

Zillionaire 741

Chapter 741 Why Don't

You Introduce Yourself...

"I know CR Corporation has been expanding fast. But don't underestimate us. Aurora is with our firm and just won a top design award. That alone speaks volumes about our talent," Dolores said with quiet pride.

Collin gave a small nod. "I'm well aware. Aurora's talent is unmatched. That's exactly why I'm eager to work with Davidson Group. I believe we'll achieve great things together."

As they began to talk business, Haven had no choice but to settle into the extra chair Collin had requested.

She didn't want to sit there, but staying on her feet would only draw more attention. She wasn't about to let that happen-not with so many eyes watching.

Dustin finally let out a silent sigh of relief. The tension in the air had eased a little. He glanced over at Collin and Linsey, who now sat across from each other, both calm and composed.

He couldn't help but feel surprised. Four years ago, things between them had ended so badly that even as a bystander, he thought they would never be in the same room again-let alone sharing a table. But here they

were.

Linsey, however, stayed quiet. She hadn't looked at Collin once.

Then Haven spoke, her voice soft but laced with meaning. "I haven't had the pleasure of hearing this lady's

name yet. She's been quiet since the beginning. As Ms. Davidson's capable assistant, shouldn't she speak up a

little more?"

Dolores looked over and smiled faintly. "Why don't you introduce yourself first? After all, you're the one Mr.

Riley brought along."

Hearing that, Dustin sighed and rubbed his face, eyes closing briefly.

He wasn't surprised. Dolores never missed a chance to poke at Collin.

Collin quietly set down his utensils, his tone still polite. "This is Haven Walton. She recently returned from

abroad."

Dolores gave a knowing smile. "Mr. Riley and Ms. Walton seem quite close."

Haven's lips curled into a sweet smile. She was ready to agree, but Collin cut in before she could speak. "My grandmother is close with the Waltons. She asked me to help show Haven around."

His tone was even, but there was no mistaking the message. Then he glanced at Linsey.

Her face remained steady and unreadable-as if none of it concerned her.

That flicker of indifference hit Collin hard. A shadow passed through his eyes. There was a trace of bitterness in

his smile.

He wanted to explain more, but Haven's presence held him back

If she caught on, she might lash out later when he wasn't there to protect Linsey. After everything that happened four years ago, Collin couldn't afford to take that risk

So he didn't reveal Linsey's identity as Aurora. He didn't even say her name

Haven fell silent. Her smile stiffened as she realized what had just happened- Collin was distancing himself

from her right in front of everyone.

The sting of it was sharp and humiliating.

Just earlier, even Dolores had assumed she was Collin's girlfriend.

Chapter 742 What Did You Dig Up

Dolores raised a brow, her voice laced with sarcasm. "Oh? I thought you two were a couple."

Haven, eager to keep Collin from saying more, quickly answered, "We're just friends."

A quiet voice broke through the moment. "How can that be true?" Linsey cut in. "Didn't Mr. Riley spend 2.7 billion at a charity auction to buy the Star of the Desert for Haven? That doesn't sound like just friends to me."

Dolores froze. She was stunned-not just by the insane price of the necklace, but by the fact that Linsey, who had been silent, chose to speak up now.

She wasn't the only one surprised. Dustin's eyes widened too.

He turned to Collin and asked in a hushed voice, "You bought a necklace for Haven? For 2.7 billion? Why didn't you tell me?"

Linsey's words left Collin momentarily speechless.

Haven, on the other hand, blushed deeply. "Collin only bought the Star of the Desert for my birthday. It's the most touching gift I've ever received," she said with a bashful smile.

Collin's brows furrowed. He wanted to say something more.

But just as the words reached his lips, he stopped.

With the way things stood between him and Linsey now, even the truth might do more harm than good.

She might think he was using money to win her back.

And if she thought that, it would only prove what she had believed four years ago- that he saw her as nothing more than a greedy, shallow woman.

The cold look on his face didn't go unnoticed. Dustin, sitting beside him, felt the tension and shifted uncomfortably.

Even though he had finally had the chance to see Dolores today, he couldn't help feeling annoyed. This unexpected group had thrown everything off.

What a headache, he thought.

Meanwhile, Collin's silence only deepened Linsey's suspicions.

