

Chapter 485 A Family Dinner

Anthony's POV:

"Mom..." When I saw my mother, I stood up from the bed helplessly. "Why are you here?"

"How could I not come? Anthony, you're already the king of this nation. Do you really want me to feed you like I did when you were still a child?" My mother gave me a stern look, walked to the sofa, and sat down. She pointed at the opposite seat and said, "Sit down."

I sighed and obediently took my seat. Of course, I understood where my mother was coming from. I wasn't taking care of myself lately. I couldn't remember the last time my mother lost her temper with me, but I remembered that when she did, she'd become very strict. Both Austin and I were scared of her when she was angry.

"Anthony, you're a grown man. I don't want to interfere with your life, which would just annoy you, I'm sure. But you have to act like an adult. Don't neglect your own health. Think about your citizens. If the king falls, who will run the Osman Kingdom?" My mother looked at me seriously. "I know you feel sad that Jennifer has disappeared, but do you think she'll come back if you starve yourself? If being hungry could move God, I'd have starved myself a long time ago. If you don't eat, I won't eat either."

Hearing this last bit, I shook my head immediately. "Sorry, Mom. I know I'm wrong."

I buried my face in my hands, deeply touched by my mother's concern. She was right. I loved Jennifer, but I wasn't only her husband, but also the king of the Osman Kingdom and the son of my mother. I couldn't give in to my despair for the sake of my people. My mother's stern words reminded me of how carefree I was when I was a child.

"Anthony, to be honest, I don't blame you." My mother sighed and patted my hand comfortingly. "We have already lost Jennifer. I can't lose you, too. Please take care of yourself so that you can find Jennifer as soon as possible."

Thinking about Jennifer, my heart ached and I nodded silently.

"Since you haven't had dinner yet, why don't you have dinner at my place? I invited Caroline and Austin. Let's have dinner together. The more, the merrier!" my mother suggested. "Get ready quickly. I'll see you there."

"Okay, I'll come, Mom."

She was right, after all. I couldn't give up on myself here. I walked to the dresser and carefully put Jennifer's ring back into the storage box and then got ready for dinner.

The maid who had delivered the plate of food to me earlier was still standing in the corner. When I saw her, my heart softened. She had defied me bravely for the sake of my health. "Take the food and share them with your friends. I don't like seeing good food go to waste."

"Yes, Mr. Jones." The maid looked as though a weight had been lifted off her shoulders. She smiled and left in high spirits.

Elizabeth's POV:

Anthony's situation kept declining ever since Jennifer disappeared. Worried about him, I asked the maids to report to me everything Anthony did every day. When I found out that my son hadn't been eating nor sleeping, I knew that he was suffering deeply.

It broke my heart, seeing Anthony's upset face. I knew how much he loved Jennifer. It was just like how his father loved me before. This kind of deep love was irreplaceable. For a couple who loved each other deeply, the worst thing that could happen was separation. The absence of a loved one gave birth to great pain and sadness.

Although I knew I shouldn't interfere with my grown son's business, Anthony was still my child after all. I couldn't bear to see him torture himself like this. I went to see him, hoping to cheer him up somewhat.

When Anthony agreed to have dinner with Austin and Caroline at my place, I finally felt relieved. I reached for his hand and said softly, "Okay, let's go. Let's have a hearty meal together."

When we arrived at my residence, the maids had already prepared a table full of delicious food. Caroline and Austin were already sitting at the table. When they saw Anthony and me come in, they stood up and smiled warmly.

"Mom, Anthony, you're finally here!" Caroline waved at us happily. "Anthony, you were so busy lately that I didn't dare to disturb you."

"I'm sorry if I worried you, Caroline. Ever since Jennifer went missing, I've been in a bad mood and neglected to accompany my family." Anthony lowered his head guiltily.

"No need to apologize, Anthony. We understand where you're coming from." Austin patted on Anthony's shoulder. "Sit down and have dinner. Elizabeth has prepared a lot of your favorite dishes."

"Thanks, everyone. Let's eat!" Anthony pulled out a chair for me and smiled.

I was so happy to see Anthony and Austin like this, sitting at the table like close brothers.

"Oh, thank you, Anthony. I'm glad you're feeling better." I sighed and hugged Anthony. "I pray for Jennifer's safety every day. I believe God will look after her."

"I'm sorry for worrying you, Mom. As a king, I shouldn't have been so depressed," Anthony said emotionally.

"All right, all right. Just sit down and eat your food." Seeing Anthony like this, I felt sorry for him. I dabbed the tears from the corners of my eyes and said, "Come on, Anthony, eat some more. You've gotten thinner."

"Anthony, take heart! Don't let those villains win!" Austin said strongly. "The elders would hate to see their king so depressed. Someone might get tempted to impeach you."

"Thanks for the warning, Austin. I'll take good care of myself," Anthony said, picking up the knife and slicing into his lamb chop.

I also picked up my knife and fork and began to eat. With Anthony around, I had a bigger appetite than usual. I asked the maids to bring me more side dishes.

"Anthony, eat this!" Caroline warmly brought a bowl of cream of mushroom soup to Anthony.

"Anthony, have this, too." Austin kept putting food on Anthony's plate.

It touched my heart to see Austin treat Anthony so warmly.

"Thank you both, but I can't eat that much." Anthony looked like he didn't know whether to cry or to laugh. "I'll eat to my heart's content."

Seeing the harmonious atmosphere at the dining table, I grinned from ear to ear. "Eat more. I'm sure Jennifer will want to see you look stronger than before when she comes back."

"Okay. Thank you, Mom. I believe I'll find her. We will celebrate when we do," Anthony said with a smile, his eyes welling up with tears.

"Okay!" I nodded repeatedly, looking forward to the day Jennifer came home. Only when our family was reunited could we be really happy.

"You all keep talking! The food's getting cold," Caroline scolded us with her mouth full of food. "Why are you crying?"

"Oh, Caroline, you are so cute." Austin chuckled softly, which made Caroline blush.

A warm atmosphere enveloped us at the dinner table.

Seeing Anthony finally cheer up a little, I heaved a sigh of relief. Only when Anthony pulled himself together could he find Jennifer as soon as possible.

