

Chapter 184

I knew him all too well. If we pissed him off, he was capable of doing anything.

I let go of Cecilia's hand and said to her, "You go ahead first. I'll join you later."

"You..." Cecilia looked worriedly at me.

I smiled. "I'm okay. Go on!" I gave her a consoling look.

Cecilia stood up with some hesitation, her gaze turning sharp and stern. She glared coldly at Tyler. "Touch a single hair on her body and I'll fight you to death!"

Tyler looked calm, not saying a word. His fingers tapped gently on the teacup.

Under the man's guidance, Cecilia left.

The elegantly dressed woman from across the table poured me another cup of tea and said, "Drink this cup of black tea, Miss Lane. It's good for your health."

I looked at her and put on a smile. "Thank you."

Thank you.

Tyler frowned, looking slightly displeased.

The woman smiled at me and said no more. Lowering her head, she continued to brew tea.

I did not pick up the cup and merely sat there in silence, waiting for Tyler to speak.

After a long time, he finally looked up at me. "Since you've left Grant Corporation and Salt City, you should cut off all ties with Theo!"

"It's none of your business." I huffed, not wanting to discuss this topic with him.

"I'm your brother, Wandy. I'm just worried about you. Don't act like a hedgehog. If you've decided to separate, then get a divorce and follow me. Let me protect you. I promise I'll make you happier than you are right now!"

I looked at him and spoke in a cold voice, "I'll only become happier when I'm far away from you."

Tyler clenched the teacup, his eyes

er clenched the teacup, his eyes darkening as he pursed his lips tightly.

The woman beside him looked up at me with a slightly surprised expression.

After a long time, he spoke in a soft and tender voice, "We grew up together, Wandy. I know you well. Don't act tough in front of me. Theo isn't suitable for you. You won't feel safe with him."

I was stunned, then sneered. "Stop being so full of yourself, Mr. Tyler. I haven't seen you for five to six years. Do you think I'm still the same ignorant and foolish little girl? Although I've left Grant Corporation, I'm still the rightful Mrs. Grant. Why would I feel unsafe?"

"Hehe." He looked meaningfully at me and said, "Indeed, after a few years of not meeting each other, your newfound confidence has surprised me. But..."

He paused and continued, "There's a rumor going around among the gentry families in Whaldorf City recently. The Louises have two pieces of good news. They've found their long-lost daughter and now have a capable and talented son-in-law—"

in-law—”

“What does that have anything to do with me?” I did not want to talk about these things and cut him off.

He laughed, saying, “Be patient. I’m not done yet. It’s rumored that the son-in-law’s last name is Grant, a man from Salt City. Oh right, Theo has been in Whaldorf City lately, right?”

Tyler was doing it on purpose. I refused to believe a word he said and said indifferently, “If you’re asking me to stay just to tell me these rumors, Mr. Tyler, then I’m sorry because I’m not interested. I’m leaving.”

He sneered. “Looks like my sister refuses to believe me. Molly, why don’t you tell her what’s been happening in Whaldorf City lately?”

It turned out that the woman’s name was Molly.

However, I was not interested so I got up to leave.

“Why the rush, Miss Lane? Since you have nothing to do, just treat it as though you’re listening to a story,” Molly said

● "You're listening to a story," Molly said behind me. Her voice was soft and gentle, while her tone was slow. She sounded nothing like a lady of pleasure.

"Or perhaps you're just lying to yourself and refusing to listen?" Tyler's mockery entered my ears.

I turned around. He raised his chin and looked at me with provocative eyes.

I pulled the chair out and sat down without a word. What was the big deal? He just wanted me to listen to a story.

Molly poured me another cup of tea and said, "I was in Whaldorf City not long ago and heard some rumors about Mr. Grant."

She glanced at me and smiled lightly. "Although Whaldorf City is huge, this circle isn't very big. These are just rumors. Just take it as a story and don't take it too seriously."

I nodded. I somewhat knew what she was going to tell me next.

Theo had been in Whaldorf City during this period of time and I did not receive any news about him. However, no news was good news. He had probably woken u

any news about him. However, no news was good news. He had probably woken up by now and Cindy's family was taking care of him, so that was good.

It was ironic to think about it because I would be hearing from a stranger about my husband's situation.

As for me, like what Tyler said, I was only acting tough. I was acting as though nothing had happened.

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“The Louises may not be one of the best among the gentry families in Whaldorf City, but they’re definitely ranked on top. It’s not only because they’re rich but also because several generations of their ancestors were officials.

“Grayson is the only exception. He enjoyed fighting since childhood, and although he later started an official business when he grew up, he managed to develop his own power and became a resounding figure.

“In his youth, Grayson met Petra, a girl in university who came from the countryside. She came to Whaldorf City to study. It was love at first sight, but the Louises disliked Petra because of her birth origin and refused to let Grayson marry her. The hard-headed Petra left Whaldorf City when she was pregnant. It was said that she returned to Salt City to marry an honest man.

