

Chapter 421 Everything About My Mother

Aloys stood up and toyed with a dagger in his hands.

His cold, amber eyes were at their most threatening as he pushed the knife against Howell's neck, saying, "You get one chance. Do you know anything or not?"

The cold steel of the knife against his soft skin made Howell shiver. He flashed his eyes back open, swallowed nervously, and, staring down at the dagger, he stammered, "You wouldn't dare hurt me. If you kill me, you'll go to jail, and there'll be nobody left in Andeport who knows what you want to know."

"I don't think you quite understand the situation," Aloys said, putting his knife away. "You should know who I am. Whether or not I can hurt you, I can certainly destroy the Sherman Group. And you don't even have the contract yet. It would be simple for me to make the Sherman Group vanish forever from Andeport."

Howell closed his eyes again at these words, saying, "You... You despicable piece of..."

"There is nobody more despicable than you," Melissa cut him off and came forward, giving Howell a look of disdain. "You can see we came prepared, by the way we have you tied up here. We've also tied up the people you brought with you. You're on your own now, and as far as I can see, your only choice is to tell us what we want to know."

Silence filled the room. Nobody dared speak a word.

After a tense five minutes, Howell let out a long breath and said, "Okay, but you and Aloys have to promise not to do anything to the Sherman Group. As long as you promise me that, I'll tell you. But I have to warn you, I think you'll regret finding out. Send everyone else away."

The hired men all left.

"Okay, I'll go as well," Aloys said.

"No, you don't have to." Melissa stopped him from leaving and turned to Howell. "Okay, there's just us now. Tell me."

Howell gave Aloys a complicated look, and then stared off into the distance as if lost in a dream.

He muttered to himself, as if he were trying to find the words, digging through his memories.

"Your mother was called Susie Carter. She was from Timton, where I met her, as she was trying to escape the place. She said she could give me a lot of money and asked me to take her away. I brought her back to Andeport with me, secretly. I used the money she had given me to develop the Sherman Group. After that, we got married and we had you, but she became paranoid. She stopped talking to me and I couldn't bear to see her like that. So I sent her to a psychiatric hospital."

Melissa's fists tightened as he spoke.

Howell had used her mother's money to make his own fortune and then simply tossed her aside and taken a mistress. He was a terrible man.

But his misbehavior was not important right now.

She now knew her mother's surname was Carter. The kidnapper's surname, according to Atticus, was Carter as well. He had been from Timton and they both had birthmarks behind their left ears.

A chill ran through Melissa's body. When the coincidences were stacking up, then it couldn't just be a coincidence anymore.

Had her mom really had something to do with the kidnapper? Were they family?

And in that case, why would the kidnapper want to kill her, Lindsey and Merrick?

Aloys watched as Melissa's face turned pale, and asked, "Melissa, are you okay?"

"I'm fine." Melissa nodded her head. She had an idea; it had taken a firm

grip on her heartstrings and she needed to find out whether it was true or not.

She stepped forward, and her voice began to crack as she said, "Howell, tell me, how did my mother die?"

Howell laughed at hearing this. In a mocking voice, he said, "That was what she had been trying to escape all her life."