

The Heiress' Return: Six Brothers at Her Beck and Call

Chapter 1571 Gideon's Evil Scheme

Gideon had invested so much effort in his career, refusing to settle for a humble teacher. While most educators aspired to become principals, his ambition stretched further.

Gideon hadn't chosen the path of an educator to shape the younger generation. To him, it was merely a job.

Gideon believed that only a fool would choose education over the easy route to wealth. While some educators might find success in rural areas, opportunities in big cities were far more limited.

It wasn't that Gideon looked down on the students. Rather, he understood their circumstances all too well. The minimum grades required for admission to local institutions varied significantly for students possessing city identification cards compared to those without.

Besides, students from wealthy families had little reason to work hard. After all, they were set on a path to study abroad. It didn't matter if they failed the examinations as they could always pay for a certificate from overseas.

With enough money, anything was possible. That was the harsh reality of the world.

To pave a brighter path for his son, Gideon needed to secure a position within the Department of Education. Ironically, the school's principal had little faith in the value of education. Though he was an educator, he cared little for the very system he was part of. Yet, that was simply how the world worked. Compared to individuals online earning thousands per month, many children struggled to escape their environments for better opportunities. With people trapped in echo chambers, they might not be open to the truth. Typically, parents with a narrow outlook provided limited opportunities for their children. For instance, parents with a broader understanding would begin preparing their children for admission to institutions and selecting majors as early as high school.

On the other hand, those lacking insight often left their children to navigate alone, sometimes leading them to poor choices.

Even with the same grades, a student's future could be drastically affected by the institution they attended. While some worked tirelessly for a better life, others indulged

in luxuries. Neither lifestyle was inherently wrong, but each shaped the children's destinies.

Yet, through education, some broke free of the constraints-Eliana and Penelope were prime examples. Instead of making empty boasts, they had been genuinely striving to change their lives. For that reason, Wynter was determined not to let their hopes dashed. Both the mastermind and Gideon assumed that someone would come to investigate the school. Their suspicions proved correct, though the investigator wasn't Lucas as they had expected.

Instead, Wynter pulled up to the school gate in her sleek black BMW Tomahawk, appearing rather dashing.

The way her slender legs held up the superbike and her graceful motion in removing her helmet caught the attention of the students, many of whom stared in admiration.

"Who's that? She's so cool!" someone exclaimed.

"No idea, but isn't that Eliana Linden from the top class behind her?" another questioned. "Hey, you're right! I heard she's been chosen as an exchange student. Why is she back? Has she forgotten something?" one wondered aloud.

"Is Eliana one of the exchange students? I'm so jealous!" someone exclaimed.

As Gideon stepped outside, he overheard the students' chatter. Keeping up his gentle facade in front of them, he turned to Wynter and advised, "You can't park your bike here, young lady. It's not good for the school's image."

"That's our principal, Mr. Gideon Valencia," Eliana whispered nervously to Wynter, fearing that her return might lead to her expulsion.

Wynter glanced at Gideon, who met her gaze. During their brief call earlier, Colby hadn't had the chance to mention who had taken Eliana away.

So, Gideon assumed Wynter was just one of Eliana's acquaintances and internally regarded her with disdain.

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In particular, Wynter regarded Gideon with a gaze that seemed to pierce through his facade, which only irritated him further.

With a feigned look of concern, he stepped closer to Eliana and advised, "I've heard about your situation, Ms. Linden. You can take your time to consider, but can you please ask your friend to move her bike? The school isn't a place for some random gangsters to just stroll in.

Just as Eliana was about to refute, Wynter moved to her front with a soft chuckle. "So, are you Mr. Valencia, the principal?"

Before arriving at Mindcrest High School, Wynter had skimmed through Gideon's background. She noted that he rose through the ranks with an impressive portfolio, seemingly devoid of academic fraud.

However, Wolf always had a knack for uncovering what others couldn't. It turned out that Gideon prioritized his son above or else. More importantly, the child was born to another woman.

At Wynter's question, Gideon gave an affirmative nod.

Wynter smiled brighter and continued, "No wonder you looked familiar. I've seen you around. Your son is starting middle school this year, isn't he? Are you planning to send him abroad along with your mistress?"

Gideon was completely stunned before his face flushed red. As it was the after-school rush, many parents were waiting to pick up their children. At that moment, they sensed a juicy piece of gossip and turned their attention toward Gideon.

"I thought Mr. Valencia only has a daughter, and she's already in college! Where did he find a son?" one parent questioned curiously.

"Didn't you hear? He has a mistress," came the reply.

The scandal spread like wildfire among the parents, who watched the scene unfold with amusement.

Upon regaining his composure, Gideon pointed a shaky finger to Wynter and rebuked, "Nonsense! I have no son! Have you mistaken me for someone else?"

"Really? That can't be right. We're all adults here, Mr. Valencia. It's not like it's a secret, so there's no need to hide.