“Though who would’ve thought that this honest man turned out to be dishonest? H

honest man turned out to be dishonest? He resented the fact that Petra was pregnant before she got married and dumped the child after she was born. Petra was in so much pain after learning about it that she divorced the man.

“Later, she went abroad with a wealthy businessman, who was also her third husband. Eventually, she became famous abroad for her designs and created her own successful business. Though unfortunately, her husband died two years ago due to an illness, so she came back and rekindled her relationship with Grayson. She also found her long-lost daughter.”

At this point, Molly looked at Tyler. Tyler’s face was dark and profound. There was not a single expression on it.

She then looked at me and continued, “You know her daughter. It’s Cindy. As they suddenly have a daughter now, the Louises are said to have acknowledged Petra. At the same time, they announced that they’ve accepted Cindy back into the family again.

“I heard that the Louises pampers the beautiful and generous Miss Cindy very

"I heard that the Louises pampers the beautiful and generous Miss Cindy very much. They've not only invited a professional to give her lessons on how to be a socialite but are also preparing to throw a massive party to announce Cindy's identity to the public."

The string of words that Molly uttered did make it sound like she was telling a story.

However, I was annoyed to hear it and looked up at her. "These are all stories of other people. I'm not interested. If this is all you're going to tell me, then I'm sorry, I'm not interested."

"Take it easy, Miss Lane. This may seem like it has nothing to do with you, but your husband has a major involvement in it. Therefore, I think it's necessary that you understand the background story."

Molly looked at me, not annoyed or furious. Her lips were even curled into a smile.

I sneered. "That's what you think.

Thanks for the attention, guys, but no matter what my husband does, I'll still trust him. I don't want to hear anything about him from other people."

about him from other people.”

Tyler, whose expression was bland this whole time, suddenly smashed the teacup on the table. His expression was livid, and his voice sounded furious.

“Do you not want to know or are you afraid to know? Wanda Lane, I have no idea what you’re still expecting, but haven’t you learned your lesson by now? You endured the humiliation and had to leave Grant Corporation with a bad reputation because of him. You’ve always been a prideful lady, but why can’t you let go of this man and just leave him?”

I was furious and glared at him with wide eyes. I yelled back at him, “Whether I continue to wait or get a divorce now has nothing to do with you. Who are you to tell me what to do with my life? What right do you have?”

“The fact that I’m your brother and I care most about you in this world.” Tyler’s eyes turned crimson as he glared at me with dark and sullen eyes.

“What kind of brother are you? Just because we used to share meals together? If you still treat me as a sister, then

leave Tyler. I beg you to please leave me

because we used to share meals together.

● You still treat me as a sister, then please, Tyler, I beg you to please leave me alone and let me be!”

I stood up and said in a cold voice, “Thanks for the tea. I’m leaving.”

Having said that, I escaped the private room without waiting for them to reply and rushed out of the cafe.

Outside the door, Cecilia was pacing back and forth anxiously. When she saw me walking out, she immediately came up to me and grabbed my hand. She looked at me from top to bottom. “He didn’t do anything to you, did he? Are you hurt?”

I shook my head and took Cecilia’s hand as I walked down the stairs. “Let’s go home.”

Cecilia looked back with unease. Upstairs, Tyler was standing at the door, watching us leave with a thoughtful look on his face.

It was already midnight when we hailed a ride back home. After an entire day out, Cecilia and I were both worn out. When we got home, we did not even have the strength to speak as we quickly washed up and went to bed.

● strength to speak as we quickly washed u
p and went to bed.

Even though I was exhausted, I still woke
up very early the next morning. I felt
inexplicably anxious lately and my sleep
quality had been pretty bad too.

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Seeing that Cecilia was sound asleep, I got up and opened the sliding door to the balcony.

Rosella City was famous for its superior air quality, especially in the neighborhood that Cecilia had picked.

As it was three floors up, the trees and greenery were all I saw. The air was filled with the fragrance of the earth. In the distance, robins and other unknown birds chirped, adding a bit of liveliness.

The phone in the room rang. I quickly answered it in order not to disturb Cecilia's sleep.

"Where are you?" the other party said before I could say anything.

The low and cold voice was familiar. I checked the caller in surprise. There was no name but the number was familiar. I could not recall who it was for a moment, hence I wisely chose to remain silent.

"Talk." The other party sounded

alk." The other party sounded impatient and raised his voice.

I asked, "Dr. Lynch?"

It sounded like him but his tone was different. Dr. Lynch had always sounded very gentle.

"Why are you the one who answered the call, Wanda? Where's Cecilia?" Mason seemed surprised and asked in a low voice.

I was a little dumbfounded. After a very long time, I realized that I was holding Cecilia's phone.

After a moment of silence, I said, "She's sleeping. A-Are you okay?" I wanted to ask something at first but I swallowed my words back in when they were at the tip of my tongue.