So it was true. He really had spent 2.7 billion on a necklace for Haven.

It was all because her birthday was coming up.

No matter what he said before, his actions said something else entirely.

Linsey also remembered something she had heard earlier-Ivy had a close bond with Haven's family Their families were well connected.

It wasn't hard to believe the two of them had once been set up to marry.

And clearly, Ivy had liked Haven enough to still want her for Collin, even er Haven left Collin at the altar

With that, the table fell into silence. Everyone returned to their food, each person lost in their own threes.

"I'm going to the ladies' room," Haven said, wiping her mouth with a napkin and standing, she smiled as the looked at Linsey and Dolores. "Would either of you like to come with me?"

Both shook their heads.

"You go ahead," Linsey said politely.

Haven paused for a moment, giving Linsey one last look before walking off.

Once inside the restroom, she made sure no one else was there. Then she let out

a deep breath, pulled out her phone, and dialed a number.

"Joanne, hey. How's it going? Did you find anything? I asked you to look into Collin's ex-wife, Linsey Brooks.

What did you dig up?"

Chapter 743 There's Mango

In It!

Joanne responded right away, "I just finished organizing everything. I'll send the file to you now."

"Got it," Haven said, then ended the call.

Yet something inside her twisted uneasily. A creeping suspicion took hold. The woman dining with Dolores... Could she really be Linsey?

If she was, then it meant Collin, Dolores, and even Dustin had all been covering for her-hiding her identity.

But why? What were they trying to keep from her? Were they deliberately leaving her out?

A sharp gleam entered Haven's eyes.

Moments later, her phone buzzed with a message. Joanne had sent the investigation report.

She opened the file quickly-and froze the second she read the contents.

Back outside, the meal was nearly over. Plates were mostly cleared, and the atmosphere had settled down.

A server approached with a tray of drinks, smiling warmly. "To celebrate our grand opening, we're offering complimentary fresh orange juice. Would anyone like some?"

Linsey glanced at the orange-yellow drink, her throat dry. "Yes, please," she said softly.

One by one, the others took a glass. A light fruity scent drifted through the air, whetting their appetites once

more.

"Smells like orange juice," Dolores remarked with a smile.

Linsey took a small sip. It was sweet and cooling, just what she needed.

Collin, seated diagonally across from her, brought his glass closer to his nose-but the moment he caught a

whiff, his expression changed.

His brows furrowed sharply. Without warning, he looked up, alarm flashing in his eyes. Just as Linsey raised the glass again, he reached over and grabbed it from her hand.

"Don't drink that!" Collin said firmly, his voice low and tense.

Startled, Linsey stared at him in confusion. "You..."

Dolores frowned, clearly irritated. "What are you doing, Collin? What does it

matter to you if she drinks juice?"

"There's mango in it!" he said quickly, not taking his eyes off Linsey.

"Wait, what?" Dolores's face went pale.

Linsey froze, her heart skipping a beat. Suddenly, whether real or imagined, it became hard to breathe.

Collin reacted instantly. He shoved the plates aside and came around the table to her side, leaning close.

"How do you feel?" he asked urgently, concern evident in his tone. "Is your breathing okay?"

Linsey's chest tightened. Her breaths came in short, uneven bursts. Her body weakened, and she slumped

without warning.

"Linsey!" Dolores gasped, leaping to her feet. Panic broke through her voice. "Quick, lay her down flat! I'm calling an ambulance!"

Collin caught her just in time, gently easing her onto the long bench, carefully supporting her head.

Behind them, Dustin's face had turned grim. He spun toward the server and snapped, "Why was there mango in that juice? Didn't you say it was fresh orange juice?"

The server looked horrified. "We made mango juice this morning, and at noon we switched to orange. It must've gotten mixed in by mistake..." 裕

Linsey's face had already started to swell and flush red. Her breathing turned more labored by the second. Tears streamed uncontrollably down her cheeks.

Her vision blurred, but she could still make out Collin's worried face hovering above her-and something in her chest ached at the sight.

It was too much. Her face burned, and pain pulsed through her skin.

"Leave me alone..." Linsey croaked, her voice hoarse and weak. She tried to push Collin away.

Chapter 744 What Happened

The sudden commotion drew the attention of the customers.

"What's going on?"

"Is there something wrong with the food?"