"But I understand your concern as an educator. After all, it won't look good for your reputation if people find out you have an illegitimate child," Wynter replied nonchalantly.

Her words struck a nerve with Gideon. When someone in the crowd started recording, Gideon lowered his finger to preserve his image.

"You've had a proper education, Ms. Linden. Surely, you understand that slandering someone is morally wrong. Your friend is still young, so I won't hold her responsible.

"I don't mind if my reputation takes a hit. I understand that some might doubt my integrity, especially since I've devoted my whole life to education. But you're different, Ms. Linden. How could you let her interfere in your life like this?"

Gideon pressed on indignantly, "You were going to compete for the scholarship, yet she stopped you. What if the money's gone? It's too late for regrets once you lose your spot in the exchange program.

"That's something every student dreams of, but you chose to listen to your friend here and wasted the golden opportunity. I have nothing more to say. All the teachers and students here are rooting for someone's success, you know?"

It seemed that educators had a way with words. Not only was Gideon adept at taking the moral high ground, but his speech also struck a chord with both students and parents alike.

They were convinced that participating in the exchange program and securing a scholarship was akin to having the school fund their tuition abroad. They couldn't understand why Eliana would heed Wynter's advice and give up on such a rare chance.

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Chapter 1573 Gideon's Despair

The crowd gazed at Wynter with a look of condemnation. Their expressions suggested that they believed Eliana was far from innocent.

"What a fool. Giving up on such a rare opportunity." Someone scoffed.

"Maybe she's just clueless. You know she comes from a poor family." Another snickered.

Wynter stood there, listening to the harsh whispers around with a cold glint in her eyes. Maintaining her expression, she gave a soft chuckle.

"Well played, Mr. Valencia. With just a few clever words, you distract the crowd from your misconduct. No need to be anxious. I've prepared a large gift for you."

Wynter looked at the time and added, "They should be arriving soon. Oh, right, I forgot to introduce myself. I'm from the Quinnell family."

"I have no interest in knowing your name." Gideon snorted disdainfully. Consumed by rage, he had completely forgotten about the recent turmoil in Hawford.

Wynter hummed as she hung her helmet on the superbike. "I thought you'd keep an eye on Mr. Kenton, considering your close ties. It seems like I've been mistaken."

Gideon instinctively distanced himself from Kenton. "I gave you a chance, young lady, but you refuse to cease your slander. As educators, we are not acquainted with those businessmen!

"I don't have time to listen to your nonsense. This is a school, not your home. Where are the guards? Get her to leave. She's blocking the students from going home!"

The crowd was convinced by Gideon's righteous demeanor. On top of that, they saw Eliana's return from her trip to the exchange program as a squandered opportunity, leaving them unable to empathize with her.

Eliana had never intended to drag Wynter into her troubles. Knowing that the security guards were armed with stun batons, she persuaded Wynter to leave the scene.

But Wynter remained still, fiddling with the lucky tokens hung around her waist. Her gaze drifted into the distance, and she suddenly showed a smirk. "Look, here they are."

Before Gideon could react, he was hugged around the waist by a child. The child exclaimed, " You really bought it for me, Dad! I'm so happy! You really are the best!"

Gideon froze at the affectionate form of address. Turning around, he saw his young and beautiful wife gently beaming at him. She asked, "Why didn't you tell us sooner if you were planning a surprise, darling?"

Gideon was utterly stunned. He adjusted his glasses and attempted to refute, but Wynter beat him to it. "Is this your wife, Mr. Valencia? She looks so young."

Obviously, that woman wasn't Gideon's wife. His wife worked as an educator as well, a fact that several parents knew about. At that moment, the relentless gossip drowned out the passing cars' blaring horns.

Humans had an innate curiosity for juicy gossip. While most students typically rushed home at that hour, none had left the gate. Instead, they remained unfazed by the traffic as they watched the drama unfold with interest.

"Oh my god, Mr. Valencia really does have a son! Did you hear what that woman called him? She actually called him her darling!" someone exclaimed.

"Given her looks, she's probably about 20 years younger than Mr. Valencia. I never expected him to be that kind of person," another added.

To both students and parents, Gideon had always appeared to be a humble educator. On top of that, he often showed respect for his wife in public. It was those qualities that partly encouraged the parents to enroll their children in Mindcrest High School.

But after witnessing Gideon's true colors, the parents started to question the school's integrity.

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Chapter 1574 It's Over for Him

The parents exchanged glances, with some even frowning in disapproval. Gideon couldn't fathom why his young wife, Abigail Mueller, had shown up. Her presence was a looming threat to his career.

Gideon toned down his voice so only Abigail could hear. "What are you doing here? Go back immediately!" he urged.

He then straightened up and stated loudly, "You're mistaken, madam. Please take your child away."

Clad in elegance, Abigail quickly realized there had been a misunderstanding. Normally, she would never make an appearance in front of a crowd of parents.

