Read Stop It She's Remarrying by Stellar Strands Chapter 751-760

Chapter 751

"I didn't want you to cry."

"I'm not a crybaby. Why'd you think I would cry?"

"You really love the Lane twins." Conrad sighed in dismay. "I was afraid that you might cry when you bid your farewells."

It was true that he did not want Fia to be emotionally affected. Knowing that he had good intentions, Fia did not press on the matter too much. She lightly shoved him to the door. "You go get Mary and Sharon at the entrance. They should be here any minute now."

"Okay."

Thus, Conrad walked to the gates. He was there in time to see Mary and Sharon arriving. Seeing the mother-and-daughter pair, a bodyguard approached them for questioning.

Conrad said to the bodyguard, "Let them in."

The bodyguard obliged and opened the gate, allowing the pair to enter. Conrad took a glance. at them before turning to the bodyguard. "In the future, if you see these two, you can let them in."

"Yes, sir."

"Come in. Fia's waiting for you," Conrad said in a distant yet polite tone to the pair.

Mary heard a great deal about Conrad from her husband. So she was a little afraid of him. After hearing what Conrad said, Mary hurriedly brought her daughter into the villa.

"Mom, are you afraid of Uncle Conrad?" Sharon asked curiously.

"No!" Mary lowered her head and whispered into her daughter's ear, "I was respecting him. He helped your daddy secure many business deals. He even helped your daddy to regain the hotel that bad people took from us."

Sharon turned and looked at Conrad, who was talking to the bodyguard. Then, she whispered back to her mother, "Is he really that capable? Me and William thought he's a bad tempered jerk. We thought it's such a shame a goddess like Aunt Fia married him."

Mary put a finger on her lips and hushed her. "Never say things like that again. William is going through a hard time in the Hellish Training Camp. If he heard you, he might make your brother's life even harder. You don't want that, do you?"

Hearing this, Sharon nodded her head repeatedly and shut her mouth.

As the pair walked into the villa anxiously, Mrs. Taylor and Mrs. Whitley welcomed them with snacks and drinks. Noticing that Mary and Sharon were more mousey than usual, Fia asked curiously, "What's wrong?"

Mary raised her head and looked at Fia before saying to her in a soft voice, "Do you ever fight with Mr. Maxwell?"

"Yes, we do fight." Fia responded honestly.

"So does he chastise you when he loses his temper?"

After pondering it for a moment, Fia replied, "No, I wouldn't call it 'chastise'. Well... his voice would become really loud. Does that count as him 'yelling' at me?"

"Of course it does!" Sharon answered with an innocent smile, "When Daddy raises his voice with Mommy, Mommy would cry. She would say Daddy was yelling at her!"

"Hush! Hush....!" Mary was so flustered as she tried to hush her daughter. Her daughter had such a big mouth!

Fia looked at Mary, confused. "Mary, do you cry often at home?"

"Well, I tend to act coy with him. That's all..." Mary lowered her head with a blush.

"Well, that's just being a woman. So it's not unusual for us to act coy in front of our lovers sometimes. If we don't do that, it would mean we don't love them anymore."

"Yes! This is what I've been telling Tyler. But he said it was just my excuse to lose my temper with him!" Mary felt a little embarrassed all a sudden. So she tried to change the topic. "When you and Mr. Maxwell fight, does he ever hit you? Or toss stuff at you?"

Fia was astonished to hear that. "Did Mr. Lane do that to you?" She paused momentarily before continuing, "Mr. Lane doesn't look like someone who would commit domestic violence."

"Of course he's not like that! Tyler always put on that silly grin on his face all day. He isn't someone who would hit a woman!" Mary immediately defended her husband.

Fia smiled at her, "Then why would you think my husband would do that?"

Mary pointed at the door and said, "See for yourself. He looks so cold and detached from people around him. You know, like those murderers in horror movies."

Fia looked at her in confusion. "What?"

Chapter 752

"You know what I mean. It's those characters in the movies that are mentally unstable. They tend to be very good-looking but viciously heartless!" Mary's voice rose as she became increasingly excited.

Still standing outside of the villa, Conrad suddenly lost the desire to go into the house after hearing what Mary thought of him.

"Ahem! No, he's not like that." Fia cleared her throat and explained, "Conrad only looks cool and distant on the outside. But he's actually a really..."

"Fia, no need to pretend. He indeed loves you. That's an undeniable fact. But men like these are very intolerant and paranoid. You must have led a tough life living with him." Mary looked at Fia with teary eyes, feeling very sorry for her.