He had been in Whaldorf City taking care of Theo this whole time. If he had the time to give Cecilia a call, then it seemed like Theo was fine.

"Mm, I've been in the hospital. I heard about the incident with Grant Corporation. It must have been hard for you, Don't take it to heart. Others will

you. Don't take it to heart. Others will forget about it after some time. I'll treat you to a meal when I get back."

His tone went back to his usual gentle tone as he consoled me softly.

I felt inexplicably touched. This was the first time since my departure from Grant Corporation that I was talking about this incident. I felt a little troubled.

Suppressing the hurt inside of me, I said, "I'm fine. Let's hang out when I go back."

"Are you with Cecilia? Where are you?" He sounded a little anxious.

"Yeah, why else would I answer her phone? We're in Rosella City and plan to stay here for a period of time to relax," I told him without thinking too much about it.

"Who are you talking to?" Cecilia woke up and asked dazedly with closed eyes.

"It's Dr. Lynch. He's looking for you." I handed her the phone after saying that.

Cecilia jumped up from the bed in shock, snatched the phone, and went to the balcony.

balcony.

I looked suspiciously at her and got up to get my own phone. There were no texts or calls. Theo seemed to have disappeared from my life.

My heart felt a little bleak.

Cecilia came back in after the call, looking a little moody. She looked at me and asked, "You told him we're in Rosella City?"

"Mm, he asked where we were so I told him. What's wrong?" I was stunned, feeling a little bad for shooting my mouth off.

Cecilia shook her head without a word.

I went up to take her hand. "I'm sorry, I didn't mean to. I wasn't thinking when I spoke. But are you really going to hide from him forever without telling him that you're carrying his child?"

"The child's mine. It has nothing to do with him." Cecilia looked livid, almost emotional.

I did not say much after seeing her reaction. Everyone had the freedom to make their own choice. There was no

●ke their own choice. There was no such thing as right or wrong. As this was Cecilia's choice, then all I could do was support her and offer her care and assistance when she needed it.

Cecilia began packing her luggage. "Let's go back to the country and stay there for a few days."

"Calm down, Cecilia. You're pregnant now. It's not convenient to go to the country right now. I didn't tell him our exact address. It's safe here."

Cecilia stopped and said while looking at me, "Wanda, I don't want to have anything to do with these people. I have to eliminate even the slightest possibility. Since he already knows that we're here, he'll eventually find us if he wants to. It's best for me to leave before it's too late."

I admired Cecilia's straightforward attitude. She would never be hesitant over the things she had decided on. Unlike me. I was often overcautious and could never make up my mind.

Seeing that I was silent, Cecilia said, "Theo has returned to Salt City. Why don't you go there first and handle your

Leo has returned to Salt City. Why don't you go there first and handle your issues?"

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After a pause, she continued, "You don't have a job now. If you still can't let go of Theo, then go back and spend the rest of your life with him. Don't think too much and don't fuss over everything. If you can let go of him, then get a divorce and we'll live together. We'll be away from all of them, okay?"

I understood what Cecilia meant by that and knew she was doing it for my own good. However, my heart was still a mess.

If I remained in this relationship with Theo, then I would forever live in Cindy's shadow. I would have to force myself to accept Theo's love and care for her.

However, should I leave just like that? Apart from being reluctant to leave, I felt heartbroken. I did not want my child to grow up without a father like how I had.

"You're not going to give up, are you? Forget it, go and do whatever you want. Just remember to come home when you're weary one day." She was helpless

yet supportive at the same time

you're weary one day." She was helpless yet supportive at the same time.

I let out a wry smile without saying a word. I was merely holding her tight.

Cecilia patted my shoulder. "Alright, everything will be okay. Let's wash up and go downstairs to have a meal."

I nodded, viewing my own hesitation with contempt. Compared to Cecilia's decisiveness, I did seem quite like a young girl who was swooning over a boy. I disregarded everything, only to end up hurt and scarred.

This was my innermost thought. I shook my head and decided to ignore it. One step at a time, I guess.

I looked at Cecilia and said, "I read online that there's a lot of food over in University Town. Let's go there and grab something to eat!"

"Sure. I'll go wash up. Wait for me."
Cecilia entered the bathroom with a smile.

Rosella City was famous for its abundance of street food. As there were many schools around, streets packed with vendors selling food were found

With vendors selling food were found everywhere. Not only did the food taste good but they were really affordable too.

To sum it up, it was a slow-paced town with gorgeous scenery and perfect living conditions.

I could not help but recall that Mason used to recommend that I stay here. He had indeed made the best suggestion for me.

There were two streets of food stalls here in University Town. Almost all the famous foods in the country could be found here. Cecilia had a good appetite ever since she got pregnant. She visited each stall from one end of the street to the other. Both her hands were filled with all kinds of foods.

