

Chapter 12 She Will Hold The Scalpel Again

Nicola drew a sharp breath. "You really met Mr. Martin?"

Evelyn gave a small nod.

She had done far more than merely meet him.

She had seen him completely naked.

Nicola looked at Evelyn as though she could hardly believe it. "So you asked him for help, and he simply gave you NS1209?"

Evelyn's lips parted faintly before she replied, "Yes."

"What? Then all those rumors about him are false? Mr. Martin isn't some savage devil, but a living saint?" Nicola's eyes went wide with astonishment.

A trace of gentleness touched Evelyn's features. "He is a good man."

She did not tell Nicola that Elias had asked her to marry him.

Some part of her still felt dazed, as if it had all been a dream or she had heard him wrong.

If she could not even fully believe it herself and told Nicola, Nicola would probably think she had gone insane.

There was one more reason. Elias had gone abroad and would not be back for seven days.

A great deal could happen in seven days.

Perhaps by the time he returned, he would change his mind about marrying her and stop providing NS1209.

Seven years of being deceived by Carsten had taught her that a man's

promises meant nothing at all.

Evelyn suddenly caught Nicola's hand. Her voice came out rough. "Nicola, I want to get my hands treated."

She could not bear the torment any longer, watching her mother linger between life and death, while she herself could do nothing about the matter.

Nicola's eyes brightened at once. She gripped Evelyn's hand tightly, and her eyes quickly reddened.

"Evie, are you really ready for that? Is the legendary Zero I know finally coming back?" she asked.

Evelyn turned her eyes toward the hospital bed.

A look of inner turmoil crossed her face.

The moments before her mother's accident flashed through her mind again.

That weak hand had clutched her with terrifying strength.

The coldness of it had nearly shattered her.

Her mother's blurred eyes had fixed on her, almost spilling over with desperation.

"Evie, promise me. Never show your gift again... And no matter what, don't let anyone know you are Zero. If your hands are destroyed, then let them stay that way. I only want you safe and breathing.. Marry Carsten and live a quiet life. Be a proper wife and mother."

At that time, Evelyn had shaken her head wildly, tears pouring down without restraint. "No, Mom. I'll save you. I'll get my hands treated. If my hands recover, I can save you. I know I can!"

Her mother, Gracie Curtis, had tightened her hold, nails biting into flesh. "Are you going to defy me? If that is the case... then I would rather die this very moment!"

Evelyn had cried out, "No! Please don't!"

"Promise me." Blood and tears mingled as Gracie clung to Evelyn's hand. "Promise that you will never practice medicine again. Never draw attention to yourself."

Through choking sobs, Evelyn had finally agreed.

"I want you... to swear it!" Gracie had forced Evelyn to make a cruel oath. Not long after that, she had slipped into an irreversible coma and survived only through life support.

Only afterward did Evelyn come to know the truth.

Her mother's injuries were never something an operation alone could cure.

Her mother had been poisoned by a rare neurotoxin no one could identify.

Even if her hands had healed, she still could not have awakened her mother.

At the bleakest point of her life, Carsten had brought her NS1209.

He told her it had been created specifically for Gracie by the Ward Group's biotech company.

He promised that as long as the research institute remained standing, they would never stop looking for a cure.

Five years ago, his eyes had turned red as he pulled her shaking body into his arms, as though he feared she might disappear at any second. "Evie, your mother is my mother now. I'll look after her and care for her as if she were my own mother. Trust me and stay with me. I will never give you reason to regret this..."

Gracie's coma.

Carsten's promises.

The oath Evelyn had made.

All of it had torn away Evelyn's pride in a single night.

She taught herself to be soft and measured. She buried her gifts and became the woman standing behind Carsten.

She believed Carsten when he vowed to love her forever.

And yet, only five years later, that very man had mercilessly used her mother's life to bend her to his will.

If keeping her promise and quietly living as his wife could only end in betrayal and humiliation...

If it meant her mother's life would always remain in another person's grasp...

Then she had no reason left to keep her talent hidden.

She decided that she would hold the scalpel again.

She would protect the people she loved and take command of her own destiny.

Evelyn raised her head and gave a firm nod. "Yes."