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This conversation was getting ridiculous. Why did Mary suddenly have such a deep. misunderstanding and negative preconception for her husband?

Conrad, who was standing near the entrance, quietly leaned against the wall next to the door to eavesdrop on them.

"Fia, you don't understand. I feel so heartbroken after talking to William on video call! I regret sending him there so much! It's only been a few days yet he's already tanned and lost some weight!" Mary sobbed.

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Fia's head ached as she heard what Mary said. She turned to Sharon and asked, "Did you talk to your brother on the video call too?"

Sharon nodded. "Yeah!"

"Is he okay?"

"Mom's right about him gaining a tan! He even looked skinnier!" Sharon paused momentarily before continuing, "But he looked more lively than before! He doesn't even stutter as much as he did in the past!"

"Silly girl! What do you know about William's stuttering?!" Mary poked on Sharon's forehead and said, "You little brother was scared so much he forgot to stutter!"

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Sharon was so confused. Sigh! The adults were so weird! It was her mom's wish to have William go through some training so he could get healthier. That was why Uncle Conrad helped them to bring him to the camp. Now that William had gotten healthier, she blamed it on Uncle Conrad?

"Hey, Mary. Don't get mad at Sharon." Fia waved Sharon to her side before pulling her to sit next to her.

With her Aunt Fia protecting her, Sharon felt safer and braver to talk. Sure, Uncle Conrad always put on a scary face and looked like a bad person. But he was Aunt Fia's husband, so there was no way he was a bad person. So, Sharon mustered up her courage and opened her mouth. "Mom, although William gained a tan, it's true that he looks livelier now. He can now speak clearly too. Uncle Conrad has indeed helped William to get better. How can you badmouth him in front of Aunt Fia?"

Outside of the house, Conrad nodded in agreement. This little Miss Lane was right. What a good, clever girl. He could not help but get envious of Tyler for having such a lovely and clever daughter.

If he and Fia had a daughter, he would definitely take care of her and make sure no harm gets to her!

"You...! You don't understand!" Mary lowered her head gloomily. "I spent months carrying him in my womb... He's my lovely son! You can't possibly understand how I feel!"

Sharon felt sad hearing that. "Hey, Mom! I'm your daughter too! Teachers in the school told us that having a daughter is like owning a treasure to parents. Because we daughters are thoughtful and caring to our mom and dad."

It was true. Sharon was very thoughtful and attentive when it came to treating her mother. Yet Mary had only been focusing on William! It was so unfair!

Seeing Sharon's dejected face, Fia pulled Sharon into her arms and gave her a warm, fuzzy hug. Then, she spoke to Mary. "Mary, I know you're worried about William. But we talked about this. If we send him there, he will face some challenges. You can feel sorry for him. You can also accuse Conrad of being heartless. But you shouldn't lose your temper at Sharon!"

"I... I didn't mean it..." Mary wiped her tears away. "It's just that... when I saw William so tanned and skinny... I could not help but to feel sad about it. Oh, I regret sending him there so much. I'm sorry... I didn't mean to lose my temper like that... I..."

To be frank, she wanted to yell at Tyler so much for agreeing with this idea!

Fia smiled at her. "Mary, it's about time we call Mr. Lane here, right?" It was time for Tyler to fulfill his responsibility to soothe his lovely wife.

Chapter 753

Sharon climbed up to Fia's ear and whispered, "Doing that would make Dad miserable."

"How miserable?" Fia whispered back.

"Dad says that Mom's a drama queen. She loves to wail and make a scene."

"Really? Then does your dad ever lose his temper with her?"

"No, he'd never do that. Instead, he would kneel to Mom and apologize. He would even slap himself. He'd continue to do that until Mom stops crying."

Their voices were so soft that only they could hear each other.

Fia was so surprised after hearing what Sharon said. She had a whole new perception of Tyler and Mary! What a funny pair of couple!

No wonder Mary had such a weird preconception of Conrad. Conrad was so proud that he would never do that! Of course, she herself was not that much of a drama queen like Mary.

Erm... Yeah! She was so much more thoughtful than that. Conrad was lucky to have her as his wife.

"Sharon! Were you badmouthing me?!" Mary stared at Fia and her daughter with her sad,

puppy eyes.

"No, no! You got it wrong." Fia and Sharon shook their heads in unison.