“This is so satisfying. Wanda, it’s your loss if you’re not going to eat.”

My appetite had not been very good. Regardless of what it was, I would get full after taking just a few bites. I looked at her with a smile and said, “Don’t eat so much. These aren’t very nutritious. Let’s go and eat something more nutritious at night. We need to take care of the babies i

ght. We need to take care of the babies i
n our bellies.”

“Sure! My belly is big. I can eat
everything you throw at me.” Cecilia
joked with a wide grin on her face.

Seeing her unaffected by this morning’s
phone call, my mood brightened up as
well and I walked with her while enjoying
the scenery.

We spent two days in Rosella City,
spending most of our time eating and
shopping. We lived a free and easy life,
which improved my mood greatly.

On the third day, Cecilia went to the
country. She persuaded me to go back to
Salt City. I would have to face what I
needed to face eventually.

Yes, Theo and my problems would have t
o be solved eventually. I needed to go
back regardless of whether we chose to
stay together or separate.

We bought tickets to different
destinations. At the high-speed train
station, we hugged and bid farewell
before walking in the opposite directions.
Our steps were heavy.

Our steps were heavy.

Parting was always heartbreaking.

After I boarded the train, I found my seat and began looking out the window in a daze.

I could vaguely feel a strong aura and turned around, only to meet Tyler's smile. "I can't believe we're so fated."

I looked at him coldly, not saying a word. I knew what kind of man he was. It was easy for him to find out my whereabouts.

However, I did not understand why he was doing this.

He was no longer the Tyler I used to know. Everything was at his fingertips and he could own everything he ever wanted. He did not have to waste his time on me.

"What do you want, Tyler?" I asked him after a while.

He stored his luggage away and sat down beside me. Looking at my eyes, he said, "It feels like home."

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It felt like home?

I was puzzled, unsure what he meant by that. He probably had a family of his own after so many years!

He leaned his head on the back of the seat and only spoke after a long time, "This is a feeling that only you can give me."

I was uncertain what he meant and wanted to ask him but he had already closed his eyes, obviously not wanting to continue the topic. I had no choice but to let it drop.

Initially, I thought he must be playing some sort of new trick on me because he had deliberately planned to sit beside me. Though surprisingly, he did not do anything throughout the two-hour journey. He did not even say a word to me.

He merely glanced out the window to look at the scenery with a thoughtful look on his face.

I gradually went from being restless to

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Gradually went from being restless to relaxed. I even took a nap. It was only when the conductor announced that we had arrived in Salt City that I woke up.

I got up and was about to take my luggage when Tyler snatched it away without a word. He immediately dragged it with him.

"It's okay, I can take my own bag." I reached out to take my luggage. There were only two sets of clothes and toiletries, so it was not heavy at all.

Not saying a word, he reached out and held my hand, leading me forward.

I frowned and tried to retract my hand when he said in a deep voice, "There are so many people here and you're a pregnant woman. What if someone knocks you down?"

"I'm okay, let go of my hand." My voice sounded a little cold. I was irritated.

He ignored me and held my hand tightly as we slowly walked out with the crowd. I tried drawing back my hand a few times but to no avail. Helpless, I had no choice but to let him hold it.

...but to let him hold it.

“Look, that tall and handsome man is so gentle and kind to his wife. I’m so jealous!”

“That’s right. Say, why do other people get all the good-looking partners whereas the ones we meet are always ugly and inconsiderate?”

“Why don’t you look in the mirror first? Do you think you’re as pretty and elegant as her? The two look like a perfect match when they walk together. They’re a perfect couple. There’s a reason why they say that some couples are a match made in heaven, you know?”

...

The sound of chatter coming from behind me made me quite embarrassed, but I could only lower my head and pretend like I did not hear it.

Tyler, on the other hand, seemed to enjoy the praises very much. He smiled and nodded at them to express his gratitude, causing another round of commotion.

Thankfully, we soon got off the train with the crowd. Otherwise, the awkwardness would kill me.

Although there were a lot of people on the way, Tyler protected me all throughout so I did not feel like it was crowded at all. We got out of the station unimpeded.

After we left the station, Tyler made a call and pulled me to the side of the road.

"There's no crowd here. Let go of me." I felt a little disgusted being held by him the whole way. I frowned and tried to break away from him.

"Don't move, the car will be here soon." He did not let go and held on tightly to keep me from breaking free.

"I can go back by myself." There were many rental cars here, so there was no need for me to follow him.

"Have you forgotten about the cyberbullying incident earlier? Things may be peaceful now, but the stock market plunged during that time, causing many stockholders to lose a lot of money. The consequences are unimaginable if they happen to bump into you."

I rolled my eyes at him. "It was just for a few days. It's not as serious as you say it is."

S.
"Pain is forgotten where gain follows," he coldly replied.

Soon, a Maybach came from the distance and stopped in front of us.

