

When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0070

It was the night of the Carters' annual gathering.

Howard appeared distracted, as though his husk of a body was unattended, as he looked on with his eyes glazed and unseeing. His face was abnormally pale too as cold beads of sweat potted his skin.

“Howard, are you okay? You don't look so hot,” Hector asked, his eyebrows furrowed.

Howard stared at nothing in particular without answering him. It was beginning to worry the older man, who placed his hand on Howard's forehead before crying out in shock, “Your forehead's really cool...Are you having cold sweat?!”

Upon hearing his voice, everyone else turned to look at him.

“Oh, uh, what?” Howard finally pulled himself back to reality. When he realized where he was, he quickly shook his head. “I, uh, I'm fine.”

“Are you sure? You're having cold sweat. Did something happen to you?” Hector asked, unconvinced and concerned.

“Yeah, Howard. If something's troubling you, at least let the family know.”

Howard forced a smile. “What do you mean something happened to me? Nothing happened. I just overworked myself in the office last night. I didn't notice that it was already midnight. All I need to do is to have an early rest, and I'll be as good as new. Don't worry, guys.”

Hector's eyebrows creased just a little in suspicion. As his father, he had watched the young man's growth and knew his character like the back of his hand: Howard had always been a sloth at his core. He frequently played hooky when he should have been at school. His attendance and productivity at work had been spotty after

graduation, and nothing in his attitude ever suggested him as someone who would work long hours and into the night for the company's benefit.

Admittedly, Howard had been coming home late at night these days. In fact, he had not come home at all last night. Hector had thought that his son was fooling around with his hedonistic ne'er-do-well friends again, but now, it seemed that he had been wrong about Howard after all.

Hector could not help but smile at the thought. Howard had taken his time, but finally, he was starting to act like a mature adult.

Hector patted his son's shoulder. "Work may be important, but you shouldn't overtax yourself and take your health lightly, okay?"

The rest of the crowd chimed in as well, "Yeah, Howard. You're the star of the family right now. We Carters are rooting for you to bring glory to the family."

Their words were so flattering to Howard that the man was instantly rejuvenated. A genuine smile returned to his face, and suddenly, he was a different person from who he had been just minutes ago.

Meanwhile, across the room, Faye was just as absent-minded as Howard previously was. Her eyebrows were creased as she looked on, lost in her thoughts. To be honest, Faye had objected to attending tonight's dinner party because seeing George, Hector, and several others in the family made her retch. It was her father, Wayne, who had insisted on her joining them, so she had to set aside her reluctance and be there.

She did not tell Zayn about what happened since she deemed it unnecessary. What changes would it make? How could Zayn even help?

Zayn noticed her general lack of alacrity, so he tried his best to tend to her discomfort, asking her if something was troubling her and questions of the likes. Of course, Faye ignored him altogether, and after a while of listening to his concerned questions, she snapped, "Don't you ever find yourself irritating, Zayn? I told you I'm not troubled by anything, and that is that! Besides, even if I were bullied by anyone, can you even do anything about it?"

The incident from two days ago—whereby Faye’s family’s hold of the company’s share was truncated and she herself was expelled from the board of directors, was still gnawing at Faye’s mind, leaving bubbles of pent-up anger all over. Adding to that was Zayn and his relentless barrage of questions, and it was no wonder that she became so exasperated that she raised her voice when she snapped at him.

Unfortunately, in turn, many of her family members heard her, and quickly, the snickers and gibes followed.

“Look! Isn’t that Wayne’s useless son-in-law over there? Faye’s shouting at him again, huh? Haha!”

“Ha, you know that’s their daily routine, don’t you? Faye’s been kicked out of the board of directors just two days ago, so shouting and screaming abuse at Zayn is the only catharsis her incompetent self has! What a pair of weirdos.”

“Seeing them is just embarrassing! One’s a failure of a son-in-law who couldn’t get a job for four years while the other is a slut who beds other men. They deserve each other. Haha!”

“Oh, you’re right! They are such a perfect match!”

“Anyway, isn’t this an invite-only family gathering? What’s a stupid parasite like him doing here?”

“What else? He’s shameless enough to come for the free food. I heard he’s always been given leftovers as his meals, so it’s not surprising that when he heard he could feast on actual food from a luxury hotel, he came crashing the party with his tongue sticking out! When you’re someone like that, why would you care about dignity, right?”