"Hmph! I'm calling your dad! It's all his fault!" Mary took out her phone and called Tyler. She shouted into the phone as soon as he picked up. "Where the hell are you?! What? You've just departed?! You told me you departed half an hour ago! Work! Work! All you know is work! Do you still remember that you still have a wife and daughter?!"

Fia and Sharon stared at Mary speechlessly as she scolded her husband through the phone.

A few minutes later, Mary finally had enough and hung up. She had finally calmed down. She scratched her head and then... that gentle, lady-like smile was back on her face again.

"I'm so sorry, Fia. I lost my cool earlier and had to let out some steam."

Fia nodded. "It's okay. I understand. It's important to let it all out sometimes. If you keep it in, you'll get sick."

"Indeed." Mary then asked, "Then what about you? Does Mr. Maxwell comfort you whenever you get angry? Ah, silly me... Mr. Maxwell is not the type that knows how to soothe his lover. It must have been you doing all the tip-toeing around and soothing him, am I right?"

Fia thought about it for a moment before saying, "Well, not entirely. Most of the time, he's the one who pacifies me."

Conrad nodded again. It was true! It was him who did all the work!

"Fia, you don't have to put on a brave face in front of me. If he's such a thoughtful husband, how'd you fall victim to clinical depression? People who have depression are often abused and in distress for an unthinkable long time."

Mary was genuinely worried for Fia.

"Sure, he might be powerful and wealthy but no one is above the law. If he's treating you badly, you should tell me. We can seek help from the police. If the police in Gryphon can't help you, we can go to the police in Lumenpolis. There's bound to be someone that can help you!"

"No..." Fia felt so restless as she tried to explain to Mary, "He's been really good to me recently."

"That means that he treated you badly in the past, right?" Mary was so persistent in getting to the bottom of this.

Fia said, "No. It's just that we had faced some complications and obstacles in the past. And we didn't know how to communicate effectively with one another."

Conrad was nearly at his limits. He could not allow Mary to keep on yapping with his wife like that. If this went on, it would have a bad influence on his lovely Fia.

When he was about to barge in to interrupt their conversation, a car screeched outside the villa. Then, in a blink of an eye, Tyler got down from the car and approached the gates.

"Took you long enough." Conrad walked to him and patted his shoulder. "You should go discipline your wife, Tyler."

Chapter 754

"Discipline?! What did she do?" Tyler looked worried. "Mary's upset from seeing William go through some hardship in the camp. Did she say anything drastic to your wife?"

"Just... Just take her away!" Conrad said to him in an irate manner.

"Can't we talk about this? Perhaps I could bring her home a little later?" Tyler's head was aching so badly. If he brought his wife home right now... the next few days would be hellish

for him.

"No!" Conrad tapped on his shoulder and pitied him. "My condolence to you, Mr. Lane."

Seeing that Tyler was unwilling to comply, Conrad forcefully pushed him into the villa. After guarding at the door for a few minutes, to block Tyler from fleeing, Conrad walked through the door slowly.

"What? Why do you want me to go home right now? Fia invited us to stay for dinner." Mary was getting cross again.

"We could come next time. I want to taste your cooking today. Please come home... Pretty please?" Tyler did his best to mollify Mary and get her up from her seat.

Then, he turned to Sharon and made a face at her. "Come on, let's go home!"

"Your daughter can stay. Fia could use her company," Conrad interrupted him. Mary was getting moody so he was hoping to reduce her influence on their daughter. "Yeah, I'm staying," Sharon said in a soft voice. She could not be happier to stay because she did not want to watch her mom treat dad like a punching bag. Watching them like that was so, so boring!

Tyler struggled to pull Mary to the door with him. "What?! What are you staying here for? Come on, Sharon. Let's go home. We should not disturb Uncle Conrad and Aunt Fia."

He needed an ally at home. Or else, pacifying Mary would be an uphill battle for him.

"No, thank you. I'm staying," Sharon insisted.

Fia hugged the girl gently and said to Tyler, "It's okay. You two go home first. I'll send her home later."

"Fine. Let's go home, honey! I. Will. Cook. Something. Special. For. You." Mary grabbed Tyler's hand, sinking her nails into his skin. She could not wait to give him a piece of her mind!

Tyler yelped painfully. However, in the next second, he put on a silly grin after seeing his wife's fuming face.

And that was how Mr. and Mrs. Lane left the house.

Sharon glanced at the front door in disgust. "Aunt Fia, Uncle Conrad, don't you think Mom and Dad look so childish when they fight? It's like they are still at kindergarten age."

