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Chapter 471

Elizabeth dropped her gaze and instinctively hugged Rose tighter. Rose, back tears welling, struggled to speak. "I know you're terrified of water. You can't handle the sex."

"Mom, I'm fine, really," Elizabeth said, wanting to change the subject. Rose held onto Elizabeth, tears streaming down her face. Just then, there was a knock on the door.

"Elizabeth. Rose," a woman's voice called out. Rose let go of Elizabeth, and they both looked up. It was Blake and Elara.

"What are you doing here?" Rose's face showed clear resistance. She quickly wiped her tears and stepped aside. Elizabeth tugged at Rose's sleeve. Elara noticed their tear-streaked faces and felt a pang of guilt.

"We only found out from the news that Elizabeth was at the cruise party last night," Elara said, looking deeply at Elizabeth, feeling even more apologetic. Elara couldn't find the words to describe seeing Alexander rescue Esme. It was truly heartbreaking. Elizabeth had known him for so many years. Even if there were no feelings involved, seven years together would be enough for him to save Elizabeth first.

Blake carried a bunch of things and set them down by the coffee table. Rose was furious. "We don't want your things. Take them back! And don't want you here to see Elizabeth either. Leave!"

This was the first time Blake and Elara had seen Rose since Elizabeth and Alexander's divorce. The Tudor family had hurt Elizabeth so much; it was impossible for Rose to remain calm when facing them.

"Rose, we are truly sorry," Elara said, not blaming Rose for her attitude at all. Indeed, it was the Tudor family who had wronged Elizabeth.

"Mom, it's not their fault," Elizabeth even spoke up for them. Rose got even angrier. "Look at you, still defending them."

Rose was both angry and crying. This made Declan, who rushed in from outside, freeze. He hugged Rose's shoulders and shouted, "Bullied Elizabeth? Now you're here to bully my wife too?"

Isn't it enough that Alexander… Elara and Blake became even more bewildered and restrained, not knowing what to say. It was clear how much the Percy family resisted them. But they were genuinely here to visit Elizabeth today.

"Get out. You're not welcome here!" Declan looked at the things beside the coffee table, picked them up, and threw them out. Passing nurses and patients' families all looked over and saw Elara and Blake being pushed out by Declan.

Declan said angrily, "Elizabeth is fine and doesn't need your visit. Just take care of Alexander." The door to the ward was closed. Elara and Blake were thus driven out. The two exchanged a glance and could only sigh.

Blake shook his head, picked up the things on the ground, and said, "Let's go see Alexander first." Elara looked at the gifts in his hand, feeling very sad. Blake remained silent. The two of them walked away, their backs looking particularly lonely.

In the ward, Elizabeth said calmly, "It's between Alexander and me and has nothing to do with them. Why take it out on them?"

"They didn't raise Alexander well, so why not take it out on them?" Declan said angrily. Declan couldn't even imagine that if something had really happened to Elizabeth at that cruise party, how guilty he would feel. After all, Declan had been the one urging Elizabeth to attend the cruise party. He frowned, walked to the window, and looked outside.

Rose lowered her head and poured a glass of water. In the silence, Declan slowly said, "If you want to go abroad, then go."

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Elizabeth glanced up, catching a glimpse of Declan's hack. A father's love was often unspoken. People said some folks couldn't be chased. But in Elizabeth's world, Declan was chuseable. Eventually, Declan would struggle to keep up with his beloved daughter.

Rose frowned; clearly, Declan hadn't run this by her.

Declan turned, locking eyes with Elizabeth, and said seriously, "If helg abroad makes you feel free, then go. It's better than you constantly ending up in the hospital here!"

Elizabeth felt a pang of guilt. Over the years, she had caused Declan so much heartache. She watched him age, while she hid away, unhappy with life. Elizabeth had never felt like such a failure. This past year, she felt like a complete mess.

Rose cried quietly, the sound reaching Elizabeth's ears. Whenever Elizabeth looked at her, Rose would force a slight smile, not realizing those tear-filled eyes made Elizabeth heartache.

Elizabeth lowered her head, not saying a word. Soon, Nick came in with the doctor for rounds.

"Mr. York." Rose and Declan both stepped forward.

