

Master Odell 1631

Chapter 1631

None of them dared to voice what was on their mind for fear of offending John.

After a while, the chief firefighter spoke up, "Young Master Stockton, if there was someone residing inside the house when the fire broke out, then I suggest that we carefully search the surrounding area."

The glimmer of hope in John's eyes immediately faded away again when this suggestion was brought to him.

The chief firefighter did not make any further suggestions, and he went off on the mission with his men. Meanwhile, John's crew of bodyguards stood next to him and observed him cautiously, waiting for his next move.

John stood there for a long time, then he suddenly peered at them and ordered in a hoarse and weak voice, "You guys go with them and search the area."

They did as they were told and went off.

John was left by himself. The only thing heard in the forest was the pattering of rain.

His legs were getting tired, so he decided to kneel on the ground, his feet stamping the piles of ashes.

His usual grace, elegance, and dignity had long departed him. He was no longer his former self and had instead fallen into a metaphorical abyss. His clothes were covered in dirt and dust, and even his face was marked with dirty spots that he could not be bothered to clean off.

He sagged his head weakly and sat motionlessly.

and only made a movement when the phone in his

out his

that it was Caprice calling. He had her number saved as

this was the first time she had put it to use. It made sense considering he was

the very first time she called

lingered over the display, and he

sweet voice sounded like the tweeting of a bird. "Daddy, where are you? Are you coming home. yet?"

of voice that did not sound like himself crawled up his throat. "Daddy is outside, I have some work.

sound pleased, she expressed sadly, "But I miss

his

softly, "Be a good girl honey, stay at home with your grandma and aunt, you can play with them. Daddy will be home after he's

Caprice remained silent.

crying a lot because she misses you. She insists on wanting to see you. We couldn't distract
least for a

John frowned.

thing. You asked me to contact Officer Emmanuel this afternoon so I called him over. We told him
everything about what Julie did to Mom, including her hiring hitmen to take out Sherry. He told us that
the nature of this case is very complicated and it's better that he has a talk with you. He's still at our
home now collecting statements from Mom. I think you should come back

eye

his mobile phone and pulled

his car, he passed by one of his bodyguards and promptly gave

Chapter 1632

John came up with something on the spot. "Daddy went for a site inspection, it was a very dusty place.
and it got all over Daddy."

"Oh." Caprice bought the story without any suspicion. She pressed her cheeks against John's, ignoring
the spots of dirt all over his face.

Shortly after that, John walked into the living room with Caprice in his arms.

Madam Stockton and Officer Emmanuel were sitting on the couch talking. Queenie sat silently next to
them.

When John showed up, they quickly rose and greeted him.

Both Madam Stockton and Queenie were startled by the haggard state John was in.

Officer Emmanuel was similarly taken aback to see him in such a poor state.

This was nothing like the John they always knew. What happened to his usual suave and careful
preservation of image?

Officer Emmanuel knew better than to be disrespectful and greeted John as if nothing had happened,
Young Master Stockton, good evening."

John nodded.

A chair was brought to them.

chair with

right to the heart of the topic. "Young Master Stockton, Madam Stockton has told me about what Julie
has done, and that's including her attempt on her life as well as Mrs. Sherry's. I heard she burned down
one of your properties as well. We have arrested both Julie and her suspected accomplice Mia. Is there
any other information you

Caprice's head, his voice was filled with ice, "Julie messed with the brakes and directly caused my mother's accident. Then she hired someone to set fire

taken

Stockton and Queenie were similarly

John to ask for the

did not deny that Julie deserved a harsh punishment, they never wanted

one glance that John fully meant what he said. They did not try to object to his sentiment.

not ask, but they assumed that Sherry

isn't looking very optimistic for her. If you hire a good lawyer and prosecute

John nodded. "Alright."

wanted to continue, but then he looked hesitantly at Caprice. After making sure that Caprice had already dozed off on John's shoulder, he wagered that it

curtly,

you manage to find her?"

eyes. "No,

find her in the surrounding

voice deepened. "We're

and supplied. "Alright, I'll send my men to help

John stayed silent.

up. "Take care, I'll let you know first thing if we have any

the rest of the details, see you." Office Emmanuel

Chapter 1633

John cast a glance at Caprice who was now sleeping soundly and stated firmly, "I'm not hungry."

"You have to eat something even if you're not hungry. You're the only one Caprice has left, you can't be irresponsible and risk your health."

John objected with a frown. "She still has her Mom."

As long as Sherry's body was not found, there was still a sliver of hope that she was still alive!