Conrad raised an eyebrow, not saying a word. Fia, on the other hand, nodded. "Why, yes. They do look a little childish."

"My dad is like that little fat boy in school. He's a little slow in the physical department. Always got his arm pinched by a little girl," Sharon said with a straight face.

Fia asked, "Were you that little girl?"

Sharon smiled awkwardly. "Hehe, no. That wasn't me. I'm so adorable and thoughtful." Then, she formed a heart shape with her hands and blinked her eyes adorably at Fia.

Seeing this, Fia nodded even though she did not believe the little girl's denial.

It was midnight when Peter arrived home. When he saw his little sister's room still lit, he walked toward it curiously.

Then, he saw Sally busy packing up stuff into her luggage.

"Sally, why aren't you sleeping at this hour? And why are you packing?"

"Brother, you're home." Sally stood up straight with her hands on the waist. She panted lightly and said, "I'm waiting for you."

"Waiting for me? For what?" Peter felt uneasy all a sudden. He was worried that she would ask some difficult questions again.

Sally smiled and came clean with him. "I have a patient. She is pregnant yet she has a lump in her breast. I am planning to visit an expert massage therapist to learn some medical methods via massaging so I could help her overcome her predicament."

Peter's face turned cold as he heard this, "And this patient is Fia Lawson, am I right?

Chapter 755

"Yes!" Sally maintained her smile, pretending to not notice the slight change on Peter's facial expression.

Peter took a glance at her luggage and walked into her room. He spoke to her coldly, "Don't spend too much effort on just one patient. If you want to save lives, there are so many other patients that could use your help."

"..." Sally did not refute his words, still maintaining her smile. She knew that since they had brought this issue up, it would not take long before they had a fight.

"Sally, listen to me, okay? I've never asked anything from you all these years. This is just one request from me, from your brother." Peter lowered his head and spoke to her in a soft, pleading voice.

Sally poured a glass of water. "Want some water?"

"No, thank you.'

After drinking another glass of water, Sally sat on a chair with a grim, sullen face.

"Fia is a good and kind girl. She has never hurt anyone all her life. I don't want her to get hurt

or get involved in some untoward incidents. I hope you can help her too, Pete."

Peter took a deep breath to suppress his temper. "This is not the way to judge whether a person's good or not."

"But can you not get her involved with that matter with Parker Group?!" Sally could not hold it in anymore. She raised her head and confronted her brother.

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Peter frowned as his face turned sullen. "Who told you that?"

"Pete, although I was young at the time, I could already remember things. Besides, I am the daughter of the victim and there were many friends' and classmates' parents who were entrepreneurs. So of course I caught wind of the news.

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Sally's eyes began swelling with tears. "I hated the Parkers too back then. But as I grew up, I began to understand."

"What did you understand?" Peter's voice turned cold upon hearing this.

Sally was stunned and turned silent upon seeing her brother's reaction.

"Sally Hall! Tell me what the heck did you understand!" Peter raised his voice, demanding the answer from his sister.

Sally gulped down her saliva and continued, "There is always competition in the business world. Tricks, ploys, and schemes are unavoidable. And the winners call the shots... Our dad. lost to Parker Group so..."

"Fool!" Peter interrupted her in a cold tone, "Parker Group is based in Lumenpolis. And we, the Halls, are based in Gryphon. What did we ever do to them? Huh? How could they, a massive corporation, wipe out the Halls like that?! They did not even leave us some room to regroup and recover, sending us straight to bankruptcy! Heh, 'survival of the fittest' my ass!

We're humans, not animals! Yet look at them! Can these people call themselves humans?!"

Sally looked at him with teary eyes. "Pete, please don't get upset."

"You understood nothing, Sally. Nothing! It's completely understandable if massive corporations fight tooth and nail for survival. But preying on small companies like they did? Like how they oppressed and eliminated us, just for money? It's against the unspoken rules. and codes of the business field! It was because they bribed Dad's most trusted right-hand man to backstab him that he felt so depressed that he jumped off the roof! He lost his legs because of that!"

Sally lowered her head weakly. "I'm sorry, Pete."

Peter tried his best to calm down before speaking again. "I'll pretend I never heard what you said. You're still young and naive. You don't understand how heartless and despicable this world can be."

Hearing that he was about to leave her room, Sally yelped out, "But...! But Fia had nothing to do with all that!"

"Sally!" Peter turned and glared at his sister. "You disappoint me!"