The restaurant manager rushed over and attempted to calm everyone. "There is nothing wrong with our food. The food is safe for consumption. The customer is having an allergic reaction."

"You don't warn customers about potential allergens in your food? You mixed mango into orange juice without any warning to your customers. Do you know how dangerous that is?" Dustin snapped, his tone full of anger.

Dustin's words visibly rattled the manager. "I'm so sorry, sir. We'll cover any medical expenses to the lady that come as a result of this," the manager said apologetically.

Collin felt a dull pang in his chest when Linsey pushed him away.

It was just as he feared. She still hadn't forgiven him for what had happened four years ago.

A pained look appeared on his face, but he managed to hide it.

"Linsey, we need to set the past aside for now. You're having an allergic reaction and need to be taken to a hospital immediately," Collin said gently.

Without further ado, Collin lifted the near-unconscious Linsey to his chest.

He was finally holding Linsey like that after four years. Her warmth, scent, and weight were just as he had

remembered.

His heart skipped a bit as a lump of emotion welled up within him.

He, however, didn't have the time to dwell on this, as they were in an urgent situation.

He steadily and purposefully moved as he held Linsey in his arms.

Dustin and Dolores, finally over the initial shock, followed suit, shoving through the crowd that had gathered.

"How does an allergy get that bad?" That's really terrifying."

"True. I hope it's not deadly."

Several of the customers seemed shaken up by the incident.

Haven returned from the restroom just in time to catch the discussion of the incident.

She had heard the commotion but had been on the phone with Joanne and, as such, couldn't find out what was

happening immediately.

Staring confusedly at the gathered crowd, she turned to a customer and asked, "What happened?"

"A lady just had a severe allergic reaction. They just took her to the hospital." Haven's curiosity immediately fizzled out, and she shrugged indifferently before walking back to her table.

The chairs were empty save for the cleaning staff, who were cleaning the ble. What was going on?

Had they just left without saying a word? Even Collin was gone!

One of the servers noticed Haven standing there in shock. "Ma'am, didn't you leave with your companions?" "The lady at your table had a severe allergic reaction and had to be rushed to the hospital by the others."

It was then that Haven realized that the person who had the allergic reaction was from their table and a woman.

Was it Dolores? Or...

Regardless of who it was, she couldn't understand why Collin would leave her behind just like that.

Haven angrily walked out of the restaurant and pulled out her phone to call Collin. However, she was unable to get through to him.

She could do nothing but stand outside the restaurant, fuming with rage.

After a few moments, she called Joanne. When Joanne answered, she said, "Put the investigation on Linsey Brooks on hold for now. I need you to look into Dolores Davidson from the Davidson Group. I want to know everything about her, including people close to her."

Chapter 745 Let's Focus On Investigating Dolores

Upon hearing Haven's words, Joanne responded with a concerned expression, "Gathering information about Linsey Brooks is proving incredibly difficult. I'm starting to think Mr. Riley might be involved. How

else could all traces of her, even a simple photograph, vanish? Especially since, four years back, Linsey was quite a notable designer in town."

A shadow crossed her face as Haven reflected on the fruitless files she had recently examined. She muttered with a hint of satisfaction, "Collin must be going to great lengths to keep Linsey's details buried. That actually works in my favor."

Initially, Haven had believed the woman she saw with Dolores might be Linsey. Now, she doubted that assumption.

She reasoned that if the woman had indeed been Linsey, Collin would not have remained so composed at the same table.

Furthermore, the woman's striking beauty had sparked a sudden sense of threat and jealousy within Haven.

Out of the blue, Joanne asked, "Weren't you supposed to meet with Collin today? How did it go? Are things moving forward with you two?"

A shadow passed over Haven's face as she heard the question.

Driven by pride, she covered up the truth. "He had to handle some urgent business at his company, so he left right after lunch," she replied, then swiftly diverted the conversation. "Let's focus on investigating Dolores."

Joanne sighed in resignation. "Understood, but what's Dolores' connection to Collin?"

Haven chose not to respond.

Meanwhile, Collin carefully placed Linsey in the back seat of his car.

Dolores, following closely, quickly said, "I'll sit next to Linsey."

"Alright, I'll take the wheel," Collin responded, easing Linsey down before heading to the driver's seat:

Dustin, left with little choice, settled into the passenger seat.

