and I don't need a single cent from you! But if you continue to make our lives difficult, I'll support Mom by exposing all your wrongdoings!"

Infuriated by his daughter's obstinance, Jacob started dragging her toward the door.

After opening the sliding door, he spoke loudly to the crowd along the corridor. "Can you all believe this daughter of mine threatened me to divorce my wife?"

He then turned to her and said, "I've been protecting you and looking after you since you were born. Is this how you repay me? Huh?"

He raised his voice. "Fine! I'll give you tit for tat then. I'm not afraid of airing our dirty laundry in public anymore! I want everyone here to see what kind of unfilial daughter you are! Instead of defusing the tension between your mom and me, you showed up here to threaten me. How atrocious!"

"Why don't you repeat what you said earlier? What will you do to me if I refuse to divorce your mom? Tell it to everyone!" Jacob challenged Michaela.

Michaela was familiar with all the dirty tricks Jacob had pulled off, but she did not expect him to blow this up on purpose.

His words struck her like a lightning bolt, causing her to shiver. She tried pulling her arm away from Jacob, but the man's grip was so firm that her struggle was in vain.

The crowd inched closer. Some even took out their phones and attempted to record the drama.

Yet, there was nothing Michaela could do as she was too weak to retaliate. Just when she was at her wits' end, a hand emerged and grabbed Jacob by the wrist.

As pain lanced through his hand, Jacob had no choice but to release Michaela from his grip. Just when he was about to curse at the newcomer, the person went closer and kicked Jacob right on his abdomen.