Sally walked to him and took his hand. She tearfully said, "Please, Pete. Don't treat her as our enemy. I know you're actually a kind, gentle person who loves his sister very much. You've always doted on me. Fia is a close friend of mine. Could you treat her like our younger sister, please?"

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Peter was utterly speechless when he heard Sally's ridiculous plea. Was his little sister too kind or too stupid?

Chapter 756

Sally clutched Peter's hand and said to him earnestly, "I know that you've been bearing a lot of burden all these years. You've done so much to provide for me. Yet Fia is so kind and so innocent. She went through so much hardship –like me, your little sister. Yet she remained kind and incorruptible. Pete, please... next time when you see her and feel overwhelmed by vengeance, do think of me, okay?

"Just how did that witch brainwash you?!" Peter said to her coldly as he pulled his arm out of her hands.

"So she ordered you to come and annoy me, is that it?"

Sally shook her head. "I'm not trying to annoy you. I'm just hoping that you won't be

engulfed by vengeance. I don't want you to become someone else's executioner because you want to seek revenge."

"Shut up!" Peter felt so degraded and heartbroken. He felt degraded because his image of the perfect brother was completely shattered in his little sister's heart. And he was heartbroken because his little sister did not understand why he did the things that he did.

"Pete..."

Peter interrupted her with a cold voice, "Stop trying to persuade me! And don't go to that expert massage therapist! I won't allow you to do anything for her!"

After saying this, he turned and left her room.

After wiping away her tears, Sally went into the bathroom to wash her face and then continued packing her stuff.

When she wanted to leave the house with her luggage, her mother and their house servants stopped her.

"Mom, what are you doing?!"

"You're such a good girl all this time! What got into you?! What made you want to do something so ridiculous?!" Mrs. Hall said in distraught.

"What ridiculous thing?!" Sally raised her voice and asked.

"Eloping with someone! Your brother told on you and asked me to stop you from running away! Look, Sally. If you really like that man, just ask him to come ask for your hand in marriage properly!" Mrs. Hall then stared at Sally's stomach. "Don't worry, Sally. It's okay that you're pregnant. It's okay! It's not like the old days. So no one will say anything bad about it. Just don't resort to elopement. Get that man to visit our home and we can discuss your marriage the proper way, okay?"

Even her servant was pleading with her, "Yeah, miss! There's no need to run off with the man. There's always room to negotiate!"

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Sally was so pissed off that she could not utter a word! Her brother... That sweet brother of hers would resort to ruining her good name and reputation as a maiden just to stop her from helping Fia!

And he had foreseen that she would not be able to get someone over to help her because she never had a boyfriend!

Right now the only person who could help her was Jason. But Peter knew her very well-he knew that she would not have the courage to seek his help!

After being chased back into her room, Sally dialed Peter's number angrily.

When he saw the number on the phone, Peter said to Esme, "Wait here. I have a phone call to take."

He then walked away, intending to pick up the phone outside of his office. Esme grinned at him sarcastically. "Who is it, huh? Is this another woman that you're sleeping with? So that's why you don't want to receive the call in front of me?"

"Shut your mouth, woman. It's Sally!"

"Oh." A glint of envy flashed on Esme's eyes. "Then off you go then. Shoo!"

After leaving the office, Peter turned and checked if Esme followed him. Then, he walked even further away and picked up the phone.

"Hello, Sall..."

"Pete, how could you?! How could you ruin my name in front of Mom like that just to stop me from leaving?!"

Peter rubbed his temple and said, "Look, don't get involved, alright? Listen to me. Don't get involved with Fia Lawson."

"But I have to work at the hospital! How'd I go to work if they do something like this to me?!" "I've helped you with your resignation letter earlier. I'll find you work at another hospital. Don't worry. I assure you. The working environment and pay over there is going to be better than what you had at Gryphonheart Hospital. You'll even get a higher position too." Peter tried to persuade his little sister with money and power.

Hearing what her brother said, Sally fell silent.

"Sally? Hello? If there's nothing else, I'll hang up then."

"Are you with Britney at the moment? Are you two planning to do something?" Sally suddenly spoke into the phone with a cold tone.

Chapter 757

"Stay in your room and don't pry into my business!" After saying that, Peter hung up.

As he returned to the office, Esme grinned at him. "Why the long face? Did you fight with your dear little sister?"

Peter walked to the fridge to get a bottle of cold water and juice. He handed the juice to Esme. Then, he twisted open the cold water and gulped it down.

