

## Chapter 165 Rivals In Love Meet

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As soon as they got home, Melissa began cooking in the kitchen.

She had already planned to invite Aloys to have dinner at home tomorrow, so she had prepared something in advance.

"Let me help you."

Aloys took off his coat and went into the kitchen. He picked up the vegetables and began washing them.

"Don't get your clothes dirty, Aloys." Melissa turned around and frowned. "I don't have a spare apron here. You can play with the two children outside. They have missed you so much and would want to spend time with you."

"Yeah, that's right. You hang out with the children. I'll help Melissa."

Vivienne put on the apron and came in. Then, she turned and winked at Johnny.

She obviously didn't want Melissa to stay in the same room with another man.

Melissa wanted to refuse, but seeing Vivienne had already worn the apron, she didn't bother saying anything.

"Okay." Aloys nodded and went out.

Although he was polite, it was obvious he was maintaining a safe distance from Johnny and Vivienne.

He had no right to judge the people of the Mayfield family and hate them for what they had done to Melissa. But he could

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never forget how Melissa was broke and helpless. She had begged him to save her children then.

Aloys didn't hate the people of the Mayfield family, but he didn't want to be associated with them in any way.

The two kids darted toward Aloys when they saw him.

"Mr. Brustin, come and play with us!"

"Okay."

Once all the dishes were served on the table, Vivienne grew anxious and kept glancing at the door.

She had worked so hard at such an old age just for her son.

Just then, the doorbell rang. The person outside seemed anxious as they pressed the bell a few more times.

It was Everett.

Lindsey went to open the door, her eyes glinting with mischief.

"Mr. Mayfield!"

"Lindsey." Everett gasped anxiously and looked at her. "Do you miss me?"

"Yes, I do."

Lindsey pulled him inside.

When she got home, Lindsey immediately sent Everett a message, asking him to come there for dinner. Although she liked Aloys a lot, she still wanted Everett to be her father.


Therefore, the two men met today.

Finally, Everett arrived.

Johnny and Vivienne breathed a sigh of relief.

"Melissa, I asked him to come here for dinner," said Vivienne.

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"I saw you didn't prepare chicken wings, but Lindsey said she wanted to have them, so I asked Everett to buy some chicken wings from the restaurant."

She had come up with such a perfect excuse that Melissa couldn't refute.

Melissa met Aloys' cold gaze. The man had always been gentle. She couldn't let Aloys and Everett have dinner at the same table.

She took the bag of food from Everett and was about to ask him to leave.

"Can I have dinner with you all?" Everett asked.

Melissa let out a startled gasp. She wanted to say no.

But she nodded, faking a smile.

After all, Everett had brought food, and his parents were here. She couldn't refuse.

It looked like Everett had expected it. He glanced around, and his gaze finally fell on Aloys.

He squinted and reached out his hand, looking aloof and hostile. "Hello, Mr. Brustin."

Aloys' eyes turned cold. His jaw tightened. He no longer seemed gentle and courteous.

Everett had known his family name, which meant he had already investigated him. Aloys felt Everett knew Melissa had stayed with him abroad for five years.

He curtly shook hands with Everett. "Mr. Mayfield. You've come at the right time."

## Chapter 166 I Want You To Cook For Me

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Aloys' tone was flat but ironic.

Everyone could sense the hostility between the two. The atmosphere grew tense.

Merrick and Lindsey looked at each other. Both seemed unconvinced.

"Mommy, is dinner ready? Merrick and I are hungry." Lindsey pouted, acting like a spoiled child.

"Yeah. Dinner is ready," Melissa hurriedly replied, breathing a sigh of relief.

Fortunately, Lindsey ended the embarrassing situation.

"Please have a seat." Melissa gestured at Johnny and Vivienne and waited for them to sit down first.

But as soon as Melissa sat down, the two kids sitting on either side stood up simultaneously and pulled the men beside them to their seats.

"Mr. Mayfield, please sit here," Lindsey said.

"Mr. Brustin, please take my seat," Merrick said.

After saying that, the two children looked at each other and pouted.

Melissa was confused. She didn't understand what was going on.

Everett was sitting on her right, and Aloys was sitting on her left. She squirmed with discomfort as the two of them looked at her.

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But the two kids couldn't understand her feelings. They were hoping that their favorite man could be their father.

Vivienne anxiously looked at them.

She was disappointed in her son. He didn't even know how to look after Melissa.

"Melissa, here you go. Your favorite lobster."

Aloys handed the peeled lobster to Melissa naturally as if it was an ordinary thing.