As he observed Collin's strained features, it was clear that his feelings for Linsey remained profound.

The twists of fate seemed to mock them with their cruel irony.

The vehicle hastened along the highway.

In the back seat, Dolores cradled Linsey, dabbing at her forehead to relieve her of the sweat.

She lowered the window, allowing the fresh air to flow in.

With a look of concern, Dolores watched Linsey struggle for breath, tears welling up in her own eyes.

Never before had Linsey's allergic reactions been so severe.

However, her allergies intensified following the births of Zenia and Zander.

At that time, the doctor had advised Linsey to be especially cautious, and ever since, they had taken great care.

They never anticipated facing such an accident today.

Linsey had merely tasted orange juice laced with mango, triggering a frighteningly intense reaction.

The thought of a higher mango content was harrowing.

Dolores, overwhelmed by guilt for not recognizing the mango sooner, let out a quiet sob.

It had been Collin who first spotted the danger.

"Dominic's hospital is where we're headed, right?" Dustin asked.

"Yes, I have the utmost confidence in his expertise," Collin assured.

Caught up in her worries, Dolores was jolted back to reality when Linsey squeezed her hand.

The sharp pinch pulled Dolores from her reverie, prompting her to glance at Linsey, whose expression had sharpened.

Linsey's slight frown and gentle head shake were subtle yet unmistakably intentional, catching Dolores's attention.

As Dolores met Linsey's slightly anxious gaze, she suddenly realized something important.

Chapter 746 What Did The Doctor Say

Realizing that, Dolores quickly said, "Isn't there a closer hospital? Let's just go to that one!"

Dustin turned to Dolores and said, "Dominic is an excellent doctor and is familiar with Linsey and her condition."

Dustin's words caused Dolores to grow even more anxious. It was exactly

because Dominic was an excellent doctor that she couldn't let them take Linsey to his hospital.

If it were revealed that Linsey had given birth before and that had caused her allergic reaction to worsen, Collin would finally know about the existence of the two kids.

Dolores knew within her that nothing could long be hidden under the sun, but she felt that now was not the time for the revelation of this particular secret.

Linsey was weak and unable to defend herself.

If Collin decided to demand custody of the kids, there was nothing they could do to stop him.

It was in consideration of this fact that Dolores made the decision not to let Linsey be taken to Dominic's hospital.

"Linsey is in so much pain. We have to get her to the nearest hospital. You're delaying because you don't care about her, but I know she needs treatment immediately," Dolores said sharply.

The atmosphere grew exceedingly tense upon her words.

Dustin nervously glanced at Collin, afraid that Dolores' words would enrage him. Collin, however, appeared to be untouched by her words. Attempting to smooth things over, Dustin began saying, "Dolores, we..."

However, before he could finish, he was interrupted by Collin. "Fine. We'll head for the nearest hospital." Collin stole a glance at Linsey through the rearview mirror and saw her lying in Dolores' arms, her face pale.

This image caused a dull pang in his chest.

Fortunately, the nearest hospital was close, so in less than twenty minutes, Linsey was receiving the proper medical care she so needed.

As Dolores was the person closest to Linsey at the time, the doctor called her aside for a private chat

As expected, the doctor spoke about how Linsey's allergic reaction had been exacerbated due to the complications that had arisen during childbirth. He reminded Dolores that Linsey had to be particularly mindful of her diet in the future.

"Understood. Thank you, Doctor," Dolores said, visibly relieved.

The truth had managed to remain hidden.

When Dolores stepped out from the consultation room, she spotted Dustin leaning on the wall not far away.

Dustin rushed over immediately he spotted her and asked, "How is Linsey? What did the doctor say?"

"It was just an allergic reaction. She'll need some medication and a few days of rest," Dolores replied

Dustin let out a relieved sigh, although the fear that had been on his face didn't completely disappear. "That was the most severe allergic reaction I've ever seen. It terrified me," he said.

"It terrified me too," Dolores replied with a sigh.

Dustin noticed her troubled expression. In a bid to comfort her, he gently patted her on the back and said, "It's fine now. I'm happy we got her treated in time. Collin, too, helped by driving quickly. He really came through when it mattered."