Esme continued saying giddily, "So it's true you've had a fight with her? But isn't she an obedient girl? I remember you saying that she has never fought with you and listens to whatever you say?"

"Stop acting so disgustingly!" Peter glared at her. "Remember. Never touch my family!"

"Why would I want to touch your family? You're the best amongst them. So it makes more sense for me to... touch you." Esme walked toward him and then sat on his lap. When she was about to hug his neck, Peter pushed her away.

Esme, sitting on the floor, looked at him tearfully. "Why did you do that?"

"I'm not in the mood!" Peter glared at Esme. Things had gotten complicated now that Sally knew about him and Esme. He had to make sure that Esme never caught wind of this. Or else, this mad, crazy b*tch would endanger Sally by involving her with their plan.

"Aw, come on. Don't be like that. You went to the police station to bail me out first thing in the morning. So I want to repay you. Why'd you push me away like that?" Esme sighed as she climbed to the sofa and laid on it.

"From the way you pushed me away, I would think you've found another woman to sleep with you."

"Just why on earth do you think I'd find another woman? Esme, you've completely ruined me!" Peter glared at this woman with his furious eyes. He could not wait to choke this woman to death!

Yet she was all he could think of all day! He could not find it in him to let her go. His "love" for her had mutated into something really perverse over the years!

"Oh my, you look so angry this morning. Who upset you, hmm?"

"I think you know that answer better than anyone!" Peter tossed away the bottle in his hand and rushed to Esme to grab her hair.

A glint of hatred gleamed in Esme's eyes when she felt hurt from him pulling her hair.

Yet she maintained her sensual, lascivious smile. "Mr. Hall, what's wrong?"

Still pulling on Esme's hair, Peter gritted his teeth and said, "Why did you go to Conrad's house? What did you do? Did you seduce him? You must have seduced him, right?! If not, why would be send you to the police station?!"

"Hey, it's not me. It was that idiot Elmo Moore. He was the one who allowed himself to get persuaded and did all those horrible things. And Conrad heard from Fia that I could be Esme Manning, so he asked to see me."

"Did you break your cover?" Peter's face turned grim.

"No. At first, things ended well and he asked his underling to send me home. Yet suddenly that underling insisted on bringing me to the police station to help with investigating Elmo." When she thought about it, Esme could not help but feel afraid too. She did not know if anything went wrong. How could Elmo tell that she was Esme Manning just by looking at her from behind?

She wanted so much to stab the man's eyes!

"Then why were your parents brought to Conrad's villa to meet you, huh?"

"It should be me asking you that question, don't you think?" Esme smiled as she slapped Peter's face.

"Do you have a death wish?!" Peter yelled at her.

"Hey, I did not slap that hard. What's there to be mad about? I should be the one who's mad at you. Weren't you supposed to keep them safely hidden somewhere? Why were they found by Conrad Maxwell? He even brought them over to threaten me!"

Esme then pretended to sob. "You have no idea how anxious and scared I was when I saw them! If Conrad hurt them before my eyes, I might actually kneel in front of him and ask him to stop! My cover could have blown from my desire to save them!"

Peter was getting irritated by Esme's sobbing. He let her go and then sat on the floor. "He could never hurt your parents."

Esme was stunned to hear this. "Why?"

Could it be that Conrad still had feelings for her? So he would love her parents as well? Esme's heart raced when she thought about this possibility.

Chapter 758

Slap!!

Peter raised his hand and gave Esme a loud slap. He slapped her so hard that she felt dizzy from it. The edge of her lips was bleeding.

"Why did you slap me?" Esme asked in a daze.

"So that you'll wake up and stop dreaming!" Peter said in a cold voice, "It's true that he wouldn't hurt your parents. But it's not because of you. It's because he doesn't want Fia to see his dark, vicious side."

Esme's eyes rolled as she covered her swollen face.

No. No, that's not it."

She had had enough being controlled by Peter Hall! She had enough of his brainwashing! When she was together with Conrad, Esme was so proud and free!

She regretted it so much! Why did she push him away and go overseas?! Why did she allow herself to be seduced by Peter?

Indeed, after she had gone overseas, Esme was able to expand and grow her career quite rapidly. This was all thanks to Peter providing her the resources.

But if she stayed and played the long game... Conrad could have given her all that fame and wealth too! She regretted leaving him so much!

Look at Fia! She was doing so well! He gave her that project he forcefully obtained from Grandmother. He helped her to produce everything that she designed. He even bought all the commercial slots on every media outlet to market her products!

