



Just an Apology

"I was just trying to be considerate, Lucas," Samantha said embarrassedly. "I'm concerned about you just as I would for my children."

"Did I ask for your concern?" Lucas shot back. "Besides, I'm afraid that the woman you chose will be as cheap as you."

Elena silently gave Lucas a thumbs-up.

For too long, Samantha had been strutting around like a proud peacock, exerting control over the lives of those around her.

And as her daughter-in-law, Elena had the worst.

But she never expected Lucas to humble her with just a sentence.

Tears immediately brimmed in Samantha's eyes as she appeared to be hurt by his words.

"I know that you don't like us and think that I've caused your parent's separation but I never meant any of this to happen," she protested weakly. "And I may not be your biological mother, but I have always considered you like my own."

"Do you think you're worthy?"

"Watch your words, Lucas. This is not how you speak to your mother," Thomas cleared his throat in a warning.

"I'm sorry, but she died long ago," Lucas enunciated slowly.

The dining hall fell into an eerie silence following Lucas' words.



Clang!

Andrew stood up, glaring daggers at Lucas as he prepared to unleash his fury.

But before he could retaliate, Lucas rose from his seat.

"I'm full," he announced and strode out of the dining hall.

Elena's gaze lingered on the untouched food sitting cold on his plate and then on Lucas' retreating figure.

She wondered what kind of pain and betrayal was buried inside him, for him to hate them to the very core of his being.

However, that was none of her concern.

With a heavy sigh, she pushed back her chair and rose to her feet. "Grandpa, I have something to tell you."

The members of the Elliot family all looked at Elena in unison.

"What's so urgent that you cannot wait?" Samantha was angry after being humiliated by Lucas and hence vented at Elena.

"It is very urgent," Elena emphasized.

Andrew had a bad premonition.

He glared at Elena and threatened her to keep her mouth shut but Elena ignored him.

"Grandfather, I've... I've caught Andrew having an affair." She announced, her voice choking with the hurt. "I want a divorce."



Andrew immediately objected. "I don't agree."

"Andrew, we've been married for two years but the number of times you've returned home can be counted on one hand. All these years, I've never received anything from you while you keep squandering money every day. Even the wedding ring you wear was given to you by me. And if that wasn't enough, I still have to pay for the living expenses at home. All for what? Only to catch my husband cheating? Since we're already in this state is there a need for such a marriage to persist?"

Andrew's face turned ugly.

He never expected the usually sensible Elena to expose his dirty affairs in front of everyone.

Thomas furrowed his brows and turned his gaze towards Andrew. "Is what Elena said true?"

Andrew moved uncomfortably in his seat.

For a moment, he considered denying it but he knew it was impossible to hide anything from his grandfather.

"It was an accident, Grandpa," Andrew admitted unwillingly.

"An accident?" Elena looked at him incredulously, her eyes blazing with anger. "Two years of infidelity is not an accident, Andrew. It's a choice."

Samantha stood up and pointed at Elena angrily. "It's a crucial period for Andrew's career, Elena. How could you be so selfish? Do you know about the impact it would cause him and the entire family if this scandal is publicized?"

"He should've thought about it when he was fooling around."



"Apologize to your wife, Andrew." Thomas finally interjected. "And henceforth, make sure that you don't do anything to let her down again. Is that all right, Elena?"

In reality, Thomas had no intention of berating Andrew.

But as the head of the house, he needed to be the 'peacemaker'.

"Just an apology?" Elena's eyes widened in disbelief as she processed his words. "After everything he's done?"

"Everyone makes mistakes, Elena. I believe you would not want to destroy your lifetime of happiness because of an accident. Give him a chance to repent."

Elena's jaw clenched as she struggled to stop herself from trembling in fury. "Happiness? What about the pain he's caused me?"

Seeing things get out of hand, Samantha gave Andrew a look.

Andrew reached out and placed his hand on Elena's arm. "I'm sorry Elena. I know I've made a terrible mistake but please give me another chance. You can trust me on this that I'd never do anything to hurt you again." he pleaded.

But Elena flung his hand away. "I don't need your apology. And I won't be made to feel guilty for wanting out of this marriage." she declared.

With that, Elena turned and walked away.

"Dad, we can't afford any scandals right now," Samantha looked at Thomas with a hint of urgency. "Andrew's career is on the line. We need to handle this situation carefully."



Thomas sneered. "Shouldn't you remind this to your son about this? Is it that difficult to hide your affairs? And you," he turned towards Andrew, "Why do you have to follow in your dad's footsteps and make a mess everywhere?"

Both Andrew and Samantha lowered their heads ashamedly.

But they knew this was not the time to regret.

"I'm sorry, Grandpa. I was careless and let it slip." Andrew apologized.

"What's done cannot be undone. Correct your attitude towards your wife until this matter is settled. Jenkins, call Elena to my study."

Before Elena could walk upstairs, she was summoned into the study.

Thomas's demeanor was serious as he turned to face Elena.

"I might not be capable of understanding the pain you're experiencing, but I want you to take a look at the bigger picture." Thomas began, his voice firm. "You have to remember that you're not just Andrew's wife but the young mistress of the Elliot family. I've built this empire singlehandedly and would not tolerate anyone pointing their fingers at it. Hence, I'll give you two options."

"One is to stay in the marriage and I'll make sure that he gives you a monthly allowance of ten thousand dollars."

"Or option two," Thomas continued, "You can proceed with the divorce but if you think you can receive alimony by doing so, then that's your wishful thinking. You can get a divorce only if you silently walk away from the marriage, empty-handed."

Elena's face turned extremely ugly upon hearing the conditions. "Ten



thousand dollars? Are you dismissing a beggar?"

"From the way I see it, it's good enough that you're receiving allowance given your lack of contribution to the family?" Thomas said, matter-of-factly.

Lack of contribution?

Elena wanted to ask him if he knew that she was the one who'd stay awake at night and prepare the presentations for Andrew.

She was the one to create the proposals because that dumb head was never cut out for business.

It was she, who gave Andrew the chance to sit in the director's position that he was so proud of.

Was this not enough?

But before she voiced the truth, Thomas threatened her with a stern warning. "I don't care about your grievances, Elena, but let this be clear in your head. Regardless of your decision, you must not do anything that would tarnish the reputation of this family. Or else the consequences would not be something a little girl like you could imagine."

With a pale face, Elena emerged from the study.

Divorce was supposed to bring relief from a marriage that had become a cage for her. But instead, it had become a web of complexities she hadn't anticipated.

As she turned the corner, her eyes caught sight of a figure at the end of the hallway.

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Elena's breathing hitched and her heart trembled when she saw who it was.

Lucas Evans.

A name that had now become a nightmare she wished she could forget.

There he stood, casually leaning against the wall, playing with a lighter between his fingers.

Instinctively, Elena turned around, wanting to escape.

"One more step and see if I don't screw you in front of your husband."

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