

Chapter 687 What's On Your Mind, Melissa

Albert glanced at Melissa and then turned his head away.

He grinned slightly and remarked, "No way!"

Then he inquired casually, "Jessie... How's she been lately?"

Melissa sensed Albert's reluctance to acknowledge the truth. Maybe it had stung him hard when Jessie turned him down last time. Eventually, he had had to resort to Marcus for Jessie's sake.

With a nonchalant tone, Melissa replied, "She's hanging in there. But her dad passed away last month, so Jessie's got her hands full looking after her mom and the family business. Mrs. Green's not in the best mood and tends to take it out on Jessie."

Concern etched on his face, Albert asked urgently, "Has that woman been hitting her again?"

Melissa didn't answer, her eyes dropping to the ground.

Seeing her reaction, Albert let the matter rest. He understood it wasn't Melissa's place to intervene in the Green family drama.

They lapsed into silence for a beat before Albert praised, "You've been doing a stellar job running the branch. HQ's thrilled with your performance! Melissa... if you're up for it, I can swing you a spot at Heron. Pays a lot more than your position here. But if you're sticking with Duefron, forget I mentioned it."

Melissa flashed a small smile. "I'll mull it over, Mr. Waston."

With that, Albert shut his eyes, ending the conversation.

As he left, he passed Melissa a letter of the offer.

After dropping Albert off at his hotel, Melissa hailed a cab back to the office.

She spent the entire afternoon at her desk, fixating on the job offer. It was tempting— the salary coupled with Waston Group shares could easily rake in tens of millions annually.

The salary offered was several times more than what she got in Duefron.

Accepting the offer would mean a huge career jump for Melissa. Plus, it would mean a better life for Matthew and Julie.

In the past, she would've jumped at it without thinking twice.

But now, she was torn. While Marcus and her weren't as tight as before, they still got on well.

Marcus had mellowed out compared to before.

They co-parented Matthew and occasionally shared intimate moments. Though it wasn't frequent, she found solace in it.

Basically, she had to factor in Marcus' feelings whether she took the offer or not, Melissa mused.

Lost in thought, her phone rang. It was Janet, Shawn's wife. They were close like sisters. "Hey Janet, what's up? Do you need me to pick up Yvonne for you?"

Janet's voice trembled with tears.

Struggling to speak, she managed, "Melissa... Shawn... He..."

Melissa sensed something was wrong. "Take your time. Breathe. Tell me what's going on."

Janet broke down, saying between sobs, "Shawn's messed up big time! Can you come over, Melissa?"

Without hesitation, Melissa reassured her, "I'm on my way!"

She grabbed her car keys and dashed out of the office.

The job offer letter remained on her desk...

Thirty minutes later.

Marcus, wrapping up a meeting nearby, decided to swing by Melissa's office for coffee.

However, he learned from the secretary that Melissa had left earlier.

Marcus, with a soft tone, expressed, "Do you mind if I wait for her here?"

He was not just the head honcho at Fowler Group, but also Melissa's... boyfriend.

The assistant hesitated, deciding not to intervene as Marcus strolled into Melissa's office curiously.

Inside Melissa's office.

Taking a quick look around, Marcus' gaze landed on the letter.

He picked it up delicately, scanning its contents.

Ah, it seemed...

Melissa had earned herself another promotion!

Meanwhile, Melissa drove back to her old apartment, where Shawn and his family were staying now.

As she entered, she found Julie consoling Janet.

Janet looked lost. Spotting Melissa, she croaked, "I'm sorry to bother you, Melissa. But I really didn't know who else to turn to."

Melissa reached out, comforting her immediately.

Wiping her tears, Julie turned to Melissa, explaining "Shawn's been on a roll lately with his business. I warned him not to get too cocky, but he never listens. He thought he hit the jackpot with some merchandise, worth millions, but it got ruined in the rain during transportation!"

Now, those clients won't deal with him unless he compensates them!

"I'm not sorry for him. Just for Janet and Yvonne!"

Julie exclaimed with frustration.

She wished Shawn would work hard and earn some honest money to support his family. Melissa had cautioned him countless times but he had always brushed it off.

Now, he was deep in trouble...

Hearing Julie's words, Melissa was stunned. That was a hefty sum.

It equaled her yearly earnings. And she wouldn't get her hands on it until year-end.

After pondering Melissa suggested, "It looks like we've got no choice but to sell the apartment."

But the apartment wasn't fully paid off. After settling the mortgage and gathering her cash, she would only have around four to five million dollars.

That was nowhere near enough.

Julie and Janet objected to Melissa taking on the debt. It was all Shawn's fault, they argued.

They couldn't let Melissa shoulder it.

In the end, they both broke down in tears.

Meanwhile, Melissa resolved herself.

Julie had been her rock for years. No matter how bad Shawn was, she couldn't abandon them.

Soon, Melissa contacted an agent and listed the apartment online.

Due to the relatively low price, potential buyers flooded in. Melissa had to stick around for house viewings...

Eventually, she sold the apartment at a bargain that very night.

But Janet refused to move into the villa.

Melissa had to find a rental for them.

In the evening Shawn called, sounding anxious. He hinted that if he didn't cough up the cash, they were going to come after him...

Shawn used to be a smooth-talker but now fear laced his every word. He even broke down on the line.

"What do we do? If something happens to Shawn, what about Yvonne and me?"

Janet burst into tears once more.

The person on the other end snatched the phone and spoke icily. "Your man slept with my woman! He also tried to mess up my business. He's lucky I'm only taking one of his hands! Turns out he was duped by that woman. She's got another man!"

Melissa was floored by the revelation.

Janet went pale with shock, while Julie also felt humiliated.

Thanks to Shawn's actions, their future looked bleak!

When Melissa got back to the villa, it was late. She returned alone.

Yvonne ran into her arms as soon as she entered.

The little girl sobbed. "Aunt Melissa! Is Daddy going to die?"

Gently patting her head, Melissa asked, "How do you know about that?"

Yvonne, tears streaming down her cheeks, blurted out, "Mom rang, wanting to fetch me, but Uncle Marcus turned her down."

Melissa glanced up, spotting Marcus by the doorway.

Guess he's been back a while. She thought, noting his relaxed attire.

Bathed in the soft light, he looked quite the sight.

Yvonne spun around, chiming "Uncle Marcus!"

Kids were sharper than expected.

No one had to tell her about Marcus' capabilities; she just knew he could handle anything.

Marcus, eyeing Melissa briefly, avoided mentioning Shawn, instead asking "You must be hungry right? I'll have Elsie whip something up for you. She's a whiz in the kitchen!"

Melissa hesitated, unsure of what to say.

With a complex expression, Marcus turned and headed back into the house.

"Uncle Marcus!" Yvonne whispered. Then she turned to Melissa, asking softly, "Is Daddy going to be okay?"

Melissa hugged her close, reassuring "Of course, sweetheart."

Melissa arranged for a servant to attend to Yvonne.

After that, she strolled into the living room.

Matthew gleefully rode a rocking horse crafted by Marcus, while Minnie chased after him gleefully.

Marcus, meanwhile, sat at the table, engrossed in a newspaper.

Seemingly, they were in for a late dinner.

Feeling awkward, Melissa sidled over and took a seat beside him. Suddenly, Marcus muttered, "Poison, electrocution, maiming... Thugs these days are really ruthless!"

Melissa, taken aback, bit her lips.

Setting the paper aside, Marcus casually inquired "You seem lost in thought. What's on your mind, Melissa?"