This nameless little b*tch had become so famous in such a short time!

And this all should have been hers! Hers!

Anger and hatred filled Esme's eyes as she said, "Peter, don't force me to leave you! I always have options other than you!"

"What... You have options better than me?" Peter got down from the sofa and grabbed her by the throat, pulling her all the way to the bathroom.

He pressed her face to the bathroom mirror and said, "Open your eyes and look carefully! Tell me who you are at the moment!"

When Esme saw that innocent, lovely face in the mirror, she screamed like a mad woman and began clawing at Peter's face.

"It's you! It's all your fault!"

She hated Britney's face so much! The more she carried that face, the more she hated it!

If she was still Esme, she could still stand a chance if she could make Conrad reminisce about the old days when they were together.

Yet now, she had literally lost her face! What else did she have to compete with Fia?!

Peter pushed her to the bathroom floor and glared at her. "Don't forget that your parents are still in my hands. Even if they haven't spilled the beans this time, they might the next time."

Laying on the floor on her stomach, Esme laughed sarcastically. "Spill the beans? What beans? To them, I'm already dead! Esme Manning is no more!"

Peter squatted down to grab her chin and said, "You think your father doesn't know?"

Esme widened her eyes and glared at him. "What do you mean by that?"

"Do you really think someone like him would obey my instructions and live a country life? If you really died, he would probably feel relieved because then he would be free."

"What do you mean?!" Esme repeated her question in a screech as she pushed Peter's hand away. "How could my father know that I'm alive?! It was your doing, wasn't it?! Did you tell him that I am still alive?!"

"Oh, yes. I did." An evil grin was carved on Peter's face. It was as though he was a demon spawned from hell.

Esme recalled the time she was at Conrad's villa. When she was about to drink that boiling, hot tea, her father rushed to her and gulped down the tea without hesitation.

She knew her father. Hank Manning, her father, was a very selfish man. He would never show sympathy to a stranger. So why did he grab that tea and drink it? Because he knew... He knew that she was his daughter.

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He knew that she was still alive. Did her father feel ashamed about what he did to her because he wanted to protect his brother, Chuck? Was that why he grabbed the boiling hot tea?

"Then what about my mom? Does she know?" Esme asked as she stared at Peter.

"Do you think your mother would be crazy like that if she knew you're still alive?" Peter said icily.

"You monster!" Esme pounced at him and choked him by the neck. "You let my dad know, but why did you hide it from my mom? How can you just stand by and watch as she gets worse and worse?!"

"If she knew, how can she perfect the act with Conrad's people?" Peter held her hand and with a simple press, Esme let go of him because of the pain.

"The crazier she gets, the better." Peter stood up before giving a bitter smile. "But from the looks of it, there's no point in this anymore."

"What do you mean?" Esme asked.

"Nothing much. However, as you couldn't keep your temper and kept on provoking Fia, she is now already sure that you are Esme Manning! Do you think Conrad will let things develop without interfering?"

"No! He's seen me! He didn't believe that I am Esme! He even said that Fia's crazy and that nothing she said is trustworthy!" Esme said, trying her best to convince herself.

Peter suddenly felt pity for her. He grabbed Esme by her long hair and dragged her to the front of the sink.

"Do you know how I did it to Britney without raising her suspicion? Do you know what I injected her with? That drug would maintain the freshness of the corpse in the beginning. However, in five days' time, the body would quickly decompose and become bloated. It would look like a body that had been submerged in water for a very long time. Identification would almost be impossible."

Esme listened to the horror story that Peter was telling her, and she couldn't help but let a terrible picture form in her mind.

Her body slowly trembled, as fear began to overtake her whole body.

Peter began to whisper into her ears as if he was intoxicated. "I spent a lot of effort to take her corpse back to the country and exchange it with you. But you? You're so ungrateful! You've betrayed me! What's the point of letting you live?!"

"No..." Esme could sense Peter's murderous intent and held his hand with her trembling hands.

Peter looked at the face in the mirror and remembered little Britney who had always followed him since they were children.

If Sally knew that he had killed Britney, she would never forgive him!

Perhaps it was better for him to end everything like this! To die together with this damnable. Esme Manning!

"No..." Esme could feel her breathing get shallower as she tried even harder to grab the hand choking her, but it wasn't helping.

As she choked, she let down one of her hands and put it on her belly.

"...Pregnant. I'm... pregnant."

Peter was stunned and regained his composure. "What did you say?"

