

Chapter 173 Apology

The woman glanced at the three people and was clearly remorseful.

Everett's statements didn't seem to be lies. All three of them looked too similar.

Several patients crowded into the area and started blaming the woman.

"Oh, just say you're sorry. We all witnessed your wheelchair almost hit the poor kid."

"You just claimed that the man is not the boy's father, but he looks a lot like him. You almost bumped into the child, but you want to walk away without saying a word?"

The man in the wheelchair tugged at the woman's dress out of embarrassment. "Stop arguing. It's our fault, and that man seems like someone we shouldn't mess up with. Say sorry to him, and we'll leave."

The woman's expression softened, and she avoided eye contact with Everett as she apologized, "It's our fault, so I sincerely apologize to your child."

"No, you must apologize directly to my brother." Lindsey scowled and drew Merrick, who was still carrying the box, closer to her.

"What's the matter with you? We've already said sorry, but you still refused to forgive us. You're being unreasonable. I'm sure you're only acting snobbish since your father is here!" the woman snapped.

"Yes, that's true." Everett stiffened up and stepped forward. He said coldly, "If you don't ask forgiveness from my son now, expect my lawyer to call you. Who knows, you could have done it on purpose."

The man's face turned pallid, and he smiled bitterly when he heard that Everett would contact his attorney.

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"No, it's simply a mistake. We're sorry about that." Afterward, he gave his wife a wink.

The woman sighed and glanced down at Merrick. She said reluctantly, "I'm so sorry. We almost bumped into you earlier. We didn't mean to do that."

"It's okay."

Merrick shook his head and appeared serious.

His response caused the woman to flush and lose her smugness quickly.

"A child has more common sense than an adult," one of the onlookers said.

"Exactly," another onlooker echoed.

The two people were so humiliated by what they overheard that they hurriedly pushed the wheelchair away.

"You're amazing, Mr. Mayfield!" Lindsey cried enthusiastically as the onlookers left.

Everett beamed with an inexplicable sense of satisfaction.

No matter how impressive his professional accomplishments were or how lucrative the deal he signed was, he wasn't as overjoyed as he was at the moment, as if some part of his ego had suddenly been satiated.

Perhaps it was brought on by his daughter's fondness for him.

"Merrick, let me carry that for you," he offered while holding out his hand.

"No, thank you."

Merrick only offered a brief response before walking away with the box in his arms.

He came to a halt after taking a few steps when he heard his sister talking behind him.

"Oh my goodness, Mr. Mayfield, you're hurt."

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"It's nothing serious," Everett said.

It was only a scrape, yet it was bleeding.

The young girl standing next to Everett's leg was so worried that she insisted on accompanying him to dress the wound, although he didn't consider it a big deal.

He couldn't help but smile and let her pull him away.

Merrick bit his lip and followed the two as they strode forward.

In Melissa's office

"Dr. Sherman!" Leilany shouted ahead of her arrival.

"Leilany, slow down and don't yell like this," Melissa said helplessly, looking up at the door.

"Sorry, I didn't mean to raise my voice." Leilany rushed in, held on to the desk, and gasped for air. "I overheard a nurse mention that she was walking near the hospital's small garden when she saw someone knock your child over."

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"What?"

Melissa sprang to her feet with a worried expression on her face.

The hospital's small garden was off-limits to vehicles. How could a car possibly hit her child?

The bloody photos she received immediately plagued her mind. As her chest constricted, she immediately bolted outside.

"Leilany, I have to go immediately. Please contact me if something comes up."

"Don't worry about it. Go," Leilany said.

Melissa walked around, asking everyone what had happened. She finally made it to the emergency department ten minutes later.

She stopped a nurse who was carrying a medication tray.

"Excuse me, have you seen a five-year-old child being brought here?"

"Yes, I did, but he got here on his own." The nurse pointed to a ward and hesitantly muttered, "It seems a handsome man arrived with him... A tall, good-looking..."

Melissa was not in the mood to hear any further statements. She immediately pushed the ward's door open and barged inside.