Gideon had warned her not to jeopardize his career if she wanted a better life. But he was the one who had messaged her, asking her to come with their son, Tommy Valencia!

Still, Abigail was sharp-witted. Upon realizing that something was amiss, she yanked Tommy's hand away from Gideon and attempted to leave.

Despite being in eighth grade, Tommy had been a spoiled child. He refused to leave without getting what he wanted. "Why are you pretending to be a stranger, Dad? Is it because of that old hag? Didn't you promise to divorce her soon?"

The murmurs in the crowd grew louder. Deeply embarrassed by Tommy's outburst, Gideon gave him a hard slap in the moment of panic. The sharp sound echoed in the air.

Gideon's desperate attempt to assert his innocence only fueled Tommy's outrage. "You hit me! Mom, Dad actually hit me! But I said nothing wrong!"

Gideon felt his face flush from embarrassment, realizing it was pointless to justify himself. Never in his wildest dream did he expect Tommy to act so foolish. This child wasn't like him at all!

Gideon's anguished gaze locked with Wynter's casual one. Throughout the farce, she leaned against her BMW Tomahawk with her arms crossed. She stood tall and imposing, though her striking beauty felt out of place in the unfolding drama.

It was clear that Wynter was behind all of this. After discovering Gideon's affair, she asked Wolf to send Abigail a message using Gideon's second WhatsApp number. The message was crafted to tug at Abigail's and Tommy's heartstrings.

Tommy had been craving a new phone, while Abigail sought to take the throne of Gideon's legitimate wife, Natalia Zaretsky. It was no surprise they had frequently challenged Natalia online.

According to Wynter's investigation, Abigail had once been Natalia's student when she worked as a home tutor.

The two hailed from the same town, and Abigail would never have settled in Hawford if it weren't for Natalia. Yet, Abigail repaid the kindness by ruining Natalia's family.

In such situations, Wynter was determined to hold those in the wrong accountable.

Since Abigail tried to challenge Natalia while remaining anonymous, Wynter ensured she would have to reveal herself in public. As for Gideon, who boasted of virtue and integrity, Wynter would expose the truth behind his facade.

Gideon wished to put an end to the farce quickly, hoping for a chance at redemption. Before he could utter a word, a cold voice cut through the crowd. "So, you're the one who sent me those pictures."

It was Natalia, striding over with a handbag in hand. "I took care of you when you first arrived at Hawford. I treated you like my own daughter and protected you because you were my student.

"But now, it seems I've been a fool to show kindness to an ingrate. And I was blind to choose such a man as my husband."

Gideon's face paled instantly. At that point, all he could think about was that he was doomed.

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Chapter 1575 Divorce

Natalia's arrival only solidified Gideon's misconduct, shattering his image as a humble educator. Nothing could be more convincing than having his legitimate wife publicly testify against him.

The situation escalated further due to Natalia's presence. All the parents had been eagerly snapping photos or recording the scene. What started as mere Instagram posts quickly spiraled into a widespread online spectacle.

Abigail tried to shield her humiliated face as Gideon bellowed at the parents. He pleaded with the parents to stop taking photos, insisting it was a private family matter that had been misunderstood.

Unfortunately, the crowd paid no heed to his pleas. People were naturally drawn to juicy gossip. At that point, no one believed it was simply a misunderstanding.

That said, Natalia hadn't shown up by chance. It turned out Abigail wasn't the only one who had received the message.

Wynter was well aware of Natalia's circumstances, recognizing her as a dedicated teacher. Wynter believed there was no reason for Natalia to be ridiculed.

On the other hand, Natalia had realized someone was aiding her. Her gaze inadvertently fell onto Wynter, who stood dashing beside her superbike. She took a moment to study Wynter before taking a deep breath.

In truth, Natalia had only recently discovered Gideon's unusualness. For years, she had devoted herself to teaching and hoped that the students could achieve excellent results, particularly those who relied on education to thrive. That compassion had extended to Abigail.

However, Natalia never imagined Abigail to be the one ruining her family. She had been receiving provocative messages for some time and could no longer tolerate it—she was ready to confront Gideon.

An hour ago, Natalia received a message claiming to have evidence of Gideon's misconduct. The sender even offered to help her uncover the homewrecker. After much thought, she decided to follow her heart and came to the scene after school.

The last message she received read, "Don't you want to see the cheater's and homewrecker's downfall, Ms. Zaretsky?"

Throughout the years, Gideon had never stopped belittling her. In truth, they were once rivals during the evaluation for the best teacher. However, she now learned that Gideon won through underhanded means.

Despite being the school principal, Gideon constantly undermined Natalia. He rebuked her for focusing on poor students, unable to understand why she cared about those without influence or status.

He belittled her knowledge, insisting she knew little beyond teaching math. He even scorned her for not dressing up and socializing, treating her as an embarrassment.

Although Natalia was wounded by Gideon's betrayal, she couldn't afford to have a breakdown as she was responsible for the senior students. Still, she couldn't shake the distress at night. Her hair even began to fall out as Abigail continued to send her provocative messages.