Dolores glanced around in search of Collin. When she didn't see him, she scoffed and said, "Collin left? Was he rushing off to see his new lover, Haven?"

Dolores believed that Collin was just as unreliable as ever. She couldn't believe she had actually felt gratitude earlier when she had seen how concerned he had been for Lindsey.

Dustin frowned at Dolores' statement and said, "Collin's still here. He's in Linsey's hospital room with her." "What?" Dolores asked, eyes widened in shock. Without another word, she turned and marched towards the room. "What the hell is Collin trying to do? Linsey is sick! Is he trying to upset her even further?"

Dustin hurried after her, calling for her to wait.

Chapter 747 The shards

Might Cut You

In the sterile quiet of the hospital room, Linsey stirred. Her lashes fluttered open, and the first thing she saw was a pair of deep, unwavering eyes fixed on her.

Those eyes-how familiar they had once felt.

Her chest tightened. For a second, her heart skipped a beat.

Collin leaned in, his face etched with concern. "Linsey, you are awake. How are you feeling?"

She blinked, dazed. And then, like a crashing wave, memory returned.

Her gaze hardened. She turned her head sharply, avoiding him. "Why are you still here?" Her voice rasped, brittle as dry leaves.

He did not flinch at her hostility. His tone remained gentle. "Dolores was called away. I stayed in case you needed something when you woke up."

"I need nothing," she snapped. "You may leave now."

The chill in her voice could have frozen steel.

Collin did not move. Instead, as if untouched by her venom, he reached for the pitcher on the side table and

poured her a glass of water.

"Your throat sounds sore. Drink some water," he suggested.

Linsey turned toward him-only to catch sight of herself in the reflection.

With a swollen face, eyes puffy, blotchy skin, she looked like a stranger.

Her breath caught. A wave of horror washed over her. Without thinking, she lashed out. Her hand struck the glass in his grasp, sending it flying.

The crash rang out sharply as it shattered on the floor, shards scattering like tiny daggers.

"Collin Riley, are you deaf?" she shouted hysterically. "I told you to leave!"

Why was he seeing her like this?

They were nothing now-strangers. He should not have mattered anymore. And yet, she still cared.

A mix of shame, anger, and something achingly familiar churned inside her.

Collin was taken aback by her outburst, but he regained his composure immediately.

But beneath his calm facade, he felt a mix of sympathy and concern.

"I am sorry," he murmured, voice low and strained

Linsey's breath hitched as he rose from his seat. "I will clean it up. Then I will leave

She stared at him in disbelief as he squatted down. Cane the temporary retainer of C Corporation was picking up shards of glass with his bare hands

A frown tugged at her lips. "Why are you doing this?"

He did not look up. "The shards might cut you.

She immediately understood what he meant.

He was trying to protect her?

Her throat tightened.

Her eyes burned with the sting of unshed tears. She watched his crouched figure,

hands carefully collecting sharp fragments.

A part of her wanted to scoff-to call his concern a performance.

But the sight of him like that-quiet, unflinching, real-left her stunned, her defenses cracking,

The door banged open, making her flinch. "Linsey!" Dolores' voice rang out. She stopped short at the doorway

Behind her, Dustin froze mid-step.

Both of them stared at the same scene. Collin was silently gathering broken glass.

Chapter 748 I Should've Let

Go Of The Past

"Collin! What are you doing?" Dustin rushed over. "This isn't something you should be handling yourself. Just let someone else take care of it."

Collin quietly cleaned the floor, his face calm as he wrapped the glass shards in thick paper. Without looking up, he said, "It's nothing."

Then he turned slightly to Dolores and spoke politely. "I'll leave the rest to you."

He had wanted to say more. But with everything going on, he knew he had no right to meddle in Linsey's matters.

So he held back and gave Dustin a short glance. "Let's go."

Dustin blinked in surprise. "Huh? We're just leaving?"

After all, it was rare for Collin to get a moment alone with Linsey. Dustin couldn't understand why he was leaving so soon.

"Let's go," Collin repeated, his voice steady and low.

Without another word, he turned and walked out, not even glancing back.

Dustin hesitated. He looked at Dolores, unsure. But in the end, he followed Collin out.

Linsey needed rest, and with Collin gone, Dustin knew it wasn't right for him to stay either.

Soon, the room fell quiet, with only Linsey and Dolores left inside.