Everett slowly lifted his head and gazed in her direction.

"Mommy." Two small children jumped on her.

Why was Everett involved? She could never escape him. Melissa pondered and then asked the two children, "Who can

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explain to me what happened? Were you hurt?"

"No, Mommy."

Both of them shook their heads.

Lindsey hurried back to Everett and gingerly cradled his bandaged hand. "Mommy, Merrick and I wanted to deliver this gift box to you, but along the way, a man in a wheelchair nearly ran into Merrick. It was Mr. Mayfield who sprang out to save him. He even urged the man and his wife to apologize since the couple wanted to leave immediately. Mr. Mayfield got hurt because of the incident."

Lindsey then bowed her head and blew on the bandaged area. "Mommy told me it could speed up the healing process."

Everyone in the ward wasn't sure whether to laugh or cry.

"It's a minor injury. Kindly administer some ointment to the wound and keep it dry for two days," said the nurse who dressed Everett's hand.

She then got ready and left after saying those words. The nurse couldn't help but take one last look at the handsome man and turned away.

Melissa couldn't focus on anything else since she was so anxious. She hadn't paid attention to the person on the bed until now.

His once-tidy and exquisite suit was soiled with dirt and the part at the elbow was torn open. Everett was in a sorry state. He had bruises all over, not just on his hands.

Melissa blinked and murmured, "Thank you," with a range of emotions in her eyes.

"I had to do something fast," Everett said gravely.

He cast a glance at the box on the table. There was clearly a dress inside. He realized who sent it right away.

An indiscernible smirk appeared on his face as he rolled his eyes.

"However, please do me a favor if you want to thank me."

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Melissa frowned a little as she suddenly felt uneasy.

"What is it?" she asked Everett.

"Come with me to a banquet as my female companion." Everett locked his gaze on her and spoke to her gently.

A banquet? Was it the same banquet that Aloys mentioned?

After giving it some thought, Melissa firmly declined. "I'm sorry, Mr. Mayfield, but I have plans that day, so I can't accompany you. I appreciate the gesture, and I'll pay it back the next time."

She couldn't change her mind since she needed to go to the banquet with Aloys for a significant reason.

Everett narrowed his eyes when he heard this and felt a bit irritated.

He abruptly got to his feet and walked over to the table. He grabbed the elegantly designed box and said coldly, "If I'm not mistaken, this is the evening gown Aloys prepared for you. Do you genuinely have something to do that day, or are you lying so you can't go with me?"

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Melissa's expression became serious. "I promised him. I can't go back on my word."

There were plenty of reasons to avoid attending the banquet with Everett. Many complicated factors were involved.

Everett briefly closed his eyes. His cold expression softened when he looked at the children.

He wasn't sure which emotion was stronger, the jealousy he felt because of Aloys, or the anger he felt toward Melissa. He sighed deeply and left the ward after saying, "I see."

"Mr. Mayfield," Lindsey called. She didn't chase after him.

She approached Melissa, raised her eyes, and asked innocently, "Mommy, is Mr. Mayfield angry? Why aren't you going to the banquet with him?"

Lindsey adored Everett and believed he was a good man. She wished he could be her father...

Shaking her head, Melissa squatted and cupped the little girl's face in her hands. "Mommy agreed to go with Aloys. If I go to the banquet with Everett, it will mean breaking my promise to Aloys."

"A child who doesn't keep a promise is a bad child."

"That's right, and it's the same for grownups. Good girl."

Melissa pinched her daughter's chubby face. Then, ignoring all the messy emotions in her head, she took the box, and left with the children.

Merrick followed behind. His expression seemed neutral, but his eyes were fixed on the direction Everett had taken.

He could feel that something had changed in Everett.

When he entered Arielle's ward, Everett was in low spirits.

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"Everett," Arielle called sweetly.

When she noticed his dirty clothes and the gauze on his hand, her expression changed. She went to him and asked worriedly, "What happened, Everett? Why are you injured?"

"Nothing," Everett said. His tone was cold, and he avoided her touch by sitting down on the sofa. "Why did you change ward?"