When Natalia finally saw the sources of her anguish confronted and surrounded, she felt a wave of satisfaction.

Those two should've faced the condemnation long ago, yet no one believed that Gideon would cheat on her. After all, she had a family that everyone envied.

Gideon had always portrayed himself as gentle and humble. In contrast, Natalia often came across as short-tempered and frequently lashed out at him.

Amidst the chaos, Natalia finally realized there were no bounds to Gideon's maliciousness. She felt no need for hesitation. "Let's head to the courthouse tomorrow, Gideon. It's time for a divorce."

Although Giden had sensed something was off with Natalia lately, he merely gave her the cold shoulder.

He secretly hoped that she would initiate the discussion about the divorce. In truth, he held her in contempt for her inability to advance his career and for not bearing him a son.

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Chapter 1576 The Best Teacher

Gideon never imagined facing a divorce under such circumstances. Taking a step forward, he grabbed Natalia's hand and attempted to explain.

At that moment, Tommy shouted fiercely, "You should've divorced my dad a long time ago! You have no idea how much my parents love each other. The only reason an old hag like you holds onto him is because he's the principal!"

His words stirred up a flurry of discussions among the crowd.

"Children tend to imitate what they hear from adults. I reckon this is what his family teaches him. How shocking!" someone chided.

"What kind of values do you expect a homewrecker to instill in her child?" Another snickered.

Puzzled by the surrounding criticisms of his parents, Tommy refuted indignantly, "The one spurned is the loser in a relationship! That old hag isn't even as pretty as my mom! She looks older than my dad! What right does she have to hold onto him?"

The crowd was utterly confounded by his response. As Eliana held Natalia's hand, she had never imagined the life of their favorite teacher would take such a turn.

More students began to gather, especially the seniors. While they had come to witness the drama, they overheard Tommy's insults toward Natalia, their homeroom teacher.

A few male students couldn't help retorting, "Did your mom never teach you to respect your teachers? Or was it your dad who failed to show you how?"

As they spoke, the students stepped protectively in front of Natalia. They knew which teacher had truly cared for them and taught with sincerity.

Natalia had poured her heart into teaching math, hoping to help the students score well on the examination next summer. Her hard work had taken a toll on her appearance, making her seem more haggard than her peers.

Because of that, the students never expected her looks to be subjected to such derisions.

When Tommy saw the athletic students rally before him, he felt a sense of fear. "Can't you keep them in line, Dad?"

But Gideon only wished to bury himself in the ground, as the one he needed to rein the most was Tommy.

The male students didn't hesitate to challenge Tommy. "Yeah, tell your dad to handle us! I can't stand homewreckers. Let's see what excuse your dad has for keeping us in check!"

Gideon was too embarrassed to intervene. To make matters worse, there was no way to escape the crowd.

With no other choice, he turned to Natalia and started pleading, "Please hear me out, honey. I never wanted a divorce. That woman seduced me!"

He explained, pointing a furious finger at Abigail. "I never expected a drunken mistake to lead to this. She even hid her pregnancy! When I realized I'd been tricked, it was all too late.

"But the child is innocent, so I can't just abandon him. I never imagined she would raise him like this. He's just like his mother—a despicable wretch!"

Gideon had never spewed such unpleasant curses to maintain his image. Yet, he could no longer care about how he sounded in a desperate attempt to save himself.

After being slapped and rebuked, Tommy could hardly recognize Gideon as his father. "You weren't like this, Dad! This isn't you!"

"Shut your mouth!" Gideon roared, nearly losing his mind as his eyes filled with anxious rage.

Despite Abigail's attempts to silence Tommy, she failed to stop his outburst. Tommy only wailed louder in defiance.

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Chapter 1577 No Forgiveness for Cheaters

Abigail was bewildered when she first arrived at the scene. For years, she had always maintained the upper hand. She was confident that the old and ugly Natalia stood no chance against her and would soon surrender her place as Gideon's wife.

Knowing Natalia's notorious temper, Abigail had planned to provoke her into a fallout. She intended to paint Natalia as an incompetent wife who failed to keep her husband in line and as a grouchy woman lacking an educator's qualities.

Wynter was aware that Abigail's harassment had pushed Natalia into emotional turbulence. That was why Wynter chose to confront the issue in such a way.

Women often faced greater challenges than men. If a woman had expressed her pain over a failed marriage, people would judge her as unstable. They would even mock her attempts to confront the homewrecker, claiming such actions were pointless and humiliating.

How ridiculous. Why should a woman pardon her cheating husband and the homewrecker? It was only fair to confront the homewrecker for her indecency.

Unfortunately, public opinion was skewed and filled with absurd remarks. The most classic saying criticized women for clinging to their partners after the love had faded, mocking the women's incompetence to keep their partners.

