

Trapped in Love #Chapter 271 - Read Trapped in Love Chapter 271

Chapter 271

Chapter 271 Innocently Injured Victim

“Evan, it wasn’t easy for her either. Don’t let the children stop you from moving on,” Alex advised.

Suppressing his anger, Evan asserted himself. Then explain why she had two more kids with

Neil if she was so sad.”

“Maybe it’s her way of coping,” Alex suggested

Evan erupted. hurling his glass “Coping? Is her coping mechanism being with another man?”

Since Daniella could take Caroline’s child, she might harm the others Men can’t fathom women’s

jealousy!”

Evan’s hostile eyes narrowed. “I’ll investigate this.

Alex sighed. This won’t be easy’

He had a feeling that Daniella was more complicated than she appeared and that she had a powerful backer!

What was Daniella’s role in the murder case from years ago if Caroline wasn’t the culprit? Was she just an innocent victim?

He refused to believe that!

On Saturday, Caroline let her children sleep in rather than waking them for breakfast. She preferred they interact less with the people downstairs. I

At 10:30 am, Liora and Tyler entered Caroline’s room.

. Caroline rose from her bed at the sight of her children “You’re up! How about brunch?”

Liora patted her belly. I’m hungry, Mommy’

Tyler smiled gracefully. “You’re still chubby even after missing a meal.”

Liora scowled at Tyler. “You’re so annoying, Tyler! Always saying mean stuff!”

Caroline picked out clothes from the closet. “Let’s think about brunch.”

Liora giggled “Can we go to Fidelio Restaurant?”

“Of course! I’ll make a reservation,” Caroline promised.

Gigi overheard their conversation from the stairwell. She quickly descended the stairs to inform Jade about the plan to visit a family–friendly restaurant.

+15 BONUS

Brandon perked up and started searching for the restaurant on his phone. His eyes widened in

shock upon discovering that an average meal cost more than 150 dollars per person. “Do you want

to go?” novelbin

Gigi eagerly said, “Tve never been there before. I definitely want to go!

Brandon nodded and turned to Jade. “Mom, the average cost per person at the restaurant is 150 dollars! Should we go and treat curselves?”

Jade shot him a disapproving look. It’s only 150 dollars! That’s nothing!‘

She had spent over 1,000 dollars on a meal just last night. ‘Caroline is really stingy’

Nevertheless, they had previously agreed that Caroline would cover all their expenses during

their stay. Jade refused to pay for her meals and agreed to endure a more budget–friendly dining

experience

Jade reluctantly said, "Sure, let's go!"

Fifteen minutes later, Caroline descended the stairs with her children

They were all taken aback when they saw the Shentons fully dressed and waiting in the living

TOOM.

Liora tugged at Caroline's hand. "Let's go. Mommy"

Caroline nodded and exited the villa with the children

The Shentons hurriedly joined them, forcefully squeezing themselves into the car.

Chapter 272

Chapter 272 I Can't Read

+15 BONUS

Fitting so many people into a regular car would be really tough. Thankfully, it was a minivan.

Caroline was just about to ask when a shout came from the door.

"Wait for me! I'm coming too!" Jamie rushed out, with Freya following closely behind.

The Shentons were instantly shocked by the voice.

"Fuck! The crazy woman is coming too?" Brandon said fearfully.

Gregory was trembling. "I don't want to go anymore! I'm getting out!"

But Jamie had already squeezed herself into the car as their voices faded.

The Shentons cowered in fear.

Caroline sneered, not expecting Jamie to have such an effect on them

Jamie glared at the Shentons, then turned to Caroline. "I want to come too, Carol."

"Sure," Caroline agreed.

Tyler and Liora giggled on the side. These people are so scared of Madam Jamie, huh?'

The Shentons remained silent and kept their distance from Jamie during the journey.

Upon arriving at the restaurant, the Shentons scrambled out of the car as if their lives depended

on it.

The waiter guided them to a long table inside. He smiled and asked, "Ms. Shenton, will your

children be having the children's menu again?"

"Yes, I'd like the truffle steak for myself. What about you, Jamie?" Caroline asked.

"I'll also have a children's menu," Jamie replied.

The waiter took their orders before attending to the Shentons.

Brandon waved his hand impatiently. "You were busy taking orders but didn't bother to give me a

menu."

The waiter smiled and handed him a menu.

Brandon glared at him. "Terrible service!"

