

Chapter 710 This Would Be A Girl (Part One)

Waylen and Rena arrived early in the morning loaded with stuff.

Rena not only brought tonics for expecting mothers but also a dazzling set of ruby jewelry.

The villa looked extra festive. Matthew proudly introduced Minnie to Waylen, pointing out her tiny "buttons". "Hey, Grandpa, isn't Minnie just adorable?"

Waylen scooped up Minnie agreeing "Oh yeah, she's a real cutie."

Being fond of kids, Waylen took Matthew and Yvonne for a stroll. Meanwhile, Marcus was busy cooking up a storm in the kitchen, leaving Rena and Melissa to share a heartfelt chat. Despite Melissa already being a mom, Rena gently shared her own child-rearing wisdom.

Finally, Rena murmured, "Matthew's off to kindergarten soon. With the new baby coming you might feel swamped. But Melissa, if you want to keep working we've got your back. We can help with the kids, or you can even move in with us."

Melissa was deeply moved.

Having heard Albert's tales about Rena and Waylen, Melissa felt they deserved to kick back after their eventful past. As for the baby, it was Marcus and her who truly wanted it. There was no need to burden the elders.

Melissa whispered, "I'll quit before the baby arrives. And about work..."

Gently stroking her belly, Melissa murmured, "Once this little one's off to preschool, I'll only be thirty. Still plenty of time for a fresh start."

Rena hesitated for a moment, but then broke into a gentle smile.

She murmured, "You must really adore Marcus."

Melissa grinned back.

Whenever she grinned genuinely a cute canine tooth peeked out.

Unable to resist, Rena remarked, "You remind me so much of Edwin's wife, Laura. Marcus and Edwin seem to have similar tastes."

She continued, adding, "Edwin and Marcus are tight. They do business together. You'll probably see more of Laura in the future. She's a quiet one, just like you. You'll get along."

Melissa nodded in agreement, and Rena kept the chat going for a bit before they headed downstairs for lunch together.

Just then, Shawn arrived.

He lugged in big bags filled with goodies from his hometown, some freshly dug from the ground.

Upon spotting Rena, Shawn's eyes widened. He'd never seen such a high-society lady from Duefron before. But he straightened up, not wanting to embarrass Melissa, and greeted with a smile. "Hey, Mrs. Fowler. I heard from my mom that Melissa's expecting again, so I brought her some stuff. Good for expecting moms."

Rena returned his smile. "How considerate of you!"

Scratching his head, Shawn said, "I hope she'll like them. I know I've been a bit of a hassle for Melissa."

Since Shawn was practically family, Rena gave him a nod of respect. "Nah, we're all family here. It's no trouble at all."

Waylen returned with two kids by then.

Spotting Shawn, Waylen's mind drifted to Roger. When Roger phoned, he spilled everything Marcus did, in tears.

Waylen felt torn.

Only Marcus could pull off such stunts.

But with the cheerful vibe around, it didn't feel right to bring the past up again. So, Waylen politely started a nice conversation with Shawn, who was as smooth as butter.

After a bit, Waylen headed to the kitchen.

Marcus, busy cooking mistook his dad's footsteps for Melissa's and scolded, "What are you doing here? Didn't I say rest up and chat with Mom? It's rare you all see each other these days."

Waylen loomed behind Marcus.

Hand on his hip, he pulled out a cigarette, lit it, and snickered "You can't even recognize your own dad's footsteps? Your wife got the same stomp? You're losing it, boy."

Marcus killed the stove's flame.

He faced his father, reading his stoic expression. Marcus wasn't one to be trifled with. Turning back to the stove, he muttered, "Roger rattled me out, didn't he?"

Marcus wasn't trying to deny it, so Waylen let out a relieved string of curses.

"Marcus, what the heck have you done? First off, Shawn's tight with Melissa. Even if he's got quirks, you have to respect that. You can throw cash to hush Shawn, but now his missus knows. How you going to smooth that over? Melissa hasn't got much kin left. The one blood relative she had's long been cremated."

In a calm, gentle tone, Marcus replied, "I just brought Shawn's family issues to light early. There is no harm in that."

Waylen erupted, "You're slick with those weak justifications. I reckon Melissa's just being fooled by you."

With a smile, Marcus countered, "Melissa isn't naive. She figured I did right after weighing it all."

Waylen struggled to roast Marcus.

Taking a long drag from his cigarette, Waylen continued, "What about

Roger? He's a big-shot VP, and you got him doing some absurd task like that for you. Now that it's out, you want to shuffle him off to the boonies. Listen up, Roger's got a family. You can't just toss him aside like that."

Marcus kept cooking unfazed.

After a brief silence, Marcus spoke softly. "Dad, you've been retired for a while now. Roger's not the same guy who worked for you. When I took over as president, he probably saw me as an easy mark, so he crossed some serious lines. He even raked in nearly two billion for himself abusing his position. I let him off the hook for Grandpa's and your sake. I hinted and nudged Roger, but instead of pulling back, he thought he could outsmart me. Now I've had it with him. If he won't leave willingly, he's got another option: jail."

Waylen was floored.

Marcus turned around slowly, a smile playing on his lips. "I reckon smart folks know what's best."

Regaining his composure, Waylen asked, "Did you set him up on purpose?"

Marcus didn't deny it.

Waylen didn't press further. He quietly smoked, gave Marcus a pat on the shoulder, and said, "Son, you've grown."

But he added, "You can play hardball with others all you want but, with your partner Melissa, you should tread carefully."

"I get it, Dad."

With that, Marcus watched as Waylen left.

Marcus spun around, placing the mushrooms on a plate. It looked mouthwatering just as Melissa had requested.

He had a hunch this baby she was carrying was going to be a girl.

Before lunch, Janet arrived to visit her daughter Yvonne. Seeing Waylen and Rena there, she felt a bit awkward, thinking it might not be appropriate to dine together with them.

Waylen insisted, "What's wrong with joining us? Have a seat."

Before Janet sat down, Shawn pulled out the chair for her fawningly and acted like a gentleman. Janet usually ignored Shawn but, now that Melissa's parents-in-law were here, Janet didn't want to embarrass Melissa, so she didn't say anything.

Quickly, Shawn complimented her. "You look stunning in that dress today."

Janet pursed her lips and said nothing.

Waylen, knowing his son had caused the rift between Shawn and Janet, felt ashamed. He turned to Rena, and jokingly said, "Youngsters these days are unlike us. Hey, when was the last time you praised me?"

Rena served Waylen some food.

Nobody