Nick nodded. "I've reviewed all the reports, and everything looks fine. Just get some good rest." He believed Elizabeth would pull herself together. Given Elizabeth's status, he didn't need to say much more.

"Seems like last night's cruise party wasn't great." Nick asked the doctor to leave and chatted with Elizabeth, "You're in good shape and Esme is fine too, but two people aren't doing well."

Elizabeth looked at Nick, a bit confused.

Nick explained, "It's Alexander and Ivan. Alexander is still in a coma with a high fever. Ivan has a big scar on his stomach that got soaked last night, and now the whole wound is infected. He's also running a high fever."

Elizabeth was stunned. It was Ivan who jumped in to save her last night.

"Which room is Ivan in?" Elizabeth asked.

This surprised Rose and Declan a bit. They thought Elizabeth would ask about Alexander. But she asked about Ivan.

"Right next door." Nick pointed to the next room.

Elizabeth nodded. Nick blinked, thinking she was going to ask which room Alexander was in. He waited for a bit. Seeing that Elizabeth didn't ask, he went on with his work.

Chapter 472

After Nick left, Elizabeth tried to get out of bed. Rose immediately held her down and asked, "Where are you going?"

"I'm going to check on Ivan," Elizabeth explained, "He saved me when I fell."

"Ivan saved you? Are you familiar with him?" Rose didn't stop her.

Elizabeth put on a coat and shook her head. "Not really. We've met."

"I'm fine now. You go ahead with your work." Elizabeth put on her slippers.

Declan and Rose exchanged glances, their faces showing content. They worried about Elizabeth all the time.

Elizabeth walked up to Declan and hugged him. "I won't break your heart again."

"You'd better not!" Declan's tone was stern.

Elizabeth nodded and went to see Ivan.

Chapter 473

Ivan was still unconscious with a fever, and his hospital room was empty. The nurse muttered, "The Shawn family is so heartless. No sense of family at all. I called to tell them Ivan was in the hospital, and they just said they'd send a butler to check on him. I couldn't believe it."

Elizabeth overheard the nurse and frowned. She thought, *Is the Shawn family really that bad? Maybe. Why else would Ivan have been abroad for so long?*

Elizabeth walked over to Ivan's bedside and adjusted his blanket. He was still hooked up to an IV, but his heart rate was steady. She wanted to check the wound on his stomach, but it felt inappropriate to adjust his blanket and clothes with only the two of them in the room. After a moment, she decided against it.

Elizabeth texted Felix: [Bring some anti-inflammatory ointment when you come to the hospital.]

Felix replied: [Okay.]

Elizabeth sent another message: [Felix, why are you so cold to me?]

No reply.

Annoyed, she typed: [How dare you not reply to my message?]

She knew Felix was mad.

Suddenly, Ivan coughed. Elizabeth looked up and saw Ivan staring at her.

"You're awake," she quickly placed the back of her hand on his forehead, which was still burning up. Ivan's throat felt like it was on fire.

"You were hurt, so why did you jump?" Elizabeth's tone had a hint of scolding.

Ivan weakly chuckled. "Should I have just watched you die?"

"We're even now," Elizabeth said. She had saved his life, and now he had saved hers.

Ivan looked into her eyes and nodded. After a while, he lowered his gaze. Elizabeth poured him a glass of water and heard him mumble, "Why didn't Alexander want to save you?"

"What?" She didn't catch that; his voice was too soft.

Ivan looked up and asked again, "Why did Alexander save Esme instead of you?"

Elizabeth sighed. "Alexander likes Esme. So he'd save her first. I don't matter to him."

Chapter 473

"You loved him for years and even married him. Even though you're divorced, is there no feeling left? Did you..." His tone grew urgent, and he started coughing.

Elizabeth quickly handed him the water. "Drink some water. Don't worry about my business."

Ivan didn't take the water but asked, "When did Alexander become heartless?"

Elizabeth lowered her head. She didn't know. In high school, Alexander wasn't like this, but after they went to college and the kidnapping incident happened, everything changed.

"I noticed yesterday that you and Esme both have the same scar on your back," Ivan suddenly said.

Elizabeth looked up, surprised. Ivan knew what she was thinking and explained, "Your tattoo is beautiful, but no matter how beautiful a tattoo is, it can't cover the original scar. Especially such a severe one."