In the eyes of many, the one spurned was the loser in the relationship. Agreeing with the saying, Abigail intended to taunt Natalia and turn her into a figure of ridicule.

A closer look at society revealed that the public often overlooked those involved in adultery. Meanwhile, the woman was expected to move on with her life by friends and family. If she struggled to find happiness over time, she would be blamed for her perceived failure.

Wynter was determined to save Natalia from such injustice. Natalia had proven herself as a dedicated educator and deserved to be honored for her efforts!

"I understand your worries, Mr. Valencia, but there's no need to be anxious. I'd like to have a chat with Ms. Zaretsky," Wynter said as she took a step forward, though her words were infuriating as ever.

Upon hearing Wynter address her by her maiden name, Natalia looked up and met Wynter's gaze. In that fleeting moment, an unspoken understanding passed between the two. Natalia took Wynter's hand, her voice trembling as she expressed her gratitude.

Wynter chuckled softly. "This is just the beginning, Ms. Zaretsky. I understand you're usually busy with classes, but the divorce mustn't be taken lightly.

"Under certain circumstances, you have the legal right to demand that the guilty party leave the marriage without splitting any assets. As for the adultress, you can seek compensation for the loss of marital property from her.

"My family has a strong legal team, and my brother specializes in divorce property division.

He recently won a case for my uncle. I'm sure you've heard about the situation with Noah Whitman."

The crowd instantly fell silent at the mention of Noah. Everyone in Hawford knew about the tumultuous divorce between the Whitman and Montclair families. The incident had hit the headlines multiple times, along with the Montclairs' outrageous antics.

The crowd was thinking how unfortunate Noah was to have to experience such turmoil, but then they focused on the fact that Wynter referred to him as her uncle.

"Oh my god, you're Wynter Quinnell! The one who acquired that lucrative land!" Someone gasped.

"Is she the one who helped the local canneries get back on their feet? She doesn't seem like the type for business! So beautiful and charming! You're amazing, Ms. Quinnell!" another chimed in.

The students erupted into excited chatter, all faces lighting up with smiles.

Wynter hadn't expected such a response. She had purposely revealed her identity to unsettle Gideon, hoping that he would then reach out to his superior. Of course, she also intended to throw Abigail off balance.

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Chapter 1578 The Approaching Danger

In his moment of fluster, Gideon had completely missed Wynter's name. When he finally pieced it together, his face turned pale as his lips quivered. It dawned on him that Wynter was part of the Quinnell family from Kingbourne.

He attempted to explain but quickly realized that it would be futile. Meanwhile, Abigail was gripped by fear at Wynter's mention of seeking compensation for the marital property.

Instinctively, she turned to Gideon and asked, "She's lying, isn't she, Gideon?"

All Gideon could feel was despair. Drenched in a cold sweat, he could hardly foresee the disaster that befell him.

A shrewd woman, Abigail quickly recognized whom to approach for help in her predicament. She grabbed Natalia's hand and pleaded, "I never intended for any of this, Ms. Zaretsky. Do you truly believe that I seduced that man? I-I just didn't know what to do.

"You provided me with financial support and helped me settle in Hawford. That's why I didn't tell you about the harm he did to me..."

"You bitch! You were the one who seduced me!" Gideon roared, feeling his heart ache with anger.

With an aggrieved expression, Abigail sobbed. "I was too young to realize my mistake, Ms. Zaretsky. I didn't know how to deal with the harassment, nor did I have a choice..."

Natalia gazed at her coolly. As a math teacher, she possessed strong logical reasoning. "You sent me those provocative messages, so you'd better drop the act.

"For youngsters without influential backgrounds, receiving an education is a difficult endeavor, especially for female students. Indeed, they may face all kinds of harassment before they're equipped to protect themselves.

"Every word spewed by someone like you only ruins their chances of seeking help in the future. One's innocence is no trivial matter. Both you and Gideon are nothing but trash."

Glancing at Wynter, Natalia continued, "I'll take Ms. Quinnell's advice and seek compensation for marital property. I won't let you or Gideon get away easily. Since you desire to become his wife, you can take the position after paying your debts. I'm done with this marriage."

The crowd cheered in support of Natalia's decision, a stark contrast to their earlier amusements at the farce. The young students carried their own sense of righteousness. They stood by their teacher's side and were determined to uphold what was right.

The incident quickly went viral on the internet, topping the trending search lists.

Gideon barely had time to worry about his consequences before receiving a call from the Department of Education, requesting his immediate presence. Obviously, any dreams he had for promotion were now shattered.

Not only had Gideon lost his chance for promotion, but he might also face the risk of losing his position as the principal-unless his superior decided to intervene.

Meanwhile, Tommy and Abigail were under constant scrutiny. At that point, the public had learned of Abigail's misdeeds and the disrespectful comments made by Tommy.

Wynter, the hero of the day, donned her helmet and glanced at Eliana. "Now, you don't have to worry about expulsion. I'd like to see who'll save him from this mess."