Aloys indeed had done this many times when they were abroad. Melissa was used to it.

Melissa lowered her eyes. "Thank you, Aloys."

Only Aloys remembered her preference.

Her soft voice made Everett unhappy. Melissa was always impatient and hostile around him. However, she was easygoing and happy around Aloys.

"Mr. Mayfield, Mommy likes chicken," Lindsey whispered in his ear.

She didn't want Everett to lose.

The next second, Melissa heard something move toward her on the table. She looked up and saw an entire plate of chicken.

Melissa looked helplessly at the man beside her.

The way Everett looked at her made Melissa's stomach churn.

She couldn't understand what he meant.

"Take it." Everett pushed the plate toward her. "Lindsey said you like it."

It was a whole plate of chicken. She would get tired of eating it.

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"Thank you so much." Melissa glared at Everett.

She was mad at him. However, Johnny and Vivienne were present, so she forced a smile at Everett.

Awkwardness filled the air as they all ate dinner.

Everyone left one after the other. Everett spoke to Lindsey and was the last person to leave.

As the hostess, Melissa reluctantly ushered him out. Everett stood at the door and looked down at her. His heart sank when he saw her unwillingness to talk. He grabbed her wrist, pressed her against the wall outside the door, and leaned close to her.

"What are you doing? The kids are still inside," Melissa warned him, trying to wriggle out of his hold.

"I know," Everett said in a hoarse voice as his dark eyes looked deep into hers. "What do you think I will do?"

"You!"

Some scenes from the past flashed in Melissa's mind. Her face turned red and then anger began surging within her.

"You've had dinner. What else do you want?"

"What do I want?" Everett gently loosened his grip. "I want you to cook for me voluntarily..."

Everett was too anxious when he received the news. He was in a meeting but abandoned everything for her and hurried here.

## Chapter 167 Dated Two Men At The Same Time

Melissa couldn't help but sneer, and her voice was laced with sarcasm.

"Don't you feel absurd saying something like that now? How ironic."

Five years ago, she had humbled herself and begged him time and time again to stay home long enough to share a meal with her, but Everett was not even willing to sit at the same table as her. ①

Melissa thought it was utterly disgusting that he would say something like this after all this time.

Without waiting for his response, Melissa strode inside and slammed the door behind her.

Bang!

The sound made Everett jump, and for a moment, he found himself drifting back to the memory from when they were still married.

He refused to be deterred. Melissa was his, and his alone.

The next day, Aloys came over and took the twins out to have some fun.

Melissa was glad to have some leisure time for herself, but the next day, when she arrived at work, she felt that something was off.

As soon as she stepped into the hospital building, she became the focus of everyone's attention. When her eyes met theirs, they would immediately look away as if nothing had happened.

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What was their problem? Did her makeup look strange today?

She hurried into her office and took out a mirror to check her face, but she didn't find anything wrong.

"How odd," she muttered under her breath as she turned on her computer.

"Fatima," she called out after some time, but heard no reply.

Fatima Louet was tasked to relay patient information to her and communicate the surgery schedules among the doctors. It looked like the nurse was absent for the day.

Thinking to go and find a different nurse to ask, Melissa got up from her seat and turned to the door. Coincidentally, Peter Cooper, the hospital director, appeared at that same moment.

"Dr. Sherman."

"Sir?" Melissa frowned slightly, confused at the man's sudden visit. "How may I help you?"

"Well, there is one thing."

Peter pushed his glasses against the bridge of his nose and stepped aside, revealing a pretty girl standing behind him.

"The hospital has recruited a group of interns, and this one is assigned to you. Leilany Green, say hello to the most renowned doctor in our hospital, Dr. Sherman."

"It's an honor to meet you, Dr. Sherman. My name is Leilany Green, and I'm a graduate of the Department of Medicine at Andeport University."

Leilany was smart and quick on her feet, and she wasted no time paying her respects to Melissa.

Melissa introduced herself in more or less the same manner. She didn't even have a chance to refuse the sudden task, so she didn't bother saying much about it.



Upon closer inspection, she realized that Leilany was gorgeous, despite her petite build. She had a charming and lively air about her, and perhaps a tiny bit of the spoiled-princess vibe.

Naturally, Leilany must have come from a powerful background if Peter, the hospital director, had taken it upon himself to escort her, an intern, to her mentor.

"Well, since you've brought her here yourself, then I have no choice but to agree," Melissa told Peter.

The man looked at Leilany and said, "I hope you study well and learn a lot from Dr. Sherman. Her medical knowledge and skills are top-notch in the entire city."

