

THE DIVORCE PRESCRIPTION

Chapter 531

Adam held up an umbrella, leading Celine and Hailey forward.

Hayden and Lucy immediately stepped up, asking anxiously, "Mr. Alvarez, where's Carly? You've locked her up for three days. How is she now?"

Lucy pleaded, "Mr. Alvarez, you were with Carly once. Don't be so heartless toward her."

Hailey let out a cold snort. "You really can't expect good words from scoundrels. Is

it Mr. Alvarez and Celine who are heartless, or did Carly do something disgusting?

If she hadn't impersonated Celine, would she have been caught? You're completely ignoring the crimes Carly committed."

Lucy's expression darkened. "You-"

Hayden looked at Celine. "Celine, can you let me see Carly?"

Celine gazed at Hayden. In truth, she hadn't had much interaction with him because his attention had always been on Carly. But Celine knew he was a good father.

However, spoiling a child was no different from harming them. Carly had ended up like this, and Hayden bore undeniable responsibility.

Celine turned to Adam. "Mr. Alvarez, bring Carly out and let them see her."

Adam waved his hand, and Leo brought people to escort Carly over.

Perry and Robin also came.

Carly's eyes lit up. "Dad! Mom! You're finally here!"

Hayden's and Lucy's faces were filled with emotions. If not for the bodyguards blocking them, they would have already rushed forward to hug Carly.

Lucy looked at Carly with distress. The slap marks on Carly's face were still vivid. Her hair was disheveled, and she looked utterly miserable. The once glamorous ballet dancer and Adam's beloved had never been in such a sorry state.

Lucy's eyes turned red. "Carly, you must have suffered. Don't be scared. We're here. We'll protect you. We won't let anything happen to you."

Carly was restrained by the black-clad bodyguards, unable to move. She looked at Lucy and Hayden with hope. "Dad, Mom, you have to save me. I don't want to go back to that dark room. I can't take it anymore."

Hayden said anxiously, "Alright, Carly, don't worry. You won't have to go back to that dark room."

Celine sneered, "Whether Carly goes

back or not isn't up to you. Right now, you only have one chance to save Carly, and that's to confess your crimes. Whoever killed my father back then, I want their life in return!"

Sonia took a step forward. "Celine, do you really have to go this far? Do we have to fight until we all go down together?"

Tracy added, "Celine, you already have everything you wanted. You're Dr. C, and you're the one Mr. Alvarez was searching for. You've already gotten everything. What more do you want?"

Celine looked coldly at the Tate family members. Even now, they showed no remorse at all. Celine truly couldn't understand how their minds could be so twisted. There was nothing left to say to them.

"In this world, everything is black and white. A murderer must pay with their life. You'd better confess to your crimes."

Sonia snorted. "And if we don't confess, what will you do to us?"

Hailey smirked. "It looks like you people are choosing the hard way out."

Adam's dark, icy eyes swept across their faces indifferently. "I'll do whatever Celine says. This is your only chance to confess. Otherwise, the Tate family will disappear from Mercity entirely. I'll make no one find your corpses."

Sonia's face turned pale. Adam was the wealthiest man in Mercity. He controlled everything here.

The Tate family was powerless against him. Crushing them would be as easy as crushing an ant.

Sonia looked at Adam. "Mr. Alvarez, we don't want to be your enemy, but unfortunately for you, you won't be able to lay a hand on Carly or any of the Tate family members today. Today, every single one of the Tate family members will walk out of here safe and sound!"

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Hailey sneered, "Mrs. Tate Senior, you're really full of yourself. Mr. Alvarez and Celine are both here, and yet you think your Tate family can make it through this unscathed?"

Robin added, "Mrs. Tate Senior, you used to treat Mr. Alvarez as your biggest pillar of support. Now that your backing is gone, you still dare to act so arrogantly?"

Sonia smirked. "If you don't believe me, then go ahead and try!"

Celine looked at the Tate family members, a flicker of emotion flashing in her cold, clear eyes. She knew the Tate family too well. Sonia's attitude right now seemed like she was still holding something up her sleeve.

Adam glanced at them, then waved his hand. "Take them all down!"