Eliana nodded excitedly as her eyes shone with admiration for Wynter. Natalia, on the other hand, felt such immense gratitude that left her almost speechless.

Little did Wynter know that her sudden entrance and dashing departure had cast her as a savior in many women's eyes. However, her interventions had also completely infuriated a powerful figure in the province.

"She should've never interfered with the scholarship committee. It's time to teach her a lesson!" he ordered.

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Chapter 1579 Take Wynter Away

Fredric was truly angry this time, especially when he heard that Eliana had been taken by Wynter.

He didn't hold back, directly ordering his subordinates to take action against her. It was clear that he had made up his mind to deal with her.

He was also under pressure. The phone call he received was stern, and he could sense the displeasure on the other end.

The caller sighed deeply and said, "When progress stalls, perhaps the methods are at fault.

"You need to consider the actual situation and find a way to talk to the other party, especially when it concerns young people's education. This isn't something that can be handled by any ordinary grassroots effort."

"Yes, you're right. I'll pay attention to these matters." Fredric's tone showed that the person on the other end was not someone to take lightly.

"I have several meetings here and won't be back this week. The issue at Mindcrest High School is having a terrible impact. I expect to see results by Monday." This statement indicated the problem's severity.

Fredric assured, "When you return, the public outcry will have calmed."

After hanging up, he reviewed the reports from his subordinates.

He hadn't expected trouble to come from Gideon's side. For the past two years, Mindcrest High School had been their most discreet and important operation within the "scholarship committee". It wasn't something that should have drawn attention.

Frowning, Fredric turned his gaze to a photo of Wynter.

"Was she really just coincidentally picking someone up?" Having reached this position, he was inherently alert to many matters. "Does she have anything to do with what happened to Gideon?"

His men weren't at the scene, but one of them responded with his head lowered, "She shouldn't be involved. Online reports say that Gideon's trouble was just bad luck. The woman he kept outside tried to provoke his wife by showing up at the school gate with their child, but it backfired."

"Is it really that coincidental?" Fredric was skeptical. "Is no one investigating the school? What about the exchange students? Has anyone looked into them?"

Fredric was clever. He knew that if something were to be uncovered, it would start with details like this.

If the issues he suspected were real, it would mean that the scholarship committee was no longer safe, and that would spell big trouble for him.

"No." His subordinate shook his head confidently. "Everyone is talking about Gideon, saying he doesn't deserve to be a scholar or an educator. People are reporting him to the education authorities, demanding he be removed as principal."

If Gideon were just an ordinary principal, Fredric wouldn't care to protect him. But the problem was that Gideon had too much information tied to the scholarship committee, and Eliana hadn't been delivered yet.

Someone still needed to clean up the mess. The key issue now was how to silence Gideon for a while.

Fredric stood up and glanced at the man behind him.

The man appeared to be an ordinary driver, but it was clear he was trained. He nodded and left without a word, which was chilling. Making someone disappear naturally was the hardest thing to do, but they excelled at it.

Meanwhile, the public outrage wasn't much of a problem for Fredric. When the public wanted accountability, he could easily give them what they wanted.

The Department of Education quickly issued a statement, announcing Gideon's dismissal as principal and bestowing honors that were long overdue to Natalia.

This move helped ease the anger of many. Their interest in Mindcrest High School began to fade as well.

After all, these kinds of incidents were common online, and most people eventually moved on, leaving the issues unresolved. Investigations rarely went deep-no one wanted to unearth something too messy to manage.

Wynter, however, was guarding against exactly this tactic. In addition to the authorities, she had also arranged for the newly appointed Secretary-General, Lucas, to get involved with Gideon's case.

Fredric had hoped to quietly bury the matter, but now it had already escalated. As the new appointee, it was only logical for Lucas to take an interest in such a case.

At a meeting, one of the officials tried to cover things up. "Mr. Keller, this is a minor issue. There's no need for you to worry. The others will handle it. You've had a long trip, so why don't we-"

"Mr. Dooley!" Lucas was visibly displeased as he interrupted Crosby Dooley. "How can matters of education be considered minor? It seems none of you care about public opinion online.

"If a principal can't even maintain his own personal conduct, which parent would feel safe sending their child to that school? I will not only hold Gideon accountable, but I will personally visit the school and ask the students myself if there are any other issues!"

As a newly appointed official, Lucas was ready to make his mark. After all, it was under his leadership that a major human trafficking case had been resolved, bringing order to

Southdale and boosting the local economy.

He wasn't someone who could be fooled with empty talk. The officials were sweating profusely when faced with this young leader.

Lucas cast a cold smile at them. "If this hadn't come to light online, would this man have been sitting among you in a month? You were all ready to promote someone like him.

"Mr. Dooley, why don't you explain your reasoning for writing his recommendation letter? Let's hear how you viewed Gideon as worthy."

Crosby's hands were trembling, and he could hardly speak. "I... I didn't know about his personal conduct, Mr. Keller. I thought he..."

