

Chapter 461 Pillar of Strength

"You know that Melanie is immature. Don't stoop to her level. So why do you insist on arguing with her?" Matthew looked weary and exasperated.

"Sorry! It's your choice to tolerate her behavior. I have no obligation to do the same. I'm not stooping to her level, so don't get it twisted." I said, "Don't get any ideas. I took your mother to the hospital because I don't want her discomfort to affect my child."

"Oh, right! What about Ava?"

It was only now that he remembered to ask about her.

Matthew had me baffled. What's going on in his head?

"She went to Celestis Island," I replied.

"Celestis Island?" Matthew's face fell. "Why Celestis Island? You didn't send them so far just so you could be alone with other men, did you? It's so hot there, and for a little kid..."

"Do you have anything else to say? If not, go home!" I cut off his words, not wanting to see that expression on his face.

His eyes were filled with rage, but he kept his emotions in check.

"Chloe, you should respect my opinion about Ava. After all,

I'm her dad!" Matthew tried leveraging his status. 1

"Have you been acting like her dad?" I retorted. "I don't want to argue with you. Don't come to my house to cause a scene. The affairs of the Murphy family are none of my business."

"But Mom's refusing treatment. She said she's had enough and only wants to wait for the end." Matthew buried his head in his hands, defeated. "She said she's fine with just dying."

My heart sank. Something about this didn't add up. "Did you tell her the truth?"

"Melanie... she told Mom!" Matthew sighed helplessly.


"Hah..." I scoffed coldly, suppressing my rage. I chose not to waste my breath on this useless waste of space.

Even without Matthew's explanation, I knew what had happened. Melanie, that heinous woman, had lost all sense of decency. 1

Matthew tried to explain. "She didn't mean to... She just blurted out the truth!"

I was beyond words. Honestly, all I wanted to do was yell at him for being such an idiot.

He used to be smarter than this. While he did consult me on major decisions, it was never to this pathetic extent. How did Melanie, such a worthless individual, reduce him to this?

He was losing his ability to distinguish between right and wrong. 

"Melanie just wanted Mom to go to the hospital sooner," Matthew explained. "But Mom refuses to go."

I knew what Melanie meant. She wanted to rush the old lady into the hospital, abandoning her to her fate.

I had asked the doctor earlier at the hospital. The doctor made it clear that there was not much hope left. It was best to let Grace enjoy her remaining time with a bright spirit.

There was a reason they chose to hide the truth. They didn't want the patient to feel burdened.

When people were faced with the prospect of death, their emotional and physical distress would skyrocket. This would result in a rapid deterioration of their health, similar to stress-induced hypertension.

Melanie revealed the harsh truth without regard for Grace's mental state. She had acted maliciously. I was certain that Grace's only support had crumbled, and she had given up.

"Chlo... what do you think?" Matthew looked at me as if I were his pillar of support.

Frustrated, I broke my silence. "Then just listen to Grace's wishes! If she doesn't want to go, let it be. Don't provoke her. She doesn't have much time left. Whatever she wants to do, let her. Why do you even need to ask?"

I added, "She's your birth mother! Don't you know how to make her happy?"

Matthew stared at me blankly. I just want to punch him.

"Can't you do that for her? If not, spend more time with her and understand her. Make her happy. Don't just let months go by. She'll be happy even if you just visit her."

Matthew looked at me without rebutting. It seems I was correct—he didn't know Grace was sick because he didn't see her very often.

I demanded, unyielding. "Have you considered how forcing her out of her home might upset her? Do you know how Abby mistreated her and how that made her angry? Do you know how lonely she must be now that her only son is barely around?"