His black-clad bodyguards immediately stepped forward, ready to seize Sonia.

Sonia turned to Hayden anxiously. "Hayden, isn't that big shot here yet?"
Big shot?

Celine's eyes flickered. Could it be that the influential figure from the Capitol was actually someone the Tate family had called in?

Hayden glanced at his watch. "He should be arriving soon."

Lucy smiled at Celine. "Celine, you thought of everything, but I bet you didn't expect that we still have our trump card!"

Celine narrowed her eyes. "What trump card?"

Lucy didn't answer.

At that moment, the sound of roaring engines echoed in the air as one limousine after another sped onto the scene before coming to a slow stop.

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A light drizzle fell from the sky. Many black-suited bodyguards stepped out of the limousines, standing respectfully on either side. Then, a butler holding a black umbrella positioned himself by the car bowing slightly.

"Sir, we've arrived. This is the place."

The rear door opened, revealing a tall, imposing figure.

The man appeared to be in his 40s, and he was dressed in a custom-made black overcoat. His face was strikingly handsome, with deep, Chiseled features. Time had only refined his temperament, giving him an overwhelming presence.

He carried himself like a king descending upon his domain.

Adam's eyes darkened as he looked at the man and murmured under his breath, "Nigel?"

Perry stepped closer to Celine, his voice filled with shock. "That's Nigel Hampton, the world's richest man and the powerhouse from the Capitol No wonder the airport and roads were locked down today. But why would a figure like him suddenly show up in Mercity?"

Celine's clear gaze landed on Nigel. She had certainly heard of this legendary figure, but this was her first time seeing him in person.

Nigel had faded from the public eye years ago, becoming a ghost even the media couldn't capture. He was an untouchable mystery. Why had he suddenly appeared in Mercity now?

With the butler holding the umbrella, Nigel strode forward at a steady, deliberate pace, his presence suffocating the air around him. He lifted his gaze, sweeping it across the crowd.

Sonia's face lit up with joy. "Mr. Hampton, you're finally here! Welcome to Mercity." Hayden stepped up. "Mr. Hampton, hello. I was the one who called you."

Nigel turned to look at Hayden. "Where's my daughter?"

Where was his daughter?

That single sentence sent shockwaves rippling through the air.

For years, the world's richest man, Nigel, had retreated from the public eye for one reason. And that reason was no secret. He had been searching for his long- lost daughter.

Despite years of searching, the billionaire's daughter had never been found. There wasn't a single trace of her.

And now, Nigel was here, asking where his daughter was.

Hailey gasped in shock. "Oh my gosh, could the billionaire's daughter be here with us?"

Robin was equally stunned. "She's been around us this whole time?"

Hayden looked at Nigel. "Mr. Hampton, your daughter is right here."

Nigel's eyes narrowed. "Where?"

Hayden raised his hand and pointed right at Carly. "Mr. Hampton, Carly is your biological daughter!"

Carly froze in place, completely caught off guard. No one had ever told her this. Nigel slowly turned, his gaze locking on her.

Carly felt her heartbeat racing, pounding so hard it was out of control. Everything was spinning. Her mind couldn't process what she had just heard.

Did this mean she was Nigel's biological daughter? No way!

Carly was still being restrained by two black-suited bodyguards when Nigel's expression shifted. With a simple glance, his men stepped forward and swiftly took down the guards holding Carly in place.

Carly stood there, frozen in shock. She turned to Hayden, her eyes filled with confusion. "Dad, what is the meaning of this?"

Hayden walked up to her. "Carly, I never told you the truth about your past. You're not my biological daughter. Years ago, I brought you back from the Capitol. You're Nigel Hampton's daughter."

"What?"

Hearing those words come from Hayden's mouth, Carly gasped.

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Lucy stepped forward, her face lighting up with excitement. She was thrilled beyond belief that this moment had finally arrived. "Carly, why are you just standing there?"

This man is your real father!"

Carly turned to look at Nigel, and Nigel looked back at her. Their eyes met.

Then, Nigel turned his gaze to Hayden. "Do you have proof?"

Hayden nodded. "I do."