He trailed off as he shook, and his legs were barely holding him up.

Gideon's resume now seemed almost comical-best principal, best teacher, and a slew of honors. He was even praised for being humble and dedicated to education in the recommendation letter.

Lucas tapped the letter. "Is this what you call humble and dedicated? I think we need not just reforms but major reforms. I will visit Mindcrest High School personally."

The officials exchanged nervous glances.

"Yes, of course. Mr. Dooley is confused. It's essential to investigate such a big issue thoroughly," one of them hurriedly agreed. "We must ensure the environment is conducive

to proper education."

"Yes, Mr. Keller is right. We must make significant changes. Some people inflate their achievements, and as inspectors, we need to be more diligent in verifying the truth. We need to go into the school and see firsthand what the students' current situation is."

They were just trying to save their own skins.

Crosby had become the scapegoat. He was the one who wrote the recommendation letter, and he knew Gideon, so there was no avoiding accountability.

Initially, he had been willing to take the blame. But he didn't expect Lucas to hand his case directly to the disciplinary committee.

Crosby had spent his whole life climbing the ranks, and now that he was finally in a high position, he didn't want to lose everything.

Wiping his sweat, he asked the officer escorting him out, "Could I speak privately with Mr.

Keller?"

"You'll have the chance once you've explained your issues."

Unlike Crosby, who was morally corrupt, Gideon could leave at any time before any other issues were uncovered. It was just that he could no longer hold on to his position as the principal.

Even on his way home in the neighborhood, people were watching him. He didn't expect anyone to rescue him. Now that his chances of advancement were gone, he was only thinking about his money.

But Wynter was already one step ahead of him. Under the guise of helping him with his divorce case, Sebastian had started investigating all of Gideon's income and financial transactions. Since the investigation was linked to the divorce, no one thought much of it. Fredric, however, hadn't expected the breakthrough to come from this angle.

The most frustrating news for him came when he learned that Lucas intended to personally inspect Mindcrest High School's educational environment because of Gideon's case.

It was perfectly reasonable-so reasonable that there was no way to stop it.

As a secretary, he had to accompany him. Fredric had originally wanted to avoid the meeting, so when Lucas arrived, he made an excuse to stay away.

No one would suspect that Fredric, from Riverfield, would feel uneasy around Lucas.

The human trafficking case that had shocked the nation was extremely severe, affecting the entire township and region. Taking down such a local operation was one of Lucas' achievements and also one of Fredric's deepest fears.

He couldn't imagine what it would mean for his future if his background were exposed now that he had reached his current position. So, he had to be extremely cautious when facing

Lucas.

This reassignment was initially meant for his superior, but unexpectedly, Lucas was parachuted in.

As someone who was two ranks lower than Lucas, Fredric had already masked his true feelings. He approached Lucas with feigned excitement.

"Mr. Keller, we've been eagerly awaiting your arrival! We've heard a lot about your accomplishments, and they're a great inspiration to us!"

Lucas looked at him but didn't think too much of it.

After all, Fredric had always distanced himself from such matters. He shook Lucas' hand firmly. "I rushed over immediately when I heard you're visiting the school.

"Coming from a small place myself, I believe education is paramount. We can't allow people like Gideon to remain in our schools as it negatively impacts the students."

Lucas nodded and smiled. "Mr. Monty, will you be joining me?"

"Of course." Fredric was skilled at putting on a show.

Among the crowd, he was the most natural one, appearing even more eager than Lucas to investigate these corrupt elements in the education sector.

An outsider who wasn't privy to the ins and outs remarked, "Isn't it a bit sudden to go there

today? Shouldn't we inform the school first?"

Lucas shot him a glance. "Even Mr. Monty, who's working outside, knows I'm coming. Whether we inform the school or not is irrelevant. Mr. Brady, let's head out."

Kyle Brady was the Department of Education's deputy director.

This incident had truly embarrassed them. Countless parents were writing joint complaint letters, while others mocked them. With Gideon's incident, they had to work overtime!

Fredric was rushing over now to follow along, wanting to know if anyone had noticed the scholarship committee. His sixth sense told him that Lucas going to Mindcrest High School right after arriving in Hawford was too coincidental.

However, his work experience reminded him that such a significant event occurring on a new leader's first day seemed like an unavoidable duty for anyone in leadership. The investigation would be inevitable. Nonetheless, it felt too coincidental.

Sitting in the car, Fredric pondered while gripping his hands tightly on his lap. He casually asked, "Mr. Brady, has Mr. Keller been in meetings since he arrived? Has he met anyone? I remember that Mr. Keller knows the Whitman family, right?"

"Mr. Keller? The Whitman family?" Kyle frowned. "Mr. Monty, you must be mistaken. Mr. Keller doesn't know anyone. He just got here and came across such a scandal. He only met us, and now there are results."

Fredric's previous comment was intended to test his colleagues. He was worried about the connection between Lucas and the Whitman family. There must be other purposes for today's visit to Mindcrest High School.