His expression shifted as he realized the menu was entirely in Ylesirese.

Seeing Brandon's confusion, Jade asked, "What's wrong? Why haven't you ordered?"

Brandon whispered, "Stop pressuring me, Mom! I can't read it!"

“You can’t read a menu?’ Jade exclaimed. “Useless!”

She took the menu, and her eyes widened in shock. “What kind of restaurant is this?”

Jade spoke loudly, drawing disapproving glances from other diners.

Caroline intervened with a smile. Just bring a few courses, please.”

“Of course, Ms. Shenton!”

”

The Shentons fell silent after their embarrassing moment and sat solemnly.

Soon, the children’s meals arrived.

Liora’s eyes lit up “The ice cream is here!”

The waiter placed the ice cream in front of Liora. “You really love ice cream, Ms. Liora.”

Liora responded, “You know me well, Mr. Waiter!” novelbin

+15 BONUS

Liora picked up a spoon, ready to eat, when suddenly a hand reached out. In an instant, the ice cream was snatched away and placed in front of Gigi.

Liora was shocked. “M—My ice cream

Caroline’s expression turned serious. “Each children’s meal comes with ice cream. Why are you taking Lia’s?”

“Because. I want to!” Brandon emphasized each word, his gaze challenging Caroline.

Without warning, Jamie stood and grabbed Brandon by the collar. “You’re going to get yourself

killed!”

Jamie raised her arm and slapped Brandon's face forcefully. Her eyes were red as she continued to strike him "How dare you take Lia's ice cream! Are you tired of living?!"

"Gah, you're mad-"

Jamie delivered three more slaps. The Shentons watched in astonishment, lacking the courage to intervene.

Chapter 273

Chapter 273 Who Are These People?

The patrons snickered in secret as they watched the Shentons making a scene.

"That person definitely deserved the slaps."

"You're absolutely right!"

Freya felt the urge to step in, but Caroline held her back. "Let's wait for the waiter."

Freya could only nod in agreement.

+15 BONUS

Meanwhile, outside the restaurant.

Alex eased his Ferrari to a stop at the red light. Out of boredom, he gazed out of the window, and

his attention was drawn to the restaurant across the street. Suddenly, his eyes widened in

disbelief.

Acting swiftly, Alex rolled down the window and fixed his gaze on a woman in a white dress

striking someone.

"Isn't that Evan's mother?" he exclaimed

Without hesitation, Alex grabbed his phone and dialed Evan's number.

When Evan answered, Alex sounded anxious. "Evan, I just saw your mother at Fidelio Restaurant.novelbin

You need to come here quickly!"

'Fidelio Restaurant? Why would my mother be there? Evan wondered.

Frowning. Evan responded, "I'm on my way. Keep an eye on her."

After hanging up, Alex sped off to the parking lot.

Soon, the restaurant staff intervened.

Caroline gave Freya a nod, and she approached Jamie to stop her. "Why don't we get Lia some ice

cream to comfort her?

Jamie loosened her grip on Brandon. "Sure, let's do that."

Freya and Jamie exited through the back door.

As the onlookers dispersed, the waiter resumed serving the food.

Brandon's face was swollen, and he glared at Caroline with fury. That bitch prevented Dr. Bailey

+15 BONUS

After the steak dishes were served, Jade found herself bewildered once more. Different-sized

knives and forks were laid out beside her. Which ones am I supposed to use?'

Jade nudged Brandon "Which utensils should I use, huh?"

Tyler glanced up and suggested, "Steak is meant to be eaten in small bites, right? The smaller

knife and fork would be best."

Jade glared at Tyler. "You seem to know it all

Following Tyler's advice, Jade picked up the recommended knife and fork. Struggling to adapt, she ended up biting into the steak right off the fork.

Caroline observed her son with mixed emotions. She reluctantly admitted that her son had a

knack for manipulation, making her wonder who he took after.

Fifteen minutes later, Evan arrived and joined Alex as they entered the restaurant. They scanned

the surroundings but couldn't spot Jamie.

Evan gave Alex a stern look. "Perhaps you need an eye check."

Alex remained defiant. "Do you think I'd joke about something like this with your mother? Check

the surveillance footage if you doubt me."

Evan smirked. "Axel wanted me to bring him here. The restaurant values privacy, so there are no

cameras inside."

'No arguing with that logic! But my eyes can't have deceived me this much! Alex complained

inwardly.

