

Chapter 164 Slapping Colin's Old Face

Reggie emphasized "birth father" intentionally, his tone serious and solemn, leaving Colin momentarily speechless.

With his mouth slightly open, Colin struggled to respond after a moment's silence.

"That's her own fault!" he finally replied.

"Her own fault?" Reggie pressed further, "Then tell me, what exactly did she do wrong?"

"She ... " Colin began but fell silent again, racking his brain to think of any actual wrongdoing on Isabel's part.

Had she really done anything wrong?

Nothing came to mind, and he was left even more at a loss.

After a pause, Colin finally understood why he held such resentment toward Isabel.

"The biggest mistake she made was being my daughter, my daughter, and yet she's worthless, bringing me nothing but disgrace!"

After saying this, Colin felt his lingering sense of shame fade entirely.

Reggie's eyes narrowed. "I see. Because Isa isn't 'good enough' or bringing you profit, you think she doesn't deserve to be your daughter. So, her fate has to serve as a scapegoat for your stepdaughter, who isn't even related by blood. What you want, then, isn't a real daughter but a tool—a source of personal gain. Isn't that right?"

Reggie's words lit a fire in Colin, who shot up from the couch, his face red with rage. "Reggie, you're completely out of line! How dare you talk to me like this! Has your sister twisted your mind? Isabel is nothing but trouble. How did I end up with such a defiant, ungrateful child?"

"If I'd known she'd become such a disappointment, I would've strangled her in the crib! But sadly, regret has no remedy in this world!"

Hearing these chilling words, Reggie's heart grew cold.

"Oh, really? You will regret it. One day, when you see that Isabel isn't the waste you think, that she's far more valuable than you ever realized, that regret will weigh heavily on you."

At that moment, Reggie did not intend to reveal that Isabel was a disciple of the Miracle Healer. His own strength was still developing; he could not protect Isabel just yet.

Moreover, he knew that if Colin's attitude shifted due to Isabel's new status, she would never accept that shallow, self-serving fatherly "love."

"Reggie Zimmerman! Are you even interested in the marketing manager position anymore?" Colin almost spat the words through clenched teeth.

As he spoke, his assistant, Lincoln, entered, placing a file in front of Reggie and stepping back quietly, sensing the tension.

"Not interested," Reggie replied flatly.

Colin was at a loss. He had tried every tactic, yet nothing seemed to sway the siblings. What could he do now?

After a long, deep breath, Colin's tone softened with defeat, "Can you truly bear to see your sister end up in jail?"

"Lillian isn't my sister," Reggie replied calmly. "I have only one sister, Isa. We share blood, and I intend to protect her, look out for her, and make sure she's happy. She's my real family, my little sister," he finished with a small smile of pride.

"Are you mocking me?" Colin seethed.

"No, you misunderstand. Mocking someone so blinded by profit that they can't value their family is pointless. I have a lot to do now, so I'll end the call here. Please, don't call me again. Hearing your voice is like a chill. And if Isa and our mother are watching from above ... I'm sure they feel it, too."

Reggie hung up.

Colin stood, phone in hand, staring into space as Reggie's words echoed in his mind: Isa and their mother, watching ... Always watching ...

As he thought about it, he looked up at the ceiling, a deep frown on his face.

"Honey? Honey?" Amelia called out a few times before he slowly snapped out of it.

"Any luck? Did Reggie agree to persuade Isa to take the blame?" she asked, her voice tense.

At that moment, his expression grew complicated. Watching Amelia's anxious face, he suddenly asked, almost as if something else had taken over him, "You want my own daughter to take the blame for yours? Do you think I'm that much of a failure as a father?"

His question took Amelia by surprise.

It had to be something Reggie had said to him over the phone, Amelia realized. And, from Colin's question, she could guess the nature of it.

So, Reggie was trying to sow discord? Did he really think it would be that easy to undermine her? He underestimated her completely.

"Honey, what are you talking about? Lily may not be your biological daughter, but in the eyes of the law, she's as good as blood. Someday, when you're old, it'll be her responsibility and duty to take care of you.

"You may not realize this, but Lily worked hard from a young age, studying music, chess, calligraphy, painting—all for you. She's had a difficult life; her real father left her when she was little. When she joined our family, for the first time, she felt the warmth of a father's love. She's genuinely happy here, seeing you as her true father.

"And her decision to enter the entertainment industry—it's all for you. She wants to do everything she can to support you. She told me privately that the entertainment world is complex and treacherous. Lily is so pure and innocent; surviving in that environment isn't easy. But, as long as she can help her father, she's willing to face anything."

Amelia's voice was filled with emotion, tears streaming down her face.

Hearing Amelia's heartfelt words and seeing her tear-streaked face, any lingering guilt Colin felt toward Isabel faded, replaced by a deep sense of duty and love toward Lillian.

Amelia was right—even if she was not his biological daughter, Lillian was more of a daughter to him than Isabel ever could be.

"There, there, stop crying. I'm sorry. I shouldn't have questioned you," he reassured Amelia, hugging her. "Don't worry, I'll make sure Isabel agrees to take the blame for Lily."

The next day, Colin arranged a meeting with Isabel and Reggie.

"Go on, say what you have to say." Isa sat in the café by the window, her legs crossed, looking at him with a guarded expression.

Colin looked between the two of them, then fixed his gaze on Isabel, placing a check on the table. "If you agree to take the blame for Lily, this five million is yours."

Reggie's eyes widened in shock, disappointment evident on his face. He had thought Colin wanted to speak to them together after considering what he had said on the phone yesterday.

He had hoped that, out of some remorse or guilt, Colin wanted to make amends.

Yet, he did not expect this!

"You're truly a great father! You ... "

"Reg, don't waste your energy on someone like him." Isabel's voice was calm as she cut him off, casting a quick, indifferent glance at the check. She reached out and took it.

Seeing her take the check, Colin's lips curled into a mocking smile.

Always playing the righteous one, but here she was, still swayed by money.

However, just as he started to sneer, Isabel did something he did not see coming—she tore the check in half.

Rip!