Elizabeth smiled but said nothing, taking a sip of water herself. It was a sign of her helplessness.

Ivan asked, "How did you get that scar?"

Elizabeth looked at him seriously and replied, "Saving him."

Ivan was even more shocked. "Saving him?"

Ivan wondered if she was talking about Alexander.

"Yes, the year Alexander was kidnapped, I risked my life to save him alone," Elizabeth said, touching her back. "I was slashed by the kidnappers, had stones tied to me, and was thrown into the sea."

Ivan was even more shocked. "What? It was you?"

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Elizabeth saw his shock and couldn't help but laugh. She grabbed an apple from the bedside table, picked up a fruit knife, and asked, "Why do you look so surprised?"

Is it really that hard to believe I could pull off something amazing, he wondered.

Ivan swallowed hard, his eyes shifting from shock to a mix of emotions. "Elizabeth," he called out.

She looked up, calm as ever. "Yeah?"

Ivan gritted his teeth as she cut a small piece of apple for him. "Do you know why Alexander has to marry Esme?" His voice was calm but tinged with helplessness.

Elizabeth, intrigued, cut herself a piece of apple. "Why else? If a guy's dead set on marrying a girl, it's gotta be love, right?"

"Do you really not know?" Ivan pressed.

Elizabeth paused, her eyes filling with confusion. Should I know something about Alexander marrying Esme? Isn't it because he likes her? No way. He dotes on her so much; if that's not love, what is? she thought.

"Love can be faked," Ivan reminded her. "What you see might not be the truth."

Elizabeth raised an eyebrow. True, love could be faked. But Alexander didn't even bother to fake it with her, which made her feel like a total failure.

"You should have a good talk with Alexander," Ivan suggested.

Elizabeth slowly put down the apple. She seemed to get what Ivan was hinting at.

"Tell Alexander I saved him, and then what? Make him feel sorry for me? Use that to get a bit of love from him? Ivan, I can't do that," she shook her head. She didn't want to manipulate Alexander. The love she wanted had to be pure, without any strings attached.

Ivan looked helpless and anxious. "Elizabeth, don't you get it? I mean, you should let Alexander know it was you who saved him!"

"Me?" Elizabeth caught the key words.

Ivan nodded. "Yes, don't you know it was Esme…" Ivan's words were cut off.

The door suddenly opened. Ivan and Elizabeth looked up.

"Esme?" Ivan frowned.

Esme, wearing a hospital gown, walked in slowly, her eyes carrying an indescribable smile. "Mr. Shawn, Ms. Percy, what are you talking about? I think I heard my name," Esme said as she walked over to the bedside.

She had just visited Alexander, who was still unconscious. "Good thing I passed by Ivan's room and decided to check in. Was Ivan about to tell Elizabeth that I impersonated her? How does he even know?" Esme thought.

"Nothing much," Ivan quickly put on a cold face. Even though he'd been abroad for the past few years, he still kept in touch with Alexander and Kieran. They had a group chat where Kieran would occasionally spill the tea on Alexander's love life. Once, Alexander casually mentioned that Esme had saved him. And now, Elizabeth said she had saved Alexander, and Esme had the same scar as Elizabeth. Ivan immediately knew what was up.

Chapter 475

Ivan realized Esme was the one pretending to be Elizabeth, and the real hero who saved Alexander was Elizabeth. No wonder Ivan was floored when Elizabeth said she saved Alexander; everyone thought it was Esme who did the saving.

Now, Ivan couldn't stand the sight of Esme. He thought, *How could she pull this off? Isn't she scared of getting caught? Why didn't Elizabeth just tell Alexander the truth?*

"Ms. Percy, could you step out for a moment? I need to talk to Mr. Swan," Esme said with a twee smile.

Elizabeth shrugged. She didn't want to be around Esme anyway.

Just as she was about to leave, Ivan cut in coldly. "If you have something to say, just say it. Why make my friend leave? This is my room. Stay if you want, unless she's got something shady to say."

Esme looked confused, having no idea why he got so angry. Elizabeth was even more surprised. For the first time in years, she felt confident in front of someone.

"It's okay. I'll go back first and come see you later," Elizabeth said with a smile, giving Ivan's arm a quick pat before leaving.