There was plenty of evidence of her having an iron will for survival. She had survived Shannon's attempt on her life three years ago. Who was to say that she did not manage to slip away from the burning house. just in time?

Madam Stockton felt a sharp sting in her nose and nearly teared up. She held herself back and tried to persuade John again. "If she's still alive, then all the more reason for you to eat! You have to recover your strength to continue searching for her."

John yielded a little. "Leave it there, I'll eat in a bit."

He had no appetite yet.

"Alright, I understand." Madam Stockton was glad that at least John promised to eat, so she turned to Emerence.

Emerence proceeded to put the food on the dining table and covered it.

They sat silently in the living room.

John's phone rang again.

quickly answered the call, "What
of the house and couldn't find
even the tension on his brows eased a
"Alright."

that, he put away his
rose from the couch with Caprice and went to the
one arm while he picked up a spoon with his free hand and forced himself to
a faint, comforting smile
of her

was a tiny chance that Sherry was alive, but they all
being together all those years ago,
fooled by Julie for all these years. She had never even suspected of Julie being such a wretched and
cunning person. She

Coastrock.

rolled around, and there was a comforting warmth in the

Glanchester, but what it lacked in modernity it more than made up for it in the department of vast
nature

stepped off the plane, she was rushed to the hospital at first notice and was cared for by a crew of
doctors with the best

full body check on her and were very thorough. All of her wounds were disinfected and bandaged

accumulated malnutrition, she was sent to the emergency room for treatment. After the procedures were completed, she was sent to the

Chapter 1634

The contents of the lunch box produced an aromatic smell that managed to seep out of it while remaining closed.

For some reason she could not quite put her finger on it, Sherry could not find the appetite to eat although she would have killed for even a bite of food several days ago.

Upon noticing her reluctance, Carl assumed that she was too tired to even open the box. He diligently pried off the lid for her.

It was a delicately packed lunch box with a wide assortment of dishes ranging from braised chicken feet, pork belly, chicken wings, and more delicacies.

Marbles of fat glistened underneath the light, demanding to be eaten while it was still hot.

Sherry glanced at the food with a blank expression and hesitated to make a move.

Carl frowned and tried to hide his discontent. "What's with that look? I waited in line for half an hour to buy this for you. Won't you have a bite?"

Sherry nodded weakly and grunted.

Carl remained silent.

His expression darkened for a slight moment as he shifted his hand toward the box and looked like he was going to take it away.

Sherry suddenly reached for the plastic glove that came with the lunch box.

Carl stuttered.

of pork rib and took a

and remarked with a smile,

don't want the food to go to waste."

all people would know why one should

how desperately she craved food when she was

you sure are hard to take care

ignored his sarcastic remark.

banter with the man as she was hardly in

her darkening mood and let it slide. "You know what, I'll tolerate you just this

Glancheater.

last and the sun rose above

but the damage it

burned forest looked as desolate and depressing as ever. After searching all night, the bodyguards were exhausted. They collapsed on the ground and fell asleep

of firefighters and Officer Emmanuel's men were still keeping the search operation

car parked next to the road leading to the

Caprice had just woken up. She crawled over John's shoulder and gazed out the

for a while, she asked, "Daddy,

fire here, the trees are all burned

for the

"Hm."

were searching a nearby area. "Daddy, what are those two uncles looking for?"

eyes upon hearing this, he stated, "They're looking

Chapter 1635

Only the supporting pillars of the structure remained standing. John was worried about Caprice wandering in there. What if one of these columns collapsed just as the child was passing by?

He suddenly came to a stop.

Caprice was leading him by his hand and stopped as well. She turned back to her father with a confused expression.

John spoke softly, "It's not safe, we can't get closer, let's just stand here and watch from a distance."

Caprice was slightly disappointed to hear this, but she was a very well-mannered child and did as she was told.

Still, her childlike curiosity had to be sated somehow. She did not want to stay here and watch.

She had John take her for a lap around the burned house where they could continue surveying the structure from different angles.

She curiously observed the structure as they walked.

John was very patient and followed her on the walk. He wondered what spurred the child's curiosity. The house was rather large, so it took them some time to wrap around the house.

Eventually, they reached the back of the house.

John had not investigated this area yet, so he cast a vigilant look around him in hopes of finding some new clues.

While he was looking elsewhere, Caprice suddenly sunk into the ground. Fortunately, she was still leading. John by his hand.

shrieked as

hand and tugged as hard as he could, flinging

large pit where Caprice was standing was revealed.

stacks

was a somewhat large pit.