Evan was about to leave when he noticed Caroline. She and her children were sitting with

unfamiliar faces. He wondered who these people were

He halted and beckoned the restaurant manager. "Arrange a table near them.

The manager complied, asking, "How many kids are with you, sir?"

Evan glanced at Alex. "Just him. Please provide a children's meal."

They were then seated at a table close to Caroline's.

Caroline looked up instinctively, her surprise evident upon spotting Evan

Tyler and Liora were also taken aback. What is scumbag Daddy doing here?"

The Shentons turned their attention to Evan and Alex, taken aback by these two handsome men

However, when Jade noticed the obsidian stud in Alex's left earlobe, she pursed her lips

disdainfully. A man with an ear stud? Why does he look like a sissy?"

Chapter 274

Chapter 274 Double Standards

+15 BONUS

Jade stole glances at Evan, admiring his handsome appearance. She nudged Gregory, who was devouring his meal, and said, "Greg, this man looks good and well-dressed. He seems wealthy! The daughter of my distant cousin's nephew, who lives in my younger sister's house at the village entrance, has high standards for men. She'll surely like someone like him!"

Gregory struggled to grasp the complex family connections for a moment before replying, "Oh, that one! Certainly!"

Excitedly, Jade declared, "I'm going over to talk to him!"

She stood up, walked over to his table, and pulled up a chair. "Hello there, handsome. Are you

married?"

Evan furrowed his brow and glanced at Caroline, his face darkening when he noticed her lack of

reaction.

In contrast, Alex seemed intrigued. "Ma'am, he's single but has a child."

Jade looked concerned and asked, "So, he's divorced with a child? That can be complicated. How

old is the child?"

Alex replied promptly, "Five."

"Five years old? That might be a challenge since the child can recognize people." Jade thought for a moment before saying, "But it should be manageable as long as financial arrangements are in

order!"

Alex couldn't help but chuckle as he realized Jade was trying to set Evan up on a date. This is

quite amusing, he thought

"What's your ideal type, handsome?" Jade inquired.

Evan's face remained serious, with a hint of annoyance. He wasn't interested in Jade's

matchmaking efforts.

Alex glanced meaningfully at Caroline and explained, "He prefers a woman with almond-shaped eyes, an oval face, a straight nose, small lips, and a slightly stubborn temperament."

Tyler and Liora both looked at their mother, thinking, "Hmm... she fits all those qualities."

Jade was delighted by Alex's description. "That's a perfect match! The daughter of my distant cousin's nephew, who lives in my younger sister's house at the village entrance, fits that description perfectly!"

Alex couldn't help but wonder about the complicated family ties. Their family connections are so

+15 BONUS

Before Alex could unravel their relationship, Jade asked, "You seem quite impressive, handsome. Do you own a house and a car?"

“If not?” Alex spoke for Evan. He snapped his fingers and said, “This man here owns houses all

over the country and a few hundred cars!”

Jade was taken aback. Wow! He has exceptional qualities. If only the age gap weren’t an issue, I’d

marry him!

Regaining her composure, Jade continued “That’s excellent. You’re a perfect match for the

prettiest girl in our village!”

Detecting something amiss, Jade eyed Evan suspiciously. “You haven’t said a word, handsome.

Are you mute? If that’s the case, it might complicate things. According to our customs, a mute

groom will need to pay extra for the wedding We’re talking at least 100,000 dollars!”

Evan sneered and shot her a cold look. “Is 100,000 dollars too little? How about 1,000,000 dollars?”

Jade was relieved that Evan could speak. She smiled craftily. “That’s a very generous offer! I’ll novelbin

discuss this with the prettiest girl in the village first. However, I’ll be straightforward. We’ll see if

she’s interested, considering you have a child. Second–hand men aren’t in high demand, you know.

Caroline couldn’t hold back a scornful laugh..

Tyler and Liora struggled to suppress their giggles, their faces turning red. ‘Oh, look at that!

Scumbag Daddy’s getting roasted!’

Evan's expression grew even more unpleasant upon hearing Caroline's laughter. How can she

laugh when this madwoman insults and slanders me? Would she still laugh if Neil were in my place? Double standards!

Chapter 275

Chapter 275 Your Mind Isn't Quite Normal

"Evan, she's right about second-hand men not being in high demand. Hahaha!" Alex's laughter distorted his expression.