Esme noticed the gesture, and her face darkened, not expecting Elizabeth and Ivan to be so close.

"Elizabeth's gone. What do you want to say?" Ivan asked, clearly annoyed. He thought, *Elizabeth and I have important things to discuss, and Esme just barges in and makes her leave. Who does she think she is? The owner of this room?*

As soon as Elizabeth left, Esme's expression changed. She glared at Ivan. "What were you going to tell Elizabeth just now?"

"What's it to you?" Ivan had never liked Esme, even as kids. When he went abroad, Esme and Alexander didn't even know each other. Ivan didn't know how she managed to get involved with Alexander.

"Are you planning to tell Elizabeth that I pretended to be her to save Alexander?" Esme raised her chin arrogantly.

Ivan squinted. "So you know you're the imposter?"

"So what?" Esme said, even more arrogantly.

Ivan laughed, dripping with sarcasm. "Esme, you're shameless! You pretended to be Elizabeth and fooled Alexander. And now you're still so smug."

Esme bit her lip and clenched her fist. "Ivan, if you're smart, you'll keep this to yourself!"

"You want me to help you deceive Alexander?" Ivan asked, puzzled.

Esme was about to answer when Ivan continued, "Esme, if you do something shady, it will eventually come to light!"

Esme sneered, "That's a problem for later." As long as she married Alexander first, he couldn't do anything to her.

I won't help you cover it up, Ivan said calmly, pursing his lips.

Esme clenched her fists. "Ivan, I…"

"Don't threaten me," Ivan interrupted, not giving her a chance to speak. "Esme, I'm the heir to the Shawn family. Do you dare threaten me? Aren't you being too arrogant?"

"So what if you're the heir? If I can stay by Alexander's side until now, I can make him love me forever," Esme said angrily.

Ivan wasn't fazed. "Esme, Alexander has never loved you."

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"I know deep down if Alexander loves me or not. Our love is none of your business!" Esme stopped, gently covering Ivan with a blanket, her eyes flashing a warning. "Ivan, mind your own business and stay out of mine! If you keep meddling, you'll regret it." She pulled her hand back, shot Ivan a hard look, and walked away.

Ivan watched her leave, his fists clenched tight. Esme, threatening *him*? Does she even deserve to? "We'll see about that," Ivan thought, sneering with menace in his eyes.

Esme left the hospital room, looking at the empty corridor, hiding her trembling hands. Ivan knows the truth. What should she do? He doesn't seem like someone who can be easily threatened. Can she keep this hidden any longer? She failed to deal with Elizabeth on the cruise, and now others know she's an impostor. What's her next move? Esme was panicking.

As she was lost in thought, she saw Nolan walking over and immediately called out, "Nolan!"

Nolan looked up, and the moment he saw Esme, his eyes filled with disgust. *Esme is the impostor!* He thought, *She acts all high and mighty, but inside, she's rotten to the core. She's the real villain here.*

He knew this because, even though Gabriel had died, Gabriel had scheduled an email to be sent to him. Gabriel knew he would die, but he didn't expect it to be so soon. So the email arrived a bit late.

Gabriel's email read:

[Nolan, first of all, I want to apologize to Mr. Tudor and you. I'm sorry that I deceived you.]

[Three years ago, during the kidnapping case, the person who saved Mr. Tudor was not Esme, but Elizabeth. Yes, it's Mr. Tudor's wife, Elizabeth!]

[You might be very shocked that, since I knew it was Elizabeth, I admitted it was Esme under your repeated questioning.]

[It was because Esme threatened me and kidnapped my family. I hadn't seen my family for a long time!]

[While I was in prison, her assistant Vincent repeatedly came to threaten me. He even threatened to cut off one of my son's fingers each time he visited me if I dared to speak out!]

[I thought I was despicable enough. I had never seen such a vicious person like Esme. She showed me the grim reality of society and what the powerful upper class was really like.]

[Now, I will tell you the complete situation at that time.]

[I was commissioned to kidnap Alexander. During the kidnapping, Elizabeth discovered us and followed our car alone all the way to the seaside.]

[Elizabeth called the police, and to buy time for the police to arrive, she exposed herself and negotiated with us, boarding our boat. Elizabeth exchanged herself for Alexander. While escaping, Elizabeth was slashed by me, and the wound was on the right side of her shoulder.]