With that, Peter turned on his heel, leaving the two women alone.

"Leilany Green, right?"

"Please, just call me Leilany. I've heard so much about you! It is said that you have the highest success rate in surgical procedures, and your methods are always precise and decisive. I'm a huge fan!"

Leilany prattled on and on as though she and Melissa had known each other for a long time.

"I see." Despite her initial reservations, Melissa couldn't help but be charmed by the girl's outgoing nature. "For now, just follow me around. I need you to pay careful attention to daily information of the cases assigned to us, as well as the schedule of operations slated for the day."

"No problem," Leilany immediately answered with an infectious grin on her face.

As she became more familiar with her surroundings, she became more talkative as well.

"You know, Dr. Sherman, I haven't been in this hospital for long, but I've already heard a lot of people gossiping about you."

## Chapter 167 Dated Two Men At The Same Time

"What?" Melissa looked up from her desk in surprise.

"They said that you dated two men at the same time. Someone has supposedly released evidence to back the story up, but I personally think that it's all a bunch of nonsense. I hope you don't let the rumors get to you, Dr. Sherman."

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## Chapter 168 The Photos

Hearing Leilany's words, Melissa frowned and let out a startled gasp.

She had been in Andeport for only a short time, but there was a lot of gossip about her. She wondered if people really thought she was charming.

Seeing that Melissa was silent, Leilany pursed her lips, took out her phone, and showed Melissa the two photos on Twitter.

"Dr. Sherman, I just found this online."

A chill ran down Melissa's spine as she took a closer look at the pictures.

In one photo, she was talking and laughing with Aloys in her office, and the other one was a blurry picture of Everett and Melissa. Although it was hard to spot what they were doing, she knew the picture would send people's imaginations amok.

The photos were blurry. Obviously, someone had taken them through the window.

It looked like someone was spying on her.

Melissa's face darkened.

A newly created account was posting these pictures. Obviously, someone was purposefully doing it.

Countless comments were lined up under the post, most of which were groundless opinions.

"This must be that medical expert, Dr. Sherman. She is a promiscuous woman."

"This woman doesn't have any morals or ethics. How did she become a doctor? Perhaps she got the job by sleeping with her superiors."

"I heard this doctor was from abroad. God, I never thought she

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would be such a loose woman."

Seeing the frown on Melissa's face, Leilany lowered her voice and said, "Dr. Sherman, don't take it to heart. A clean hand needs no washing. Besides, these photos are blurry. They don't mean anything."

"I'm fine," Melissa replied, anger blazing in her eyes.

She wanted to find out who took these photos. Although Melissa didn't intend to make trouble, she wouldn't let anyone tarnish her reputation for no reason.

The rumors spread like wildfire but they weren't true.

Melissa didn't want to act rashly and alert the enemy. Therefore, she pretended as if nothing had happened as she formulated a plan in her mind.

Now, she had to introduce Leilany to the patients. Just as they walked past the small garden in the hospital, she saw two familiar figures.

Melissa was in no mood to see them, so she decided to take another path. However, it was too late. Before she could leave, Arielle shouted, "Melissa."

Melissa frowned and quickened her pace. But Arielle caught up with her.

Melissa rolled her eyes and turned around impatiently. "What's up?"

Arielle stopped and looked at her sadly. "Nothing. Everett insisted on taking me out for a walk. I saw you walking here—just wanted to say hello. I hope I didn't disturb you."

"Yes, you did." Melissa didn't look at her. "If you have nothing else to say, I'll better leave."

She clenched her jaw and didn't bother even to look at the man beside Arielle.

Everett took a deep breath as a frown lined his forehead.

He wondered if Melissa was still angry about what happened the night before yesterday.

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"Melissa, I understand you are in a bad mood." Arielle didn't want to give up. She glanced at the man beside her and said, "Well, there seems to be a lot of rumors about you in the hospital lately. Everyone says you're a promiscuous woman. Their comments are too offensive. Don't take them to your heart."

Arielle purposefully rekindled the rumors.

Leilany pursed her lips when she heard that. She felt that Arielle was hypocritical.

She held the medical records in her hand and purposefully said, "Dr. Sherman, we have to attend to the emergency case. Let's hurry up and see the patient."

"Okay."

Melissa immediately understood Leilany's intention and left with her.

Arielle sneered as she saw their receding figures, but she returned to normal the next moment.

She would obviously use the opportunity to add fuel to the fire. Otherwise, all her efforts would end in vain.

However, by the time she returned to her senses, Everett had disappeared.

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