"Shut up!" Evan scolded him softly.

Meanwhile, the waiter approached Alex and said, "Sir, your children's meal is ready."

Alex contained his laughter. Please place it here.

The waiter nodded and served it to Alex

Jade looked at Alex disdainfully, then turned to Evan and said, "Since you share the same opinion, give me your address I'll visit after talking to the village's prettiest girl!"

Evan smirked and turned to the waiter who lingered nearby. "Could you get me a pen and paper, please?"

The waiter retrieved a pen and notepad from his apron pocket. novelbin

Evan jotted down an address and handed the paper to Jade. "Come and meet me this afternoon. This is where I live."

Jade carefully pocketed the paper. "Sure thing, handsome. I won't interrupt your meal!"

"Excuse me, ma'am. Wait!" Alex called out to Jade, holding back his laughter. "Why haven't you set me up with some nice girls? How am I worse than him?"

Jade glanced at Alex's children's meal and sneered "Well, he may be a divorced father, but you seem like your mind isn't quite right. I won't put the girls in harm's way!"

Alex was left speechless. “How is my mind not quite right?”

He followed Jade’s gaze to his meal. ‘Fuck! Evan’s the one who insisted on ordering this! Evan, you bastard, you’ve ruined my reputation!’

After the meal, Caroline and her group left the restaurant, accompanied by Evan and Alex

Jade reminded Evan, “I’ll visit you later, handsome!”

Evan sneered “I’ll be waiting!”

Jade pulled her family along, preparing to hail a cab

Brandon asked in confusion, “Mom, why don’t we take Caroline’s car? We can save some money

that way”

+15 BONUS

Jade rolled her eyes at him. “You fool! The handsome man has many qualities. If Caroline were to

become interested in him and join us, she’d spoil everything.”

Brandon said, “I don’t think so. Caroline is a single mother of two kids. Why would that handsome

man be interested in her?”

Jade replied, “It’s better to be cautious. I have more experience than you, so I know better.”

They hailed a cab and gave the driver Evan’s address. “To 264 Cantonment Street.”

Jade couldn’t wait for the afternoon appointment.

The driver cast a meaningful glance at the four people squeezing into the backseat and drove

without a word.

Tyler and Liora were relieved when they saw the odd group finally leaving.

“They’re gone, Mommy,” Liora said

Caroline watched the cab drive away. “Yes, finally

But she soon noticed Evan’s resentful gaze from behind. She turned her head to find him staring

at her, his handsome face solemn. “You seem quite close to them.”

Chapter 276

Chapter 276 Best of Luck

+15 BONUS

Caroline asked, “Our closeness doesn’t stop you from going on a date, right?”

Alex spoke with a sad expression. “Will anyone check on me?”

Caroline and Evan said in unison, “You got yourself into this mess, didn’t you?”

Caroline and Evan were momentarily stunned. They exchanged a quick glance and then looked

away.

Caroline told her children, “Come with me to work, my darlings”

Liora waved cheerfully at Evan. “Have a great date, sir!”

Tyler added, “Best of luck!”

Evan’s expression turned serious.

Alex burst into laughter. “Evan, I never thought you’d go on a first date!”

Evan glared at Alex. “Get out of here!”

Jade eagerly called the Fleurs as they headed to their destination

The Fleurs agreed reluctantly after learning that Evan was a divorced father with assets across

the country. "Fine, set up a meeting with him, and we'll discuss further."

Jade accepted the task promptly.

However, the Shentons were shocked when they reached the destination and saw a sign that read 'Neuropsychiatric Hospital'. novelbin

"Mom, are you sure you have the right address?" Brandon asked.

Jade's expression shifted between shock and anger. "Why would I give the wrong address?"

Gregory took the note from Jade and asked a passerby, "Miss, is this 264 Cantonment Street?"

The female passerby confirmed, "Yes, this is the renowned neuropsychiatric hospital in Angelbay, known for treating severe mental illnesses!"

The Shentons were left dumbfounded.

"It's clear the man tricked us into coming here to question our sanity! Mom, he played us!" Brandon realized it first.

Jade was exasperated. "I never expected him to be a scam artist!"

+15 BONUS

Brandon said provocatively. "This is Caroline's fault. No wonder she was so pleased earlier. She's a

bitch! Fuck, we won't stand for her behavior!"

Jade shouted, "Who said I'm putting up with her? Wait and see how I deal with her later!"