[Fearing trouble from the Percy family, I planned to kill Elizabeth directly. So I tied stones to her, trying to make her sink to the bottom of the sea.]

[We took Alexander ashore, thinking that releasing him would end the matter. At that moment, the police arrived. I don't know how Elizabeth survived.]

[This is the full account of the kidnapping. As for Esme, I never saw her once during the whole process. I didn't even know who she was! If you need evidence, these videos are the proof!]

Below the email were dozens of videos which contained evidence of Elizabeth's presence. But in those videos, there wasn't a single trace of Esme.

"Nolan, how is Alexander? Has he woken up?" Esme asked, trying to sound worried.

Nolan shook his head. "Not yet." He glanced into Ivan's ward, puzzled about why Esme was coming out of there.

"You're Alexander's assistant, so you should take good care of him," she said, her tone carrying a hint of reproach.

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Nolan was at his wit's end with Esme. He clenched his teeth, barely holding back his anger. "How did Mr. Tudor end up in the sea? Was that your doing?" he snapped.

Esme picked up on the unusual edge in Nolan's voice. Normally, he was the picture of calm and collected. She opened her mouth to speak, but Nolan cut her off, his voice icy. "Ms. Russell, the girl on the cruise who tried to push you overboard? You hired her."

It wasn't a question. It was a fact.

Esme was at a loss for words. "Yeah, I hired her. So what?"

"Why? What was the point?" Nolan frowned. This was only going to make Alexander despise her more.

"I just wanted to see if Alexander would choose me over everything. Is that so wrong?" Esme said, her tone defiant.

"Ms. Russell, you really screwed up," Nolan said, shaking his head.

"What do you mean?" Panic started to creep into Esme's voice.

Nolan sneered, "Gabriel told me everything."

Esme's face went pale. "What? Gabriel's dead. Dead men don't talk! How does Nolan know?"

Nolan continued, mocking her, "Gabriel had dirt on you, but you threatened him. Did you really think he'd stay loyal?"

Esme flushed with embarrassment. *But someone like Gabriel needs to be kept in line,* she thought.

"Do you really think keeping someone around who can never be satisfied is a good idea?" she shot back.

"Is the Russell Family short on money? Wouldn't it be better to pay him off than to be exposed as a fraud?" Nolan raised an eyebrow, his tone challenging.

Esme was at a loss for words. *If money can solve it, it's not a problem. Only when money can't solve it, there is a real issue!* she thought.

"Did you tell Alexander?" she asked, her voice trembling.

"I'm on my way to tell Mr. Tudor now," Nolan said with a smile.

Esme lunged forward, grabbing Nolan's arm. "Nolan," she pleaded, her tone desperate.

Nolan had put up with Esme's antics for too long, and now he finally had the upper hand.

"Nolan, I'll give you anything you want. Just help me keep this secret, okay? Leave Alexander, and I'll set up a company for you! I know you're just as capable as Alexander! I'll give you everything you want. Just help me keep this secret!" Esme begged, clutching Nolan's arm tightly.

Nolan looked at her, a mocking smile on his face. "Such generous terms?"

Yes, I'll give you everything! Just don't tell Alexander! She couldn't lose Alexander.

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"Ms. Russell, even if I don't say anything, Mr. Tudor already suspects something. Nolan pried her hand off his arm. Instead of waiting for him to confront you, why don't you come clean and admit your mistake?"

Esme stumbled back, her back hitting the wall, her eyes filling with despair.

Chapter 478

The hospital was dead quiet in the night. Around ten, Elizabeth strolled alone down the corridor. She overheard some nurses gossiping at the station. "Who do you think is hotter, Mr. Tudor or Mr. Shawn?"

"Definitely Mr. Tudor. He's got the looks!"

"But Mr. Tudor's a mess with relationships! Always stuck between Ms. Percy and Ms. Russell."

"Guys who focus on work can't handle relationships. If he could do both, that'd be too perfect!"

"Don't make excuses for men. A jerk is just a jerk!"

Elizabeth raised an eyebrow and chuckled at that last bit. She thought women these days were pretty sharp. A jerk was a jerk; saying he was too focused on work to handle relationships was no excuse for not respecting women or loving his wife.