Dolores sat down beside the bed. Linsey stared ahead, her eyes red, her face blank. Dolores sighed softly.

No matter what Collin had shown, Linsey's reaction said it all-she hadn't let him go completely.

But now wasn't the time to bring him up. Dolores feared it would only deepen Linsey's pain.

After a pause, she spoke gently. "Linsey, why don't you rest a little more? I'll call Caylee later and ask her to

look after Zander and Zenia. You don't need to worry about the kids."

Linsey's eyes shifted slightly. Then she said slowly, "Dolores, I just don't understand what Collin is trying to do."

Dolores pressed her lips together. "Me neither. He and Haven seem close, yet there's this strange bought her a necklace worth \$2.7 billion, but around us, he acts like she means nothing."

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She paused, then glanced at Linsey and added, "And today, when this happened

to you, he looked so panicked that he left Haven behind. I don't get it."

Linsey stayed quiet, sadness clouding her eyes. "Dolores... Haven is the woman who walked out on Collin at their wedding. She humiliated him."

Dolores's eyes widened in shock.

"What? Haven was the bride who left him? She embarrassed him like that, and he's still so kind to her?"

As soon as the words slipped out, Dolores regretted them. She realized she had said too much.

Linsey gave a faint smile, trying to ease the moment. "It's okay. I should've let go of the past. I was the one being foolish."

"No, you weren't!" Dolores said quickly, holding Linsey's hand with care. "You loved Collin with all your heart, and he hurt you deeply. Now that you're back in town, it's only natural for your emotions to be everywhere. You're human, Linsey. Feelings are messy. Don't beat yourself up. Just take it one step at a time."

Linsey looked into her eyes, moved by her words. Her throat tightened, and she nodded softly. "You're right,"

Chapter 749 It Could Be He Just Doesn't Care

Dolores seemed thoughtful for a while as she recalled the meal they had earlier before adding, "However, just because Collin doesn't hold a grudge towards Haven for running away from the wedding doesn't necessarily mean that he likes her. It could be he just doesn't care. Gut reactions are most certainly right. I believe he was just being polite to Haven. Nothing more."

Linsey chuckled softly at this. "I never thought I'd see the day when you defend Collin," she said.

Ever since the incident four years ago, Dolores' attitude towards Collin had changed drastically. She hated him so much that she would have leaped with glee

if CR Corporation were to collapse the next minute.

This was probably the first time since all tho

years that Dolores had spoken of Collin without prejudice.

"I'm not defending him. I'm only just telling you what I think. You know I'll always side with you,"
Dolores

retorted.

Linsey smiled at this. Her once gloomy mood had lightened significantly because of Dolores.

A thought suddenly crossed Linsey's mind, and she said, "Dolores, working with CR Corporation would be a great opportunity for the Davidson Group. You mustn't throw that away because of the issues between me and

Collin."

"Come on. It's not like CR Corporation is the only company we can work with," Dolores said with a pout.

Linsey shook her head and retorted, "CR Corporation is currently the leading company in Grester and even nationwide. There are only a few companies that can be said to be at their level. You have to seize this opportunity!"

Seeing that Linsey brooked no argument on the subject, Dolores reluctantly agreed. "Fine. Let's see what kind of project Collin wants to partner on before coming to a decision."

She then gave Linsey a meaningful look and said, "From what I said earlier, it seems he's interested in working with Aurora."

Linsey's expression froze upon hearing this. There were a few seconds of silence before she finally said, "Let's see what terms he offers. We can't afford to pass up a good deal."

Dolores chuckled at this and put her hands on Linsey's shoulders. "Alright,

enough talk. You should rest now. A good rest will help replenish your strength."

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"Okay," Linsey said, pulling the blanket over herself. However, before she closed her eyes, she added, "You and Dustin were supposed to have a conversation. Go find Dustin and have that conversation. It would clear things

up."

Dolores was slightly taken aback that Linsey still remembered something as trivial as that in this situation.

"Go to sleep and stop worrying about things," Dolores simply said in reply.

Linsey closed her eyes and soon drifted into a deep sleep.

Dolores sat at her bedside watching her for a while, then her phone buzzed.

She took it out and, to her surprise, saw it was a message from Dustin. "Ifn still in the hallway outside. If you have time, come outside. Let's talk."