"The car's here. Let's go!" Tyler handed the luggage to the driver and pulled me into the car.

Since the car was already here, I did not hesitate further and got in the car with him.

Tyle sat beside me and said to the driver, "To the Cauldron of Latymer."

I frowned and reached out to pull the door handle. "Since we're going in different directions, I'd better take a taxi!"

He reached out to stop me and said in a cold voice, "It's noon now. Even if you don't care about yourself, you should think of the child in your belly. The child needs to eat in time."

"I'll eat when I'm back in the villa.

There's someone at home who can cook for me." I continued to pull on the door handle, but unfortunately, my strength

bundle, but unfortunately, my strength could not compete with his. I was unable to open it even after a very long time.

“I advise you to eat a little before you go back. Do you think Theo will forgive you so easily when you don’t even know how he’s been doing since getting injured? Do you think you’ll still be in the mood to eat when you get home?”

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He was very close to me, and he deliberately brought his head closer when he spoke, making the scene look even more ambiguous.

I felt uncomfortable and shifted toward the side with a frown. "It's no better being with you. I still won't be able to eat all the same."

"You can treat me like air. Don't worry, I just want to have a good meal with my sister." As he said those words, he reached out and tucked the loose strands of hair in front of my forehead behind my ear.

His dark eyes swept across the street through the window, looking both provocative and ostentatious. His thin lips were pressed together as he smirked.

What was he doing?

I followed his gaze and looked over. I could see a familiar car from across the road.

Theo!

Theo.

After more than ten days of not seeing him, he had lost a lot of weight and his complexion was pale. Even so, it did not affect his otherworldly good looks and noble, cold aura. He still looked as dazzling as ever that no one could look him straight in the eye.

At this moment, on his dark and cold mesmerizing face was a pair of bottomless dark eyes that looked both profound and withdrawn. I could not detect any emotions from his face.

I instinctively pushed Tyler away.

Unexpectedly, he took the opportunity to grab my hand and pulled me into his arms with his broad hands. He smirked and looked provocatively at Theo.

"Are you out of your mind, Tyler?" I failed to struggle out of his arms and hissed under my breath.

He did not say a word and reached out to roll up the car window. He said to the driver in a deep voice, "Drive."

The car continued to drive. From the rearview mirror, the black car moved farther and farther away from me until it

rearview mirror, the black car moved
●ther and farther away from me until it
disappeared.

“Was that fun?” I glared at Tyler.

He let go of me and leaned back in his
seat. Crossing his legs, he shook them
while looking pleased. “This is so
interesting. It’s so fun.”

I was suddenly speechless when I looked a
t his unruly smile. Had it not been for the
fear embedded deep in my heart, I really
wanted to give him two big slaps. Though
eventually, I did not do anything and
merely turned my head around to ignore
him.

Soon, the driver drove us to the most
famous restaurant in Salt City—Cauldron
of Latymer.

Those who wanted to dine here would
have to make reservations or it would be
impossible to get a table. Tyler must have
booked a table in advance as the waitress
brought us straight to our private room
and quickly served the food.

The table was full of food. Apart from the
various nutritious dishes, the rest were m
y childhood favorites.

y childhood favorites.

I was a little surprised that he still remembered all of them.

“Dig in. I remember that you like eating these dishes.” It seemed as though he did not see the surprise on my face. There were no emotions on his face as he put food on my plate.

I lowered my head and ate in silence.

During the meal, Tyler kept putting all kinds of food on my plate without stopping, piling it up until my plate was full.

“I can’t finish them.” I held the plate and looked at the mountain of food in front of me. I felt some discomfort in my stomach and could not swallow the food at all.

“You’re pregnant now. Even if you don’t want to eat, you have to force yourself to eat it. The baby’s growing and needs nutrients. Come, finish this bowl of chicken soup.” He put a bowl of chicken soup in front of me. His tone was so overbearing it was hard to refuse.

I did not bother arguing with him and bowed my head to drink the chicken soup.

I could not help but think that Tyler had changed. He was still vicious and cold-blooded, but I could not say what exactly about him had changed.

He held up his chin and smiled, looking less profound and unpredictable than usual. He seemed much purer and transparent now. "Do you like Theo that much? You refuse to leave him even in such a situation?"

I froze a little. This was my business and I refused to discuss this with anyone else, especially Tyler. I said coldly, "This is none of your business."

"Can you stop talking to me with that tone? We're siblings. Who will take care of you if not me?" He sounded a little helpless, but I detected a stronger domineering tone.

I laughed aloud. "What kind of brother nearly killed his own sister? Quit playing, Tyler. You're just treating me as your toy."

He looked at me and said softly, "Indeed, you're a toy that's very precious to me and I refuse to share you with anyone else."

●d I refuse to share you with anyone else.”

Me, “...”

He was always able to figure out a way to make me angry and helpless at the same time. I put down the cutleries and stood up. “I’m full. I’m going back now.”