When he saw how Esme was almost out of breath from being choked, he quickly let go of her hand.

"What did you say?!"

Esme fell on the floor buttocks first as she coughed. She was worried that Peter would go crazy again. She coughed and said, "I... Cough! Have your child... Cough!"

"You're lying!"

"I... Cough! I'm not," Esme said pitifully as she grabbed Peter's leg. "You can take me to the hospital for a checkup."

Peter stared at her with an icy face. Once he was sure she wasn't lying, he pulled her up.

He took her to his laboratory and put her down on the examination couch. He confirmed what was inside her womb very quickly thanks to his tools.

"I didn't lie, right?" Esme sat up, shuddering. She did her best to do it carefully, trying her best not to enrage him.

Peter first stared at her and then at her belly before asking gloomily, "Why are you only telling me now? It has been two months!"

Esme's heart skipped a beat and quickly said, "You misunderstood me. I wasn't trying to hide it from you or do anything behind your back! I only found out the day before yesterday when I wasn't feeling well. I haven't been able to tell you about it because Conrad asked me to go to his place directly after that. And then, I got sent to the police station..

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Peter stared at Esme quietly.

She became unsettled the longer he stared at her, worried that he would suddenly go crazy.

"You don't believe me? Or do you think that the baby isn't yours? You're a researcher and you know a lot of things. You have ways to find out more about it." She pulled his hand and placed it on her belly, worried that he wouldn't believe her.

"You can take my venous blood to test it."

Peter found it to be very ironic. She said that she had just found out about it, but she knew about using her venous blood for DNA testing. Obviously, she had read a lot about it beforehand.

"Other than using venous blood to check for one's parental DNA, did you read about how to get an abortion? Do you want it done by hand or with drugs?"

Esme was stunned, unable to react.

"Or maybe you want to use some kind of accident to lose the baby? Or maybe you want to use this baby as a tool to vilify Conrad? Is that it?"

"No!" Esme shuddered. "I... I didn't! You're the only man I have, and you know it! I was still a virgin when we got together!" Peter smiled. "You came back for him, and he almost had a divorce with Fia, and you dare say that you never slept with him?"

"No! I never did!" Esme wanted to curse when she remembered about it!

She did everything she could back then and even drugged him, but Conrad never slept with her!

"You have to believe me! You're the only man I ever have! This baby is definitely yours! The only reason that I was reading about the paternity test is because I'm worried that you won't believe me."

"Enough!" Peter was getting so annoyed when he heard about her crying and said, "Raise your hand."

"Alright." Esme showed her arm.

Peter brought a needle and extracted four vials of blood from her elbow area. He then said coldly, "Go back to rest. Have the Thomases prepare some nutritious food for you."

"Alright," Esme said as she held a piece of cotton over where the needle pricked her. When it stopped bleeding, she looked at Peter pitifully. "What should we do next?"

Peter looked at her coldly and took her blood to a machine for the test.

"What do you want?" he asked nonchalantly.

"Everyone thought that Britney was the one that chased after you and that you didn't like her. Now that I'm pregnant, should we do this secretly or should we open it up?"

"Do you want to make this relationship open?" Peter said, his voice still without much

emotion.

There was a flash in Esme's eyes and said, "Maybe we should keep it quiet for now. We can take it slow and make everyone believe that you're starting to accept me. Then, when they..." "Esme Manning." Peter turned around and looked at her with frigid eyes. "Do you want to take it slow so that everyone has time to warm up to the idea, or are you just trying to buy time for your schemes?"

"No, I'm really doing this for your sake. Otherwise, if we suddenly announce this despite your dislike for Britney, everyone will think that you're not doing it for real or you're toying with Britney's feelings."

"I'm the one with the ruined reputation and I'm fine with that!" Peter said as he let out a sneer. "Better than you having a large belly and having both our reputations ruined!"

"Then, what you're saying is...?" Esme carefully asked.

"Give me some time." He glared at her. "And you better keep your head low."

After Esme left, Peter waited for the results as his mind wandered.

He never thought of having a child with Esme. At least, not until then.

The two of them had always used protection. The only time that he did it was in the car because he didn't have a condom. However, he pulled out at the last moment, so he didn't leave any traces inside.

When he remembered what Esme had been doing lately, he laughed at himself. "She planned it all."

She planned to have his child so that she could control him.

Everything that woman did was for her schemes!

Once Esme returned to the Thomases' household, she locked herself up in her room and didn't

even want to eat.