He pulled out a hairpin. It was an intricate emerald hairpin, clearly worth a fortune at first glance.

The moment Nigel saw it, a wave of emotion flickered through his deep-set eyes.

Hayden continued, "This was left for Carly by her mother when she was born. I've been keeping it all these years. Her mother told me that as long as I presented this hairpin, you would know who Carly was."

Nigel reached out and took the hairpin.

It was cold to the touch, but as soon as the emerald came into contact with his skin, it carried a faint warmth. It was smooth and delicate, something truly precious.

His fingers slowly traced over the intricate patterns of the hairpin as if he were handling a priceless treasure.

Carly was still in shock. "So, I really am..."

Sonia beamed. "Yes, Carly, you are. You're a billionaire's daughter."

Tracy added, "Carly, you've been a lost princess all this time. Now, your father has finally found you."

Just when Carly thought she had hit rock bottom, fate took an unexpected turn.

At her darkest moment, she had

been thrown straight to the top again. Never, in her wildest dreams, had she imagined she'd come from an unbelievably powerful background like this.

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The world's richest man, Nigel, was Carly's father.

Carly couldn't stop smiling. She was so happy.

Nigel looked at Carly and opened his arms. "Carly, come here. Let me give you a hug."

Carly immediately rushed forward and wrapped her arms around him. "Dad, why did it take you so long to find me? I'm all grown up now. Why did you only show up now?"

Holding Carly in his arms, Nigel gently patted her back. "I'm sorry, Carly. I've been searching for you all these years. I've flown to countless countries and visited so many cities. I've never stopped looking for you."

She beamed. "Dad, I never want to be apart from you again. I want to stay with you forever."

He stroked her hair. "I'll take good care of you, Carly."

As this long-lost father and daughter reunited, Celine frowned slightly. She hadn't expected Carly to suddenly turn out to be someone as important as the beloved daughter of Nigel Hampton.

Who would've seen this coming?

Nigel finally let go of Carly, and she immediately clung to his arm. Smirking, she turned to Celine. "Dad, let's go home. I want to leave."

He nodded. "Alright, come with me."

He was ready to take Carly away.

But just then, a crisp, cold voice rang out from behind them. "Stop right there."

Nigel halted mid-step and slowly turned around. His gaze landed on Celine.

The moment he saw her delicate, strikingly beautiful face, he froze for a second. He didn't know why, but something about her stirred an inexplicable emotion inside him.

Carly smiled smugly. "Celine, I've found my father. He's the richest man in the world. Shouldn't you be happy for me?"

She wanted to burst into laughter. Now that she had the most powerful father backing her, she wanted to see who would mess with her.

Celine? Not a chance. Adam? That wasn't happening either.

Celine's clear, sharp eyes locked on Nigel. "Mr. Hampton, Carly and I have unfinished business. Until that's settled, I won't let her leave."

Carly immediately clung to Nigel's arm, pouting. "Dad, it's her! Celine! She's always bullying me. Dad, look at my injuries and the slap marks on my face. She's the reason for all of them. She's cruel and heartless."

Nigel's eyes darkened when he noticed the bruises all over Carly's body. His gaze turned ice-cold as he looked at Celine. "You did this to my daughter, and I haven't even gone after you for that. Yet now, you're sending yourself up to my front door?"

His lips curled up slightly. "Carly is my daughter now. Do you think you can lay a finger on her?"

Celine took a step forward, but before she could move any closer, Adam's tall, imposing figure stepped in front of her, blocking her path.

Adam looked directly at Nigel. "Mr. Hampton."

Nigel nodded. "Adam, you've grown a lot. I met your father just a few days ago. He mentioned that you should return to the Capitol soon."

The Alvarez family had deep roots in the Capitol. The Hampton family and the Alvarez family were both among the Capitol's four most powerful families.

Adam remained calm. "Mr. Hampton, I have no plans to return to the Capitol for now."

Nigel's gaze didn't waver. "Your father also brought up the marriage agreement between our families."

Hailey's eyes widened. "What marriage agreement?"

