

Chapter 54

The crowd couldn't help murmuring among themselves. They cast strange looks at Margaret.

At that moment, Margaret wished she could disappear into thin air from the shame.

Margaret's father stood among the crowd. His face showed disappointment.

Upon seeing her father, Margaret clung to him like a lifeline.

"Dad, help me... Please help me."

Her father's face flushed with anger. He pushed Margaret away and turned to address Esmond.

"I'm terribly sorry, Mr. Newton Senior. Margaret has just returned from abroad and has not quite reacquainted herself with our ways yet, causing embarrassment for everyone."

Chandler slowly approached.

"Just because she's unfamiliar with our customs, does that excuse her actions?"

His tone was calm, but his words were sharp. His question made Margaret's face turn pale.

"Chandler, I..." Margaret bit her lip.

She realized it was too late. She had already shot herself in the foot and left a bad impression on Chandler.

Margaret was filled with regret, but there was no turning back time. Chandler didn't even acknowledge her plea.

He spoke directly to her father.

"Mr. Leonard, our Newton family is known for standing by our own. No matter what, Helen is one of us. Have you considered our family's dignity by acting in this manner?"

Margaret's father had wanted to play peacemaker, counting on the long-standing relationship between the Leonard and Newton families.

He had hoped that Esmond wouldn't pursue the matter further, given their history. But Chandler's unexpected intervention complicated things.

If he upset Chandler, who was known for his formidable reputation in business, it could spell trouble for the Leonard family's future endeavors.

Weighing his options, Margaret's father quickly turned to her.

"Margaret, apologize to Ms. Spencer."

Margaret couldn't believe that her father didn't take her side.

"Dad, how could you!"

"Apologize now. We can let this go if she's gracious enough to forgive you. If not, don't bother coming home today."

His words were clear to everyone present.

At first glance, they seemed straightforward, but on closer reflection, it was clear that Margaret's father was a seasoned businessman.

He had subtly shifted the blame onto Helen, suggesting that if Helen didn't forgive Margaret, she would be responsible for Margaret's plight.

It was a clever move, indeed.

Margaret was reluctant to apologize, but she had no choice but to comply under the circumstances.

"I'm sorry, Ms. Spencer. I was wrong."

Esmond's eyes narrowed slightly, but he remained silent and waited for Helen's response.

Helen knew Esmond wanted to protect her but also understood that he wouldn't easily sever ties with the Leonard family, given their years of friendship.

However, Helen wasn't willing to let this go so easily.

She had always lived by the principle of not initiating any conflict. But at the same time, she would never back down when challenged.

"Ms. Leonard, you really didn't need to apologize to me."

Margaret was confused and pressed her for clarification. "What do you mean by that?"

Helen replied, "There's no hidden meaning. I'm just saying that the person you should be apologizing to isn't me.

"You should apologize to Tyrone first. He trusted you as a friend, and you betrayed that trust. Next, you owe your father an apology. Your actions have tarnished your reputation and embarrassed him in front of everyone. Lastly, you should

apologize to everyone here. Your little stunt disrupted everyone's mood and wasted everyone's valuable time."

Helen's words mortified Margaret.

She was at a loss for words. Her shame was evident to all.

On the other hand, the crowd gained a new respect for Helen. They hadn't expected the unassuming girl to be so articulate and persuasive.

Someone in the crowd couldn't help but praise Helen.

"Mr. Newton Senior, your granddaughter is quite something."

Esmond responded with a smile, "She's still young and has a lot to learn. I hope everyone here will continue to support her."