But with this revelation, he felt relieved. It seemed to be just a stroke of luck.

After all, although the Quinnell family and Whitman family were influential in business, they had always been lacking in connections in this realm. How could they possibly know Lucas? He was overthinking it.

Fredric raised a hand to rub his temples, feeling increasingly troubled by the recent events caused by Wynter. He realized he might have been overreacting.

The best scenario was if there were no connections at all. That would make it easier for the people below to act.

Wynter's most brilliant move was to allow Lucas to reasonably enter Mindcrest High School.

If Lucas had arrived without warning or justification, it would have inevitably aroused suspicion. Everyone would know he might be investigating the scholarship committee, the intricate relationships behind it, and the long-rooted corruption.

But now, it was different. Wynter had opened the door for him using Gideon. As the new leader, Lucas could conduct an open investigation, and who would suspect the scholarship committee?

Even a cunning person like Fredric would conclude it was merely a coincidence. After all, events do occur spontaneously. Who could predict such developments?

Fredric had never considered, nor could he imagine, that Wynter was the Special Unit's mysterious leader, known only as 001.

He signaled for his subordinates to take action. Naturally, his subordinates complied as they had also lost money in the stock market, especially Edison, who was waiting for Wynter to

fall!

These several influential families, on the brink of collapse, couldn't handle Wynter on their own, so they resorted to such underhanded tactics.

Since the problem lay in the stock market, they intended to see her suffer because of it.

After everything was arranged, Wynter returned to the Whitman residence on her BMW Tomahawk.

Reuben was laughing and about to praise Wynter when someone came in from outside, dressed in uniform. "Is Ms. Wynter Quinnell here? Please have her come out. We need to take

her with us."

The Heiress' Return: Six Brothers at Her Beck and Call

Chapter 1580 Taken Away

Wynter remained motionless.

Reuben, on the other hand, was already frowning. Leaning on his dragon cane, he rose from the couch. He was always protective, especially when it came to Wynter.

He couldn't understand what kind of trouble such a well-behaved child like Wynter could possibly have caused.

Reuben had been through the business world's ups and downs long enough to sense something was wrong even before the authorities spoke. This was clearly an act of retaliation -something Wynter had recently done must have affected someone's interests.

"Officers, if my granddaughter needs to go with you, that's fine. But could you tell me exactly what she's being accused of?"

His voice was low and steady. Despite a sense of unease inside, he showed no outward panic. There was no shouting, just calm reason.

"If you're taking someone into custody, you need to have your body cameras on. It seems you haven't activated them."

The two officers had known before they arrived that the Whitman family wasn't just any ordinary family. They couldn't simply take someone away without due process, especially with Reuben's background.

Although his political connections had diminished over time, he was still a highly educated man, and they didn't want to offend a powerful family-run enterprise like the Whitman family. But today, they had no choice but to take Wynter.

"Mr. Whitman Senior, I'll activate the body camera right now," one of the officers said. "We're taking Ms. Wynter in for questioning because there's been a report accusing her of intentionally manipulating the market and stock prices.

"Here's the arrest warrant. We hope you will cooperate with us, Mr. Whitman Senior."

"Market manipulation?" Reuben's face darkened. Wynter had indeed made significant profits in the stock market recently, so someone might be using this as a pretext to frame her.

Seeing that Reuben wasn't responding, one of the officers showed him the footage they had obtained.

"This is from the stock exchange, recorded a week ago. It shows Ms. Wynter together with Mr. Yarwood. They made a large cash purchase of gold shares, which gave the impression that the stock would inevitably rise."

Not only did Reuben see the footage, but so did Marie, who had rushed down from upstairs. She looked at Wynter, and her eyes were filled with worry.

Since the officers had this footage, it meant that Wynter's arrest was legal and justified. There was no way to stop it.

Even so, Marie clutched Wynter's hand tightly. "Sevie, I'll go with you. Sebastian will handle the legal case. I'll notify him right away."

Her voice trembled. It was rare for her to show such vulnerability. This time, she was truly worried.

Wynter embraced her gently and said softly, "Mom, it's okay. It's just an investigation and part of the process. As for Sebastian, tell him not to worry too much. Stay calm. This isn't necessarily a bad thing. A single video isn't enough to convict me."

At this, she even let out a small laugh. "If I were truly guilty, Dalton would have to be taken in for questioning, too. After all, we're both in the video. The Yarwood family's stock investments have always been above board, so there's nothing to fear."

Hearing Wynter's words, Marie sensed that she had some plan in mind, especially when Wynter gave her a quick, reassuring wink.

She gently caressed Wynter's face, as if holding something precious. "Don't get hurt. We will take care of everything."

"Okay," Wynter replied, feeling the purest form of motherly love. She picked up the coat that had been placed to the side. Her eyes flickered with an unreadable depth, making it impossible to tell what was going through her mind.