He stood up as well and picked up his coat. “I’ll fetch you.”

I felt a little helpless and finally understood what had changed about Tyler.

He used to loathe me a lot and was always thinking of ways to get rid of me. That was why he had never stopped looking for opportunities to get back at me.

Now, he was more like a band-aid that I could never get rid of. Perhaps this was his new trick to screw with me.

The car drove toward the villa.

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Tyler did not say a word on the way back. I enjoyed the silence and leaned back on the seat to pretend to take a nap.

We quickly arrived and I opened the door car to get out. Tyler placed one hand on the steering wheel and looked at me with a cheeky smile. "Aren't you going to invite me in?"

"Nope." I got out of the car with a sullen expression. Why would I invite him to my house when I could not wait to get away from him?

As though he did not hear me, he got out of the car and followed me. "I don't care if you're willing to acknowledge it or not but I'm your brother. Our names were once in the same household register and that's an undeniable fact. As your one and only family member in the world, it's only right for me to go in and meet your husband."

I darted a glance at him and said, "That doesn't make us a family. Tyler, you're the one who has no family members, not

the one who has no family members, not me. You can't impose your own experiences on me, and don't define me using your pessimistic views."

I understood the loneliness and resentment inside of him. From the day his father abandoned him and left him to our family, he had been filled with resentment. I was different from him. Although I was also abandoned, my heart was filled with love and sunshine.

I looked at him and continued, "I used to have my Mom's love in the past, but now I have my husband, child, Cecilia, and my friends. So we're destined to be different. You're like an abyss that no one dares to come close to. You will never walk out of the darkness."

Perhaps it was because I sounded too harsh, he suddenly grabbed my hand with a dark and gloomy expression. "Do you really think so? Stop being so childish. We're just the same. We're destined to be unloved. Neither of us is better than another."

I was slightly stunned but did not say a word.

word.

There was a mocking smile on his face as he said coldly, "I admit that Mom used to love you very much, but you're left with nothing now. Theo doesn't love you, so even if this child is born, things will not be as perfect as you expect them to be.

"As for Cecilia, she'll get married one day and have a family of her own and leave you. I don't think I need to talk about those so-called friends of yours.

"So... you're destined to end up like me, a lonely person. I don't understand why you refuse to listen to me and stay with me? We'll go and live in the countryside. I'll give you everything you want. You just need to stay by my side for the rest of your life."

He was so agitated that he clenched my wrists hard to the point where they turned slightly pale. I tried to pull back but I was not as strong as him.

I looked at him. "Tyler, you're obsessed. It's all in the past now. Don't let this shadow take root in your heart. What you need to do now is to learn to start accepting new people and things instead of staying in the past and waste your time o

staying in the past and waste your time on me. Do you understand?"

"No one but you." He let out a wry smile and showed a pained look in his eyes.

I understood his obsession, loneliness, and darkness. He had mistaken me for his only salvation. He thought I would be like Mom, that I would not abandon him or drive him away no matter what.

This was the greatest pain in the heart of an abandoned person. I had once experienced this pain but was later healed by Mom. Tyler, however, continued to live in such torment. He did not feel a sense of belonging. He needed true love and care. It was not me he needed.

Behind me, the main door suddenly opened. I subconsciously looked back. Theo stood behind the door without a single expression on his face as he stared coldly at us.

I took a step back and struggled to pull my hand away, instinctively trying to stay away from Tyler.

I knew there was no need to do this

because Theo would not care at all but I

●new there was no need to do this because Theo would not care at all, but I still did it out of habit. Many of the things I did were done out of instinct.

Ignoring Theo, Tyler continued to put on a pained expression and stared at me with a grim expression.

I looked at him and said, "If you still miss Mom, then she's in the graveyard. You can go visit her. Maybe that'll help."

He was stunned at the mention of Mom. A rare look of sadness and forlorn was shown on his face.

I sighed. "Tyler, we're adults now. You need to stop living in the past. Everything will pass. You have a whole life ahead of you. Work hard and move forward. Only then will you see sunshine and have hope in life."

Chapter 191

Take myself, for example. Although I missed living in the old house with Mom, I had not gone back because I understood that Mom was not at home and she was no longer around. I must move on and continue with my life.

I did not look at Tyler anymore after saying those words and turned around to enter the villa.

Theo stepped aside to let me in, then closed the door.

Miss Woods heard the movement and rushed out. She was unable to stop herself from wiping her tears when she saw me. "You're finally back. You didn't suffer a lot when you were out there, did you? Thank goodness you're all back. This finally looks like a home again."

Perhaps there had been no one at home to talk to her, which was why Miss Woods was constantly chattering about. I sat in the living room and answered her from time to time, whereas Theo sat on the

One to time, whereas Theo sat on the other side of the couch. He neither said a word nor left. It was hard to tell what he was feeling.