"How are you going to handle her?" Gregory asked, bewildered.

Jade declared, "Let's go! We're going to spend her money since she bullied us! Aren't there many

luxury stores in the city? We're going shopping too! Let's get some Gachi!"

Brandon was puzzled. "What's Gachi?"

Jade leered at Brandon. "You ignorant child! You'll find out soon enough!"

The Shentons hailed a taxi to a luxury shopping mall.

Jade wandered the mall and found the luxury brand she sought. She pointed to the sign and said, This is Gachi! I've seen rich people on TV wearing it!"

Brandon's lips twitched "Mom, it's Gucci" 1

Jade remained undeterred. "Ah, Gucci, right? We're getting it today, no matter what!"

She entered the store and proclaimed, I'm buying Gucci!"

The sales attendant hesitated momentarily, observing the Shentons, and then approached them

professionally. "Hello, Madam. Which model would you like to purchase?"

Chapter 277

Chapter 277 I Can't Do It

Jade copied Brandon's pronunciation and exclaimed, "I want to buy Gucci! Gucci!"

The sales attendant, Laura Garcia, said, 'Hello, Welcome to Gucci's official flagship store. Which particular model are you interested in?"

"Can't you get what I mean? I don't need a specific model, just Gucci! Gucci!"

Laura's expression momentarily stiffened before she explained patiently, "Madam, every bag we have here is a Gucci. This is the official Gucci flagship store. Could you let me know which bag style you have in mind?"

Jade was frustrated. "Can't you grasp my words? Son, talk to her. I can't deal with this!"

Brandon wandered through the store and pointed at a few models with the highest numbers,

saying. “This one, this one... and this one. We’ll take one of each!”

Laura smiled. “Certainly!”

After fetching the bags and packaging them, Laura turned to Brandon. “The total comes to 181,713 dollars. Will you be paying by card or digital wallet?”

“Neither. Just send the bill to Ms. Shenton, the owner of TYC. I’m her cousin” Brandon explained.

Laura’s eyes brightened. “Are you referring to Ms. Carolyn Shenton, TYC Fashion’s CEO?”

Brandon’s patience was thinning. “Yes, exactly! Haven’t you seen my Facebook post?”

Laura felt relieved upon hearing about TYC and nodded. “Yes, I’m aware.”

Thirty minutes later, the Shentons finished their bag shopping and continued exploring the mall, charging everything to Caroline.

The Shentons then returned home to Bayview, laden with bags of various sizes.

Caroline was still at work in her office with her children when Naomi entered, carrying a stack of bills which she placed on Caroline’s desk. “Ms. Shenton, these invoices are from Lucremall

International.”

Caroline frowned and reviewed the invoices. She quickly understood the situation upon seeing the luxury store names. No one but the Shentons would do something like that.

“How much is the total?’ Caroline inquired.

“It’s a little over 2,180,000 dollars. Ms. Shenton, their actions have gone too far. Are you sure you

+15 BONUS

Caroline examined the invoices and replied casually, "No hurry. I have a plan for dealing with this when the time is right"

Naomi nodded. "Understood. We've established a connection with the fabric factory recommended

by the VP and are arranging to ship the goods back tomorrow."

Caroline fell silent momentarily before asking, "Still no news from Kenny?"
novelbin

Naomi answered, "No, he's still unreachable."

Caroline sighed and put down the invoices, a bitter smile on her face. "Take a seat, Naomi. Let's

talk."

Naomi sat down. "Of course, Ms. Shenton."

Caroline expressed with a hint of sadness, "Have you ever been betrayed by someone

Naomi replied, "No, I tend to keep to myself."

Caroline chuckled. "Well, you're lucky not to have experienced this heart-wrenching feeling."

Tears welled up in Caroline's eyes as she continued. "You saved my life, and I consider you a

friend, Naomi. Honestly, tell me, what would you do in my shoes?"

Naomi remained composed. "I'm sorry, Ms. Shenton I can't answer that question."

"Imagine you were in my position," Caroline urged.

"I can't put myself there."

"You're straightforward "

"Yes."

– Caroline sighed. “Never mind. I won’t make things hard for you. I’ll arrange for the money. Please

help me settle the bills.”

Naomi stood up. “Of course.”

At Villa Rosa.

Evan summoned Reuben to inquire if he had information about the family seen with Caroline

today.