John's eyes widened.

there a hole here?" Caprice gazed down at

An underground hole?

where Jason was and called out urgently, "Jason, tell those police officers

He turned and ran deep into the woods where

and branches blockading the underground hole were dug out.

underground hole led toward

astonished by this

the massive grin on John's face, he was especially ecstatic

"Daddy, why is there a

question this time, "Someone dug a tunnel

dig a tunnel?"

was trying to escape

Caprice was speechless.

police officers entered the

entrance, holding Caprice in his arms so she would not wander off.

patiently for their

Chapter 1636

They all turned to John with congratulatory smiles.

John smiled faintly, then he carried off Caprice and walked away.

His stride was confident and filled with purpose.

Caprice gazed at her father, her eyes were filled with question marks.

Either way, she was glad to see her father beaming with joy, even though she could not fully understand. Just what it was that made her father so happy. She was smiling from ear to ear, revealing a row of milky white teeth underneath.

John noticed Caprice staring at him and asked, "Caprice, why are you smiling so happily?"

Caprice remarked warmly, "I'm smiling because Daddy is happy."

John was moved by this. He gently pinched Caprice's cheeks. "Thank you, honey."

She deserved most of the credit. If it was not for her wanting to explore the house, they would not have stumbled into the underground tunnel. Chances were they would still be stuck and left to wander where Sherry had ended up.

The innocent child was a gift from God.

smiled with pride. "You're welcome,

he picked up

even before the fire broke out, she must be

find

Several days later.

Stockton

days had been quite unpredictable. One moment, the sun was

mental state of the people in the house. Their moods rocked back and forth between relative calm and dreadful trepidation from

parked his car outside the courtyard. He quickly got out and

notice Peter and the frantic expression on his face, they quickly ducked around the corner to get out of his

walked straight into the

Peter looks very nervous, do you think it's something to

because they

housemaid remained

After he marched into the courtyard,

silence in the air.

common shirt and trousers was sitting on the

Caprice who was sleeping soundly and was checking messages on his phone with his free hand.

Chapter 1637

Sherry was still inside the hospital, but her condition had improved significantly. She was doing much better compared to when she had just been admitted to the hospital.

Her headache was gone and her body had largely made her recovery. She could walk around without any assistance now.

The burn on the right arm left behind a large and hideous scar, but she could simply cover it up with a long-sleeved shirt

At the present, she had just finished handling some work for Sager Corporation.

She shut off the laptop and leaned against the recliner positioned next to the window. She took some time for herself and enjoyed the gentle sea breeze.

Ding!

Her phone rang suddenly.

Her previous phone was confiscated by John and was never returned to her. This was a new phone she bought after arriving at Coastrock.

She changed her number as well and registered a new profile on her social media.

She had just wrapped her tasks at work, who could this be?

over and saw a text from

message. "Hey Sherry, there's something I need to tell you, it's

Carter? Odell Carter?

about Odell? Did

figured you weren't in a good state of mind back then. Anyway, he just called me again and asked the same thing. He said his wife

heaved a sigh of relief upon finding out nothing bad had

any form of connection tracing back to John. She could not risk having the man know that she had made it back to Coastrock. More than anything,

had thought long and hard about it and decided that she would contact Sylvia only after the heat

Sylvia to contact Carl not once, but twice.

would appear that Sylvia was extremely worried about her.

idea for a while but at last, she sent a text to Sylvia that read, "It's me, Syl. I'm alive, don't worry about me."

Westchester.

Carter's household.

had been rapidly deteriorating these days. Furthermore, Flint always caused trouble at the kindergarten Isabel was not any better in that department either and frequently got into trouble at school. Although Odell and Liam would help Sylvia around the house now and then, Odell had his business to worry about and Liam could not risk distracting himself from his schoolwork. The end result was that Sylvia found her every

upon the news of the forest fire in Glanchester, her thoughts immediately went to Sherry. She recalled that the Stockton Villa was also located deep within the forest of the region and immediately called Sherry to check if she was

astonishment, the call would

the entire day and

grow anxious and asked

Chapter 1638

On the other end of the phone, Sherry frowned uneasily as she read the text she had just received from Sylvia.

John was looking for her?

How did he find out that she survived the fire?

The thought unsettled her. She condensed everything that happened to her in Glanchester in recent times, starting from the point where Madam Stockton got into a tragic car accident and was hospitalized for a long time. She told Sylvia everything that happened to her when she was imprisoned by John in his house buried and hidden deep within the forest that was later set on fire. She laid out all her traumatic experiences of how she was starved in the house. She told everything she could.

Ding!