After a very long time, Miss Woods patted her head. "Gosh, I was so excited that I forgot that it's noon now. I'll go fix you something real quick."

"I've eaten, Miss Woods. I'm going upstairs to take a rest." I had woken up very early in the morning and was easily tired in summer, hence all I wanted to do at the moment was go upstairs to take a nap.

"Alright then. Go and have a rest. I'll make the food so you can come down and have it when you're hungry." Miss Woods entered the kitchen cheerfully.

I did not talk to Theo and got up to go upstairs.

He got up as well and followed me into the room.

At first, I thought he was following me because he wanted to question me or lose his temper at me. However, he did not do anything and merely put his hands in his

Nothing and merely put his hands in his pockets as he leaned against the door frame, looking at me.

After half a month of not seeing him, I noticed he had become thinner and haggard. His entire body looked sickly and weak. I wanted to ask how he was feeling but I swallowed my words when they reached my lips.

Rather than continue being speechless, I got into bed straight away and lay down to sleep.

While in a daze, I felt myself being pulled into a firm yet gentle embrace. I struggled, only to be held tighter. Hence, I stopped moving and continued to sleep.

Thankfully, he did not do anything else and merely held me tight. Soon, I heard the sound of faint breathing beside my ear.

I did not feel sleepy anymore. I felt uncomfortable seeing how weak he was.

I peered up at him. Apart from his thinner face, I could see stubble on his chin, which made him look even more haggard than he already was. However,

luggard than he already was. However, his features appeared even more distinct now.

As though he was uncomfortable, he was frowning even when he slept.

I raised my hand to smooth out the folds.

He opened his eyes suddenly and our eyes met. I scratched my head awkwardly, my cheeks were burning.

He was comparatively calm as he reached out to tuck the loose strands of hair on my face behind my ear. He looked fixedly at me and asked, "Can't sleep?"

As he had just woken up, his eyes looked misty and his voice was hoarse but attractive. It made him sound really sexy.

I was quite embarrassed being stared at, so I cleared my throat and turned around with my back facing him.

He did not say a word and merely turned me back around. He made me lay flat on the bed and stroked my belly gently.

Unsure whether it was the baby's reaction or something, just as his broad hands touched my belly, the baby inside

Hands touched my belly, the baby inside suddenly moved. A tiny bump was seen protruding from my belly from the outside.

Theo felt it too and cried out in surprise, "Look, the baby's moving."

I rolled my eyes at him. "It's nearly six months now. It's normal for the baby to move. What's so surprising about that?"

"Does your belly hurt, then?" He propped his head up with his hand, looking at my belly with intrigue and an unbelievable look on his face.

I was speechless. Sometimes, men's IQ could get so low it was terrifying.

He grew excited and leaned over my belly, saying, "Little one, stop moving so your mother won't feel uncomfortable. Be a good child. I'll buy you toys when you come out."

Somewhat exasperated by his childish behavior, I pushed his head away. "Theo, I think you need to buy some books to learn about pregnancy."

"Indeed, it's time for me to learn," he responded seriously.

responded seriously.

I did not bother to entertain him and propped myself up to get out of bed.

He reached out to pull me into his arms. "It's still early. Lay down for a bit more."

I reached out to take his hand away when my gaze fell on his arm. There were several deep scars on it and they seemed quite red. They were still recovering and looked like huge centipedes. They were rather ghastly to look at.

Chapter 192

I froze as I looked at the location of the injuries. He probably had Cindy in his arms to protect her when the car crash happened, right?

He noticed my gaze and quickly retracted his hand, saying nonchalantly, "Miss Woods is cooking. Is there anything you'd like to eat?"

I lowered my head and did not say a word.

All of a sudden, the room fell silent with a deafening silence.

He got up and propped himself up with a pillow. He was half-lying down and embracing me in his arms again. He reached out to rub my hands. Though this might seem intimate, both of us knew that at this very moment, our hearts were flipping inside out. It was hard for either of us to start the conversation.

After a very long time, I could not stand the stifling atmosphere any longer and said, "Did you get these injuries because you were trying to protect her?"

you were trying to protect her?

I regretted it after asking the question. I was too blunt.

His hand that was holding onto mine froze slightly but he still did not say a word.

I sighed and retracted my hand, saying, "I'm sweaty. I'll go take a shower."

I hated my recklessness. Why would I ask something so obvious? If he admitted it, then I would only get upset. I hoped he would not say anything because that way, I could play dumb and pretend like nothing had happened.

He raised his hand and held me down, not letting me get up. He looked at me and asked, "Were you worried?"

Stunned, I asked, "Worried about what?"

"About my health," he replied.

I laughed, but my laughter did not reach my eyes. I said, "I was worried, but not about your health. I was thinking about how you got hurt. The part where you risked your life for others."

I was almost screaming when I got to the

● as almost screaming when I got to the last sentence.