Chapter 278

Chapter 278 Massive Discount

Reuben reported, “I’ve found it, Mr. Jordan. That woman is Ms. Shenton’s adoptive father’s sister. Their interaction had been minimal, and she would only contact Bradley for money. Her motive for visiting Ms. Shenton this time is crystal clear. It’s all about the money. We tried to determine the exact amount they’re after, but they haven’t specified it yet.”

Evan narrowed his eyes and gripped the seat handle. In a deep voice, he said, “It’s like an endless pit’

“Exactly. These types are generally driven by greed. Initially, Ms. Shenton wanted to take action, but they resorted to threats.”

Evan scoffed. “Threats? All they want is to expose Caroline’s ungrateful behavior to the media.”

“Yes, and here’s the kicker. They’ve already spent over 2,000,000 dollars of Ms. Shenton’s money. this afternoon, but it was all at MK’s mall.”

Evan’s expression turned icy. “They must think money grows on trees for her.”

Noting Evan’s concern for Caroline, Reuben added, “Indeed, Mr. Jordan. No matter how wealthy she is, she can’t sustain this extravagant spending.”

Evan inquired, “How are things with Kenny? Is he still not back here yet?”

“No, sir. He hasn’t left the villa for three days. Ms. Shenton and her people haven’t managed to connect with him yet.”

Evan looked suspicious. “Find out who owns that villa.”

“Absolutely, sir. Anything else?”

. Reuben sensed Evan had more to say. After all, he couldn’t stand idly by while Caroline was being

mistreated.

Evan continued. “Reach out to the fabric factory working with Caroline’s company. I’ll cover a portion of the expenses. Additionally, send someone to inspect the fabric quality and find a way to

deliver the materials list to Caroline.”

Reuben was taken aback by the significant cost involved. Still, he understood that Caroline wouldn’t accept Evan’s offer to cover everything. Thus, the current solution was the most suitable.

He replied, “Certainly, sir.”

Caroline was jolted awake by a midnight call from the Ylesir fabric factory.

1/2

+15 BONUS

The caller instructed her to check her email because they had adjusted the transaction amount.

Caroline, still half-asleep, inquired in fluent Ylesirese, “Have the fabric prices increased?”

“No, Ms. Shenton, we’re actually offering you a discount.”

Caroline opened the email and was alarmed to find that the transaction amount had been halved I want the original fabric. Please tell me you haven’t altered the order without my consent.”

The caller chuckled, "You're overthinking it. Our factory prioritizes integrity. You can inspect the product upon delivery."

Caroline said, "If the fabric is defective, returning it will delay my customer's orders."

"Don't worry. We never alter a client's order without permission. I have other matters to attend to."

Goodbye, Ms. Shenton."

The caller hung up abruptly.

Caroline stared at the reduced transaction amount in bewilderment. Could Kenny be secretly.

helping me? Why else would the fabric factory give me such a substantial, unexplained discount?

Unfortunately, I can't reach Kenny right now to get answers."

On Sunday, Caroline awoke but found the Shenton family absent novelbin

Freya informed her that they had left early in the morning, but she was unaware of their purpose for doing so.

Chapter 279

Chapter 279 I'd Rather Not Eat

Caroline expected the Shentons to enjoy the day outside, but to her surprise, they returned home by noon. They walked in just as she was about to leave for lunch with the children.

Jade wore an overly cheerful expression as if something remarkable had occurred. Her outfit, a colorful mishmash from yesterday's shopping spree, made her look rather absurd

Upon noticing Caroline's departure, Jade greeted her, asking, "Are you heading out?"

Caroline said nonchalantly, "Would you like to join us?"

Before Jade could reply, Gregory intervened, stating firmly, "No, we won't be joining you."

He refused to go because he didn't want to encounter Jamie. He was convinced she was hiding in

Caroline's car, even though he hadn't actually seen her.

Caroline sneered and instructed the driver, "Let's go."

As soon as Caroline and the children left, Gregory sighed in relief. He muttered, "I'd rather skip the

meal than endure such fear."

As Gregory prepared to head upstairs with Jade, he turned around and gasped. Jade and Brandon's faces turned pale with fear. Their eyes widened in shock as they noticed Jamie standing silently

behind them.

Jade screamed in terror and fled while Gregory and Brandon hurriedly retreated with Gigi in tow.

Jamie scratched her head in puzzlement, thinking. I haven't done anything.'