Nigel looked at Adam. "The Hampton and Alvarez families made an arrangement long ago. If one family had a son and the other had a daughter, they would be betrothed to each other. The engagement was put on hold because I couldn't find Carly. But now that she's here, it's time to bring the marriage agreement back on the table."

The Hampton and Alvarez families had a longstanding engagement. Carly was now the treasured daughter of the Hampton family. On the other hand, Adam, as the sole heir of the Alvarez family, was bound by this marriage agreement.

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This was the first time Celine had ever heard about the engagement. She stared at Adam in shock. She never imagined that Adam's and Carly's connection had been set in motion from the moment they were born.

Hailey, on the other hand, already knew about it. But Nigel's only daughter had been missing for 20 years, completely vanishing without a trace. Everyone had assumed she was long gone.

Who would've thought that Carly was that missing daughter?

Robin let out a sigh. They had been this close to finally bringing Carly and the rest of the Tate family to justice today. That was until this shocking twist about Carly's identity changed everything.

Adam pressed his lips into a thin line, his voice low and detached. "Mr. Hampton, that engagement was arranged by our elders. But in today's world, marriage is a personal choice. That agreement doesn't hold any weight."

Nigel's expression remained unreadable. He was a man who never showed his emotions easily. He chuckled slightly. "Adam, are you saying you don't want to marry my daughter?"

Adam glanced at Carly, who was standing beside Nigel. "That's right. I won't marry her."

Carly's hands clenched into fists at her sides. She shot Celine a venomous glare.

Carly didn't hate Adam; she only hated Celine. If it weren't for Celine, none of this would be happening!

Nigel remained composed, his gaze flicking toward Celine. "Then, who do you want to marry? The woman standing behind you?"

Adam stood tall, shielding Celine behind him. He opened his mouth to speak, but before he could, Celine stepped forward on her own. Her voice was clear and calm.

"Mr. Hampton, we're talking about the crimes your daughter has committed, not your family's engagement deal."

Nigel studied Celine closely. She and Carly were about the same age. They were both still young. Typically, women this age wouldn't even dare to meet his gaze.

However, Celine's sharp, bright eyes met his directly in a fearless and steady manner. She was different.

He didn't know why, but from the very first moment he saw her, he felt a strange pull toward her.

Nigel narrowed his eyes. "Do you even know who I am?"

Celine nodded. "I do. But just because Carly is your daughter, does that mean she gets to do whatever she wants?"

She stepped forward. "Mr. Hampton, since you and Carly have been apart for so many years, allow me to

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properly introduce you to your daughter. Carly is spoiled and selfish, manipulative to the core. She stole someone else's identity and lied without hesitation just to chase after luxury. She's also ruthless, completely indifferent to human life!"

Nigel frowned. He turned to look at Carly beside him.

Carly's face went pale. She instantly protested, "Dad, don't listen to Celine's nonsense!"

Sonia quickly jumped in. "That's right, Mr. Hampton! Celine and Carly have always been enemies. She's just trying to ruin Carly's reputation."

Celine let out a cold laugh. "And the Tate family is no better. They're all the same, stepping over dead bodies to climb higher. Their hands are stained with blood!"

Her gaze shifted to her father's grave. His photo was engraved on the tombstone, and he was kindly smiling back at her. "They murdered my father, and a murderer must pay with their life. I won't let any of them go-including your daughter, Carly!"

Nigel didn't say a word, but the atmosphere around him shifted. His presence alone carried an unspoken authority that weighed down on everyone.

Lucy immediately spoke up. "Mr. Hampton, don't listen to Celine's accusations. She's biased against us."

Hailey scoffed. "At this point, you're still trying to deny it? Mr. Hampton, you just reunited with your daughter. You should take some time to actually understand what kind of person she really is."

Lucy sensed the situation turning against them and quickly tugged at Hayden's sleeve.

Hayden stepped forward, lowering his voice. "Mr. Hampton, Carly has been separated from you for so long. If there's anything to discuss, let's talk after you take her home."

Nigel hesitated slightly, then turned to Carly. "Let's go home."

She beamed. "Okay."

With that, he led her away.

However, Celine stepped forward. "You're not leaving—"