Just then, the ward door opened, and Elizabeth saw Nolan step out, saying, "I can't give you an answer right now because Mr. Tudor hasn't woken up yet."

"Keep an eye on Kyle. Make sure he doesn't pull anything while Mr. Tudor's in the hospital."

"Alright, I'll leave the company to you. Thanks for your hard work."

Nolan hung up and turned around, locking eyes with Elizabeth. He tightened his grip on the phone. Elizabeth smiled gently at Nolan, wanting to say hi but staying quiet. Nolan frowned. Knowing Elizabeth had saved Alexander but never mentioned it made him see her differently.

Nolan thought, *Everyone says Esme is the Russell family's treasure, loved by many, and Alexander should love her too. But what about Elizabeth? Isn't she the most cherished in the Percy family? I remember when Alexander and I first started our business, how precious Elizabeth was. Elizabeth has her own character and grace, something Esme never had. At least, in Elizabeth's eyes, someone like me can be a friend, not a lackey.*

"Ms. Percy," Nolan greeted first.

Elizabeth nodded. "Nolan."

Nolan said, "Mr. Tudor hasn't woken up yet."

Elizabeth smiled but didn't seem interested in chatting.

Elizabeth thought, *Alexander's situation has nothing to do with me anymore. Last night, when I was in the sea, I decided if I got another chance to live, I'd stay away from Alexander. All my troubles start from liking him. From now on, I won't be a fool again.*

"I'm going to rest," Elizabeth said, turning to leave.

Nolan quickly called out, "Ms. Percy, I have something to tell you."

Elizabeth didn't stop because she had nothing to discuss with Nolan. Whatever he had to say would be about Alexander. She no longer had any expectations for Alexander, so she didn't care.

Chapter 478 (Continued)

"I know it was you who saved Mr. Tudor back then!" Nolan's words made Elizabeth stop. She looked up, her hands slowly clenching, then turned to look at Nolan, surprise in her eyes.

Seeing the shock in Elizabeth's eyes, Nolan felt a mix of emotions. The real savior of Alexander was surprised and shocked when the truth came out, while the imposter would only use the story to get what she wanted. Esme had messed up all their lives.

"Who told you?" Elizabeth asked.

Nolan pressed his lips together and replied, "Gabriel, the guy who kidnapped Mr. Tudor."

Elizabeth frowned. That name rang a bell.

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Nolan chimed in, "You know him, right? The guy I was visiting the last few times." Elizabeth's eyes lit up with realization. In the ER, the guy Mark rushed out with was Gabriel. And the last time Nolan sang by the inpatient department, it was for Gabriel. She'd been bumping into that kidnapper more times than she could count.

"So, it was really you who saved Mr. Tudor, huh?" Nolan asked. Elizabeth looked confused. "Who else would it be?"

"Why didn't you mention it even once in the past three years?"

"I thought he knew," Elizabeth said, her voice steady.

Nolan gave a helpless smile, thinking. How would Mr. Tudor know if she never said anything? He was seriously hurt, too.

"You were too naive," Nolan's voice got a bit rough.

Elizabeth felt a pang of helplessness. She'd only recently found out Alexander never knew it was she who saved him.

"When Mr. Tudor wakes up, can you tell him yourself that it was you who saved him?" Nolan asked.

Elizabeth smiled. "No need. Whether he knows or not, it doesn't matter."

"Why? It's super important." Esme had claimed she saved him, and Alexander had been spoiling her endlessly because of it. If Alexander had known earlier that it was Elizabeth who saved him, things would be so different now.

"I don't want him to love me out of pity," Elizabeth lifted her head, her eyes shining with determination. She looked at Nolan and made up her mind. "Nolan, since he doesn't know, let's keep it that way."

Nolan was even more confused.

"I'm planning to go abroad," Elizabeth said with a smile. She had decided to study finance and management overseas and then come back to take over Declan's company. Elizabeth started to feel sorry for Declan and wanted to help him out. She wasn't running away from the mess in Lisbun; she was aiming for a better future.

"Nolan, remember, keep it a secret." She placed a finger on her lips, her eyes pleading.

Elizabeth hurried off. She didn't want any ties with Alexander or his circle. The world was big, and if they were meant to part ways, they shouldn't stay in touch.