Dolores was surprised. Had it not been that Linsey had fallen asleep without touching her phone, Dolores might have accused her of planning this with Dustin.

It did seem planned that just when Linsey had fallen asleep, Dustin's message had come in.

Dolores contemplated the subject for a while before finally agreeing that she and Dustin needed to have a proper conversation.

Chapter 750 When Did You Meet This

This Gentleman

Dolores rose from her seat without a sound and quietly left the hospital room.

Moments after she disappeared, the door creaked open again. A tall figure stepped inside, his movements so soft he barely made any sound.

Crossing the room in a few strides, he came to a halt at Linsey's bedside. He stood there, silently taking in her peaceful, sleeping face before pulling out a small jar of ointment from his pocket. Kneeling beside her, he began dabbing the ointment over the redness on her cheeks with the utmost care.

Even in her sleep, Linsey seemed to notice the change. The throbbing heat on her skin gave way to a refreshing coolness that soothed her senses.

The lingering discomfort faded bit by bit, easing her deeper into a calm and restful sleep.

As he finished tending to her, his finger brushed softly against the delicate skin near her ear, pausing there for

a fleeting second before finally pulling away.

A quiet sigh of relief escaped Collin's lips once he completed applying the ointment.

Still, he didn't rush to leave. Instead, he sat there, his gaze full of tenderness as he studied Linsey's gentle

expression.

However, the warmth in his eyes gradually dimmed when he remembered that Linsey had yet to forgive him.

Collin understood more than anyone that it would be both selfish and unjust to ask Linsey to forgive him for all the wrong things he had done.

Still, he was prepared to wait. Even if it took a lifetime, he would hold on to the hope that one day, she might find it in her heart to give him another chance.

That quiet promise to himself reignited a firm resolve in Collin's chest.

He made up his mind to uncover the truth about the little girl who looked so much like Linsey when the timing

was right.

Collin lingered by Linsey's side, reluctant to tear himself away from her peaceful world.

At last, he rose and stepped out of the room, pulling the door shut behind him with a soft click. The he turned around, he found himself facing someone he hadn't expected, Gorman.

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"Hey! You're the man who sent me to the police station!" Zenia exclaimed with a wide smile, her face lighting up the instant she spotted him, as she grabbed onto Gorman's hand.

Collin didn't say a word at first. His eyes moved slowly from Gorman to Zenia, and after a few moments, the

hard lines on his face softened. He gave Zenia a gentle smile and said, "Hey there, kid."

Chuckling softly, Gorman reached out and tousled Zenia's fluffy hair. Pretending not to know, he teased, "Zenia, when did you meet this gentleman? Why didn't you ever tell me about him?"

Lifting her head with a bright grin, Zenia answered sweetly, "Oh, Daddy, I totally forgot! I'll tell you everything later tonight, okay?"

Although Collin had already heard her call Gorman Daddy before, hearing it spoken so clearly, so naturally, from just a few feet away, hit him harder than he expected.

Still, he tried to convince himself that just because Zenia looked strikingly like Linsey didn't automatically mean she was her daughter.

"Alright then," Gorman said with a soft chuckle. He cast a quick glance toward the hospital room before bending down slightly to Zenia's level. "Mommy's resting inside. Go on and see her, but be sure to stay quiet, alright?"

Zenia gave an eager nod. "Got it! I'll be super quiet."

Without wasting another second, she tiptoed toward the hospital door, carefully eased it open, and slipped inside like a tiny whisper of wind.

The door clicked shut behind her, leaving nothing but silence between the two men standing in the hallway. Collin's whole expression shifted. A heavy coldness settled around him as he stared Gorman down, the earlier conversation replaying itself in his mind like a cruel reminder.

Pain twisted in his chest, a deep ache spreading as he finally accepted what he had tried so hard to deny. Zenia really was Linsey's child.

Gorman stayed relaxed, slipping his hands casually into his pockets. He met Collin's icy glare with an almost playful smirk. After a short pause, Gorman tilted his head and spoke lightly. "Isn't Zenia a sweet girl?"

Collin felt the words hit him like a blow. His breath caught in his throat, and before he could stop himself, his fists clenched at his sides, his body going rigid as he struggled to keep it all in.