

Chapter 647 Neither Option Appeals To Me (Part One)

The servant readily replied, "Miss Brown is waiting at the door."

After uttering the words, she discreetly glanced at Violette.

The servant was attentive. Despite Melissa's status as the soon-to-be wife of Marcus and her previous service to the Fowler family, she hadn't visited in quite some time, especially not for New Year's Eve dinner.

In contrast, Violette had made a reappearance.

The servant was confident that Violette would be marrying Marcus soon instead.

Marcus, upon hearing the servant's words, concluded that Melissa preferred not to enter. Consequently, he set aside his magazine, attended to Matthew by putting on his coat, and handed him his comfort pillow to hold.

Marcus and Matthew's departure didn't go unnoticed by Waylen.

Lately, Waylen has been discontent with Marcus.

He perceived his son's accumulation of wealth as pointless when he's not with the woman he loved.

Upon noticing his fully-dressed grandson, Waylen inquired, "Where are you off to?"

Matthew's voice rang out clearly. "Mommy is coming to get me."

The entire room fell silent as everyone's attention shifted to Marcus.

Rena gently interjected, "Shouldn't she be invited inside? She's the mother of your child, after all."

Afraid of getting herself into trouble, the servant hastily clarified, "Miss

Brown has arrived bearing gifts."

Observing Marcus, Rena questioned his reliability. Being elders, Rena and Waylen felt it inappropriate to personally go get Melissa especially since she had ended things with their son. Thus, Rena instructed Alexis, "Take Matthew and invite Melissa inside."

Alexis shot a glance at Marcus, deeming him arrogant.

She then lifted Matthew, planting a kiss on his cheek. "Let's go find your mom," she said, leading the way.

Prior to Melissa's arrival, Waylen sought to impart a lesson to his son. "You're becoming increasingly ridiculous. That's not your usual demeanor. Why act so cruel toward Melissa? It's chilly out there. Why leave her standing outside? Your breakup suggests a lack of consideration on your part if you ask me."

Marcus remained silent, retreating to the sofa to resume reading his magazine.

In fact, the Finch family should have departed by now, yet Violette's parents seemed reluctant to leave. What was amiss with Violette? How could she be outdone by Melissa, who lacked a prestigious family background?

Violette's parents exchanged knowing glances with her.

Determined not to concede defeat, Violette sat beside Marcus and inquired, "What are you reading?"

Marcus glanced up at her with indifference but made no move to rebuff her.

In the hallway, Alexis entered with Melissa in tow.

Upon entering, Melissa was greeted with an intimate sight. Marcus was reclining on the sofa with ease, and Violette nestled beside him. Meanwhile, Violette's parents occupied the adjacent seating.

The scene proved uncomfortable for Melissa.

Waylen was well aware of Marcus' intentions. Marcus deliberately flaunted his closeness with Violette to provoke Melissa. Unable to compel the Finch family to depart without being rude, Waylen resorted to bringing Matthew over and placing him in Marcus' care. "You're not a child. Why the fascination with these magazines? Attend to the child," Waylen instructed.

Matthew leaned his head against Marcus' shoulder.

Upon catching sight of Melissa, Marcus made no effort to rise in greeting. Instead, he handed the magazine to Matthew.

Matthew, at an age ripe for play, delighted in tearing pages from magazines and crafting paper airplanes.

In the hallway, the members of Melissa's generational cohort from both families observed her silently. Growing increasingly uncomfortable, Melissa reiterated, "It's getting late. I'll be taking Matthew home."

Rena implored Melissa to stay. "We've been inconsiderate. You've likely been waiting outside for some time. There's still time to enjoy a cup of fragrant tea before you leave."

Rena exuded warmth and kindness, and her demeanor was consistently gentle toward Melissa.

Not wishing to cause Rena any discomfort by rejecting her, Melissa acquiesced.

Elva pulled Melissa aside and suggested, "Let's play cards together. Take a seat here. Just keep an eye out for Olivia trying to deal from the bottom of the deck."

Olivia immediately protested and engaged in a verbal spur with Elva.

Meanwhile, Mark and Cecilia exchanged glances. Then, Cecilia reached into her bag and retrieved two gifts, addressing Melissa, "You're Melissa,

correct? I've heard a lot about you. It's nice to finally meet you."

The gifts presented were beyond Melissa's means to accept.

Mark grinned. "One is for you, the other for Matthew. He's adorable."

Rena arrived with scented tea. "Just accept them. Mark and Cecilia don't visit us in Duefron often."

Despite feeling uneasy, Melissa accepted the gifts graciously.

Violette's parents harbored a twinge of jealousy seeing Melissa being treated favorably in the Fowler household. Despite spending ample time at the Fowlers' residence, Mark and his wife neglected to present Violette with any gifts, while the outsider Melissa received offerings the moment she arrived.

Luna spoke up, her tone raised. "Miss Brown, you're not Marcus' wife or even his girlfriend. How can you accept those gifts from his family?"

Luna's remarks caused Melissa to flush with embarrassment.

Violette also found her mother's comment overly harsh and discreetly tugged at the hem of her garment.

Luna whispered back, "If I don't confront her directly, she'll continue pursuing Marcus. And that will upset you."

Marcus, along with most of the people in the hall, could hear Luna's words. However, Waylen was the first to express his irritation. "What's all this chatter about? It's not your concern, as an outsider, to meddle in our affairs."

Just as Luna was about to respond, Violette interjected, her cheeks flushed with embarrassment. "Mom, please, stop."

Luna then fell silent, yielding to Violette's plea.

Humiliated, Melissa decided she couldn't linger any longer. Without partaking in the tea, she rose and donned her coat. Approaching Marcus, she murmured, "I'll take Matthew home."

The atmosphere grew tense, with a subtle sense of unease lingering in the air. Even though Matthew was young, he could tell something wasn't right.

He looked sad.

Waylen, feeling sympathy for Matthew and Melissa, directed a stern gaze at Marcus and urged, "Speak up."

Marcus gradually straightened his posture.

In truth, Melissa was in such proximity to Marcus that he could discern the tears glistening in her eyes. The prospect of being the subject of others' scrutiny was mortifying.



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