Back in her room, she took a deep breath and pulled out her phone.

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She texted Felix: Felix, I've decided to go abroad to study.

Felix replied quickly: I'll go with you.

Elizabeth smiled. It was lucky to have Felix, her rock who soaked up all her moods and was always there for her.

Elizabeth: Get the school stuff sorted. We're leaving tomorrow night.

Felix: [So soon?]

Elizabeth: [Yes]

The next morning, she checked out of the hospital early. Rose and Declan showed up, scolding her, "You're not fully recovered yet. Why are you leaving the hospital?"

"Elizabeth, don't be so stubborn!" She pulled them into the car. On the way, she told them, "Mom, Dad, I'll cook this afternoon. Let's invite Grandpa and Grandma for a meal!" Rose and Declan exchanged a look and went quiet, wondering what she was up to.

Chapter 480

At 3 PM, the Perry Villa was filled with the mouth-watering aroma of home-cooked food. The dining table was laden with delicious dishes. Grant and Celine watched Elizabeth. Grant leaned toward Declan and asked, "What's up with Elizabeth? Why is she suddenly cooking for the family?"

Declan, privy to Elizabeth's plan, replied, "She'll explain everything soon. Just be ready for it."

Celine felt uneasy. "What's she up to? She quit the job I got her, and now she's just wandering around, getting herself into trouble. Why can't she just settle down?"

Celine said nothing more as Elizabeth emerged with another dish. Her eyes were glued to Elizabeth. Elizabeth clapped her hands and smiled, "Alright, the last dish is done. Let's eat!!"

She pushed the fish toward Grant, knowing he loved it. She placed the vegetables in front of Celine, who preferred them. Declan got some appetizers to go with his drink. Rose, who had similar tastes to Elizabeth, got a bit of

everything. Even though Elizabeth hadn't been home or cooked for the family in ages, she still remembered everyone's favorites.

"So, how is it? Good?" Elizabeth asked Declan.

Declan nodded. But Celine just stared at her food, untouched. "Elizabeth, if you have something to say, just say it. Why all the..."

Grant nodded in agreement, thinking, "Yeah, just spit it out. I'll support her no matter what!"

Elizabeth smiled gently. "I was going to tell you after dinner, but since Grandma asked, I'll say it now, and then we can eat!"

Celine frowned, feeling anxious about what Elizabeth might say. Elizabeth clasped her hands together and said seriously, "I plan to study abroad. I want to take a course and come back to help Dad run the company."

Celine immediately retorted, "Study abroad? Didn't we already say no to that?"

"Grandma, I used to want to escape and hide abroad. But now I don't," Elizabeth said earnestly. "I want to learn how to run the company."

Celine fell silent. Grant smiled. "It's a good thing."

"What's good about not studying medicine properly and insisting on taking over the company? Is it that easy? Besides, Elizabeth is a girl," Celine said, taking a bite of food, clearly unhappy.

Before Elizabeth could respond, Declan interjected, "Mom, it's great that Elizabeth wants to take over the company. She needs to be trained! What's wrong with being a girl? As a woman yourself, you shouldn't look down on women! There are so many successful women in the workplace now."

"Young people like Elizabeth should have their own careers."

Celine snorted, "Yes, I spoke out of turn."

"Mom, I didn't mean it that way!" Declan quickly tried to calm her down. "Let Elizabeth do what she wants. The Percy family's money is all for her anyway."

Celine didn't speak, but her dissatisfaction was clear. She didn't want Elizabeth to go abroad. In this family, whoever's profession Elizabeth followed, that person would be happy. When Elizabeth studied medicine, Celine was happy, but Rose and Declan were sad. Now that Elizabeth wanted to take over the company, Declan was happy. Rose believed that one day, Elizabeth would learn design from her.

"So, when are you leaving?" Celine asked Elizabeth.

Elizabeth checked the time. "My flight is at 8 PM, and I'll leave for the airport at 5 PM."

"So soon?" Celine was surprised.

Elizabeth nodded. "I want to get familiar with the place for a couple of days and meet with the teachers at the school. Since I've decided, I shouldn't delay."

Celine said nothing more. Elizabeth could feel that Celine was in a bad mood. No matter what Elizabeth wanted to study, Celine couldn't bear to let her go.