

Chapter 19 Chris' Concern For Kimberly

Kimberly's eyes dulled slightly, but she wasn't entirely taken aback. Beneath the quilt, her hand instinctively tightened around the sheet.

So it had come to this... Had Declan already taken action against her? They hadn't even been married a full year! Declan... He was truly merciless!

Kimberly suddenly wished the kicks she had delivered to him in the Howard family parking lot the previous night had been more forceful. If only she had known...

"How could this be? Ms. Holden has always been healthy, seldom sick since she was a child! Dr. Braxton, is it possible there's been a mistake in your diagnosis?" Maggie was the first to respond, her shock evident as she looked at Rocco and voiced her doubts.

Caught off guard by the question, Rocco's brow furrowed. Being a doctor, he couldn't help but feel slightly annoyed by the challenge.

Before Rocco could reply, a low, stern voice filled the room. "His diagnosis is correct."

"But..." Maggie paused, turning to look at Chris.

"There are no buts," Chris said decisively. His handsome face was serious as he stood tall and took a step forward. In a deep voice, he asked, "So, what exactly is Ms. Holden suffering from?"

Rocco tucked away his handkerchief, his eyes scanning the three people in the room before settling on Kimberly's stoic face. He raised an eyebrow, his tone curious. "Ms. Holden, you don't seem surprised. Did you already know you were..."

Kimberly knitted her brows, cutting Rocco off before he could finish, her smile faint. "I know my own body well. It's just a cold and a fever, Dr. Braxton. There's no need for alarm."



Rocco's eyes narrowed slightly, he was about to explain, "This isn't just a simple fever..."

"Maggie!" Kimberly interjected, her tone soft as she turned to Maggie. "Isn't there soup on the stove in the kitchen? I think I smell something burning."

Maggie paused and sniffed the air. "I don't smell anything burning, Ms. Holden. Are you sure?"

"I'm fine. Please go check the kitchen. It's just a cold from the rain. Why is everyone making such a fuss? I'm really fine."

Hearing Kimberly's words, Maggie hesitated for a moment. Perhaps it was Kimberly's earnest expression that persuaded her not to worry too much.

"Go ahead with the check-up then. I'll start on breakfast."

"Alright."

Kimberly kept up her gentle smile until Maggie had left the room. As the sound of Maggie's footsteps faded down the hallway, Kimberly let out a relieved sigh and was about to speak to Chris when he gave her a cold look.

"Ms. Holden, if you're trying to dismiss me, save your efforts. What exactly is the diagnosis?" This question was directed at Rocco.

Kimberly paused, giving Chris a meaningful look. She hadn't expected him to catch on to her diversion, but...

Fortunately, Maggie had already left.

If he wanted to know, she'd let him. After all, Chris had seen Declan and Valerie getting close yesterday.

Rocco glanced at Kimberly, noting that she wasn't going to interrupt him this time, then turned to Chris with a grave expression and said, "Ms. Holden isn't sick. She has been poisoned!"



"Poisoned?" Disbelief crossed Chris's face, which quickly turned serious. "What kind of poison? Is it treatable?"

Rocco frowned, looking somewhat concerned. "It seems to be a chronic poison. As for the type of poison and its effects, that is something Ms. Holden would know herself."

With those words, both men shifted their attention to the woman resting against the headboard. Kimberly stayed as composed as ever as if she had known all along.

"You..." Chris furrowed his brows, his gaze intently fixed on her composed face. "You knew all this time, didn't you?"

Given Kimberly's reactions earlier, it was clear she was aware of her poisoning. What puzzled Chris was her calm attitude!

This left him feeling quite frustrated.

"Yes." At this point, Kimberly saw no reason to keep hiding it, especially since she couldn't hide it any longer. She slowly sat up, glanced at both men, and said calmly, "If that's all, then..."

This was obviously her way of suggesting they should leave.

Kimberly maintained her poise. She couldn't outright ask Chris to leave, but she also didn't need to expose all her difficulties to him.

The fact that Rocco recognized the poison so easily meant it was a common one, something other doctors could also treat.

Chris became visibly upset by her aloof behavior. He stepped closer and asked, "You know who poisoned you, don't you? Who was it?"

Kimberly was momentarily startled, looking at Chris in surprise.

She hadn't anticipated Chris losing his cool simply because she had been poisoned. After all, they weren't even close...

"Kimberly, speak up!"



Kimberly snapped back to reality, a slight frown forming as she looked at him in confusion. "Mr. Howard, my health doesn't seem to have anything to do with you, does it?"

Her response was distant, making it clear she was not ready to disclose who was responsible.

Chris felt his heart tighten, his frustration mounting. He looked at Kimberly intently, took a deep breath, and said softly, "Alright, you don't need to tell me, but you must let Rocco treat you."

Before Kimberly could object, he continued casually, "Ms. Holden, I can't afford a business partner who might be on the brink of death. It's too risky for our agreement. If you want our cooperation to continue, please don't refuse."

Kimberly was initially confused by Chris's intense reaction, but his mention of their business made her see his point.

So, he was afraid she might suddenly drop dead!

That explained his concern. If she were in Chris's position, she would likely feel the same.

After a brief hesitation, Kimberly nodded reluctantly and said, "Alright, I agree."

Chris let out a quiet sigh of relief, his expression still serious as he turned to Rocco. "Is it treatable?"

"Yes."

Rocco gave Chris a meaningful look, feeling somewhat helpless. After knowing Chris for so long, he had never witnessed him lose his composure like this.

Kimberly clearly held a special place in Chris's heart, the woman he deeply cared for. Her impact on him was significant.

Hearing the confirmation, Chris's tension eased. He trusted Rocco, and if Rocco believed the condition was treatable, then it certainly

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was. 📖

"Then please proceed."



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