"Well..." Arielle hesitated. She forced a wry smile. "I got bored in the previous ward and wanted a change of scenery. Everett, are you asking because you care about me?"

She couldn't tell him that Melissa had organized the move. If she did, he'd want to know the reason, and the photos might be exposed.

"No, I am just asking," Everett said.

Arielle had gotten used to his cold shoulder, although it still fueled her hatred for Melissa.

That bitch should have died five years ago rather than returning and stealing everything away from her.

Every hurt and each slight, in fact, all of Arielle's unhappiness was caused by Melissa.

Arielle tamped down her hatred and sat back on the bed. She pretended to be casual when she said, "There have been some rumors about Melissa in the hospital, but I haven't heard anything the past two days. I guess they've been squashed."

Everett gave her a strange look. "Maybe."

Did that mean Everett wasn't involved?

Arielle felt relieved and moved closer to him. She was excited when she asked, "Everett, I heard that you're attending a banquet the day after tomorrow. I..."

"I already arranged a female companion." Everett didn't even raise his head. "You are too sick to be running around. Stay in hospital and rest."

He didn't want her at the banquet.

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Arielle's anger was too strong to hide. She grabbed the quilt tightly, her eyes full of rage.

If he didn't want her there, she must find a way to go.

Chapter 176 The Most Attractive Woman In The...

The night of the banquet, every business tycoon in Andeport was there. The charity auction due to be held during the banquet was expected to attract a lot of attention. Journalists waited at the entrance.

"It's so crowded." Melissa looked out of the car window and saw all kinds of luxury cars, bodyguards and reporters.

"Don't worry," Aloys said in a gentle voice. "Just keep close. I've arranged for someone to keep an eye out for Ophelia. If she shows up, we'll know about it immediately."

"Thank you. You are very considerate." Melissa smiled. She looked very attractive with the lights behind her. It was as if every light converged on her.

Her white dress caressed her curves and accentuated her slender figure. Aloys looked at her, awe-struck.

He remembered Melissa as a child, sitting on the swing in a white dress, and this image stuck in his mind.

"Aloys... Aloys..." Melissa called.

"What?" Aloys said as he came to his senses.

"I think it's time for us to go in," she said.

Aloys nodded and got out of the car.

As he stepped out, the air was filled with the sound of camera shutters and flashes.

People looked over and whispered, "Who is this? Why are the media so excited?"

"He's the eldest son of the Brustin Group. He recently returned from abroad."

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"I don't think he's married yet. He's very handsome, just like Everett, the CEO of Mayfield Group."

These words couldn't be heard over the sound of camera shutters.

"Come."

Aloys offered his hand to Melissa and helped her out of the car.

Every movement he made looked perfect and gentlemanly.

When Melissa appeared, there were gasps of amazement.

Her white, backless, fishtail gown had a subtle silver glitter design. The dress, the flashlights and her fair coloring combined to dazzle the crowd.

Her delicate make-up complemented her features, and her dress showed off her figure perfectly. She was, without doubt, the most beautiful woman that evening.

Seeing Aloys and Melissa enter the hall side by side, reporters rushed over.

"Mr. Brustin, is this your girlfriend? Are you planning an engagement?"

"Mr. Brustin, did you come back to marry her? Will you stay in the country?"

What ridiculous questions, Melissa thought.

Melissa fixed a faint smile to her face and refused to answer their questions. Aloys did not respond either.

They knew anything they said would be distorted.

While they were surrounded by reporters, a louder exclamation resounded nearby.

A tall and slender figure got out of a car, attracting everyone's attention.

"Everett!"

"He's so handsome. I heard he's single again. Maybe I'll get

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lucky tonight."

Most of the reporters hurried toward Everett. Although they knew he would say nothing, they still surrounded him.

Bombarded by flashlights, Everett seemed distant and indifferent.

He looked charming and noble in his expensive suit, but there was the hint of alienation in his eyes.

All the women regarded him as the most eligible bachelor in Andeport.