I knew very well that I was being too harsh and I would piss him off, but I still could not stop myself from saying it out loud.

Sure enough, his soft and tender features turned cold at once. His deep and profound pupils were burning with blames. "So you're not worried if I live or die. You wouldn't care even if I never got out of the ICU. You've never cared about me, have you?"

I was exasperated and peered into his eyes with a determined gaze. My tone was cold and chilly. "Yeap, you're right. I have never cared about you. I only married you because you're rich, powerful, good-looking. You've fulfilled the fantasy I have about love."

I continued after a pause, "But after marrying you, I realized that you're neither gentle nor considerate. You've emotionally abused me for so long and broken my fantasy of love."

Cindy alone had defeated me.

Cindy alone had defeated me.

“Is that why you’re in a rush to look for another candidate?” He sneered. Coupled with his pale complexion, he did seem a little scary. “It was Xander before and now it’s Tyler. Their existence has made you think that I’m no longer important, that you can abandon me whenever you want. Is that right?”

His words completely infuriated me. I screamed back at him without thinking, “Why should I be the one to stay loyal to you when you’re staying with the woman you like, even risking your life over and over again to protect her? Why can’t I choose a man who will treat me better?”

He reached out to hold my chin and said in a frosty voice, “So you’ve taken the initiative to come back this time to divorce me and then be with Tyler?”

“Yes.” I looked up and glared at him.

“Dream on. I’ll not allow you to cheat on me. Even when you die, you can only die here.” His voice was cold, and his tone was vicious.

“Do you even hear yourself, Theo?” He did not love me yet insisted on making m

● I not love me yet insisted on making me stay beside him. For a man's abominable pride, I was destined to live a life of suffering.

The grievances I endured during this period of time had completely exploded. I broke away from his grip and rolled out of bed. I had completely broken down. I picked up the table lamp and vase, viciously smashing them on the floor.

All of a sudden, all the things that could be lifted up in the room were smashed to the floor.

“You're domineering and a hypocrite, Theo Grant. Why are you allowed to flirt with Cindy yet I'm supposed to be alone, unconditionally accepting the fact that you're free to come and go as you wish? I've had enough. Let's split up today and go our own separate ways. I don't want this child anymore.”

I was so angry that I did not choose my words wisely.

His expression was dark and sullen. He dragged me over with gritted teeth. “What did you say?”

Chapter 193

I could sense the cold icy aura emanating from his body. Even the temperature in the room had dropped by a few degrees.

However, I paid no regard when I was stubborn and went all out. I glared at him and said, "I said, I want to abort this child. I don't want the child anymore. I don't want a baby, especially not for a man like you. It's not worth it at all."

"Wanda Lane." He lifted his hands and clenched my shoulders hard. His eyes were spewing out blazing flames, and he was gnashing his teeth loudly. "Are you sure you're in the right mind now?"

I was in pain and shook him off, saying in a stern voice, "Of course. I've never been more clear-headed. I must have been a fool back then to fantasize about you over and over again!"

I screamed those words out with all the strength I could muster. I felt as though a thousand pounds were pressed against my chest. It was so painful and heavy that I

chest. It was so painful and heavy that I could not breathe.

“If you don’t want to get a divorce, then let’s just go our separate ways. I don’t care what you do out there, and you should keep your nose out of my business too.”

He looked at me with a dangerous look in his eyes, saying in a deep voice, “Who do you want to be with?”

“Why are you allowed to be with Cindy but I’m not allowed to be with other men?” I started talking nonsense because I was so angry.

In a fit of rage, he tossed me in bed and uttered word by word, “What did you do with another man? Was it Tyler?”

Having said that, he exerted some force and there was a loud sound of something being torn apart!

The new dress that I had changed into this morning was torn apart.

I felt tremendously humiliated and glared at him with crimson eyes. “Theo Grant, you bastard!”

you bastard!

I punched and kicked him, cursing in his face. "Are you even a man, Theo? Do you think I'll submit to you just because you're doing this? Well listen up, this will only make me hate you more."

Theo looked at me with puzzled eyes as a hint of panic flashed across his face. Perhaps he had been reminded of something from the past.

He looked down at me, seemingly pondering.

After a very long time, he turned around and got out of bed to enter the bathroom.

Watching his fully-clothed body and the shredded pieces of my dress on the floor, I began shedding silent tears.

How did things turn out this way?

I did not come back to see things end up this way. I clearly wanted to spend my life with him and give birth to the child.

However...

Soon, he got out of the bathroom and slammed the door. He left without sparing me a single glance.

aring me a single glance.

I lay on the bed and let out a long sigh.
When was this cycle ever going to end?

I got up and went to the bathroom. After taking a shower, I changed into a clean set of clothes and sat on the bed daydreaming. I did not need to go to work anymore. I found it hard to get used to having nothing to do all of a sudden and felt a wave of unease for some reason.

In the quiet room, the ringtone startled me.