Unable to muster the courage to stay in the living room, the Shentons retreated to their room.

Gregory trembled as he exclaimed, "I thought she wasn't here, and then she suddenly appeared, scaring me half to death."

Brandon scratched his head in frustration "Why didn't she eat out with Caroline?"

"Is one madwoman enough to frighten you so much?" Jade glared at them as if assessing their

worth as men.

Brandon defiantly retorted, "Mom, weren't you the first to run away?"

Jade admitted guiltily, "Well, I. I had to use the restroom urgently!"

“Quite the actress, aren’t you!” Gregory berated her

Jade snapped, “Our son’s criticism is enough. Who are you to berate me?”

Gregory’s anger intensified. “I can’t even have a conversation with you. You’re such a shrew!”

+15 BONUS

Jade retorted. “And who are you to call me a shrew?”

Gregory sneered. “It’s me, I’m the one criticizing you!” novelbin

“Fuck it! I’m going to teach you a lesson today!” Jade charged forward and began hitting Gregory’s face. 1

Gregory, covering his face in pain, ran around the room.

Meanwhile, Caroline and Neil dined at the restaurant with the children.

Liora seemed upset, eating slowly and pouting.

Neil gently touched her nose. “What’s bothering you. Princess Lia?”

Liora put down her fork and looked at Neil earnestly. “Uncle Neil, will you stand up for me?”

Neil furrowed his brow. “Did someone bully you at school?”

Liora shook her head. “No one bullies me at school. It’s the She-”

Caroline coughed loudly. “Uncle Neil is busy. Let’s not trouble him, okay?”

Chapter 280

Chapter 280 Stop Pretending

Caroline firmly refused to involve Neil in her complicated relationships.

The Shentons were greedy, so their behavior would worsen if they learned about Neil and his

capabilities.

She understood her brother well—he wouldn't sit idle after learning about the situation

However, solving the matter aggressively would only make it worse.

Caroline had a plan to trap the Shentons during this time.

Neil poured a glass of water for Caroline before turning to Liora and asking, "Lia, what's going on?"

Tyler interjected at just the right moment, blurting out, "She got bitten by a dog," to divert Neil's

suspicious.

Neil was taken aback. He examined Liora's hand, concerned. "Where did you get bitten? Does

hurt?"

it

Liora was smart enough to know that her mother did not want Neil to learn about their situation,

so she went along with Tyler's story.

"It's okay. Uncle Neil. Just feeling a little unwell. No big deal," Liora reassured

Neil gently patted Liora's head. "Alright, if you say so.

Later, Neil inquired, "Any news about Kenny?*"

Caroline recounted Ylesir's fabric factory incident from the previous night.

"I think Kenny might be up to his usual tricks, disappearing and then showing up with a surprise,

Neil mused.

"Has the factory arsonist been caught yet?" Neil asked.

Caroline sighed. "I'm not so sure. She doesn't strike me as that type."

It's wise to be cautious, Carol," Neil advised.

"I understand. No need to worry about me."

Noticing Neil's bloodshot eyes, Caroline asked, "You seem tired. What's been going on?"

Neil chuckled. "Just dealing with some company affairs."

Neil hid his complex emotions as he looked down. How could he explain to Caroline that Evan had sensed his intent to weaken the Xanders?

+15 BONUS

Fighting against Evan and his grandfather was draining, but he couldn't back down—his sister

was determined.

Caroline comforted him, "Don't be too hard on yourself."

Neil nodded, saying, "I get it. No worries, novel bin."

At night, Alex and Paige shared drinks at a bar.

Taking advantage of Paige's tipsiness, Alex asked, "Paige, doesn't Caroline's daughter resemble

Neil?"

"Definitely!" Paige agreed, giving Alex a blurry look. "Why the sudden interest?"

Alex chuckled. "Just wondering. When did Neil and Caroline become acquainted?"

"You trying to squeeze information out of me?" Paige glared at Alex.

Alex was taken aback.

Paige scoffed. "Come on, don't assume this is my drinking limit. There's a saying that a good mood

keeps you sober. I was just thinking about how much time you've been spending with me lately So, you're trying to gather info from me, right? Caroline's my best friend, and I won't betray her

trust!

Sensing Paige's anger, Alex clarified, "I swear, I have no inappropriate intentions toward Caroline!" "Stop pretending! You think I can't see how close you are to my boss?" Paige snapped.