Sylvia sent a reply immediately after she read Sherry's long paragraph, "So you're saying that he was the one who burned the house down? I can't believe this, he tried to kill you!"

Sherry was still unsure at this point and answered, "I think it's him."

Why would a forest fire start out of nowhere otherwise? Someone must have done it and John was the first one on the list since no one hated her as much as he did.

Sylvia replied, "What a heartless, vicious man!"

Sherry took a deep breath and replied, "I was the one who broke his heart nine years ago, he had to go through a lot because of me. Even his mother is permanently bedridden because of me, it only makes sense that he'd hate me and want to see me dead."

her mother was because of the car accident, what

heart nine years ago? What happened back

it off. "It's all in the past now, I

you doing now? How did you manage to
me out before the fire started,
relieved to hear this. "Alright, that's
Syl, promise me
matter of
her. "I understand, don't worry about
grimaced and put down the
Westchester, Carter's household.
on
she just had with
and went as far as to set fire to the house! How could this be? Did he hate Sherry that
in disbelief.
heard footsteps marching
hurriedly put away her phone and turned to see who was coming up.
In came Flint.

tumbled through the door with his weight hanging on the door handle. He stared at
Chapter 1639

Upon realizing that Sylvia was not paying attention to him, Flint slid next to Isabel and played video games with her.

Liam sat nearby them and was immersed in a book.

Caprice sat huddled next to him and propped her head next to his shoulder, her eyes were fixated on the book as well even though she did not understand its contents.

The children seemed to be having a good, harmonious time.

The messages Sherry had just sent Sylvia were still fresh in her mind. She took another deep breath to compose herself again before she approached the tea table.

Odell smiled warmly at her.

Sylvia sat down next to the empty chair beside him and turned to John.

John was staring right at her and smiled warmly as a way of greeting.

He complimented her, "Mrs. Carter, we haven't met in two months but it seems to me that you're younger than when I last saw you."

Sylvia was not in the mood for this pointless chatter and went straight to the point. "What are you doing here?"

John noticed her apprehension and immediately broached the subject. "Sherry is missing. I was wondering if you've been in contact with her recently?"

to pry information on

that they were the ones who broke Sherry out of the house

fine when we left Glanchester two months ago. Now

more aggressive as she spoke, even her pitch rose

fell upon the living

turned off the game

air, Odell straightened up from

his face darkened.

looked more like he

taken aback

in that house and set it on fire, what right did he have

he trying to mess

interrogate him. "A few days ago, I had Odell contact

in Liam's direction and asked politely, "Liam, would you mind helping Uncle John out and taking Caprice upstairs

not risk Caprice overhearing, even if Caprice might be too young to understand what he

at him, then at

Odell nodded affirmatively.

the couch

rose from the couch

Liam could even carry her, Caprice herself offered him

Chapter 1640

John cast a wary glance at Sylvia upon saying this.

Sylvia was seething with rage.

John stuttered uncharacteristically for a moment, then continued, "I told my men to bring food to her once every two days. That was, until the forest fire.

"One day, I just got home from work when I received a call and was told that my mother's condition had worsened and that she had to be put on a ventilator. Immediately after that call, my men called me as well and told me that Sherry tried to kill herself by slamming her head against the wall. I knew that she was only doing that to lull me to her but despite that, I went away and had a very heated exchange with her before I left.

"After that, I went home again. That was when I was informed that my mother's condition had not worsened but had instead made a turn for the better. She was awake at last."

Sylvia was astounded to hear this.

Odell asked, "What was that about her condition worsening? Did someone give you the wrong information?"

John stated, "Someone fed me the wrong information."

Sylvia made a wild guess. "Julie?"

"Exactly," John continued. "That was the same night when I found out that she was the one who was behind everything that had been going on. She was the one who tampered with the brakes of the car and caused my mother's accident as she knew that Sherry would try to sneak out with Caprice. Then there was the forest fire..."

that too?"

her dirty work for her and set the forest
was in utter disbelief.

was all Julie

model housekeeper, the girl who

doing this to Sherry? What could she possibly gain out of this?" Sylvia was rattled

frowned, a look of utter disgust

replica of me made of wax. My mother was the one who stumbled into it and tried
completely speechless.

photographs and even a wax figure of

with John this

from the picture by setting up the former to get into an accident and letting the latter take the blame for
what

a sinister and

time, she might have been long dead by

something was not right.

not made things difficult for Sherry and left her with no choice but to run away with Caprice! If you didn't lock her

by the second and at one point snatched a cup with burning hot tea

to splash the

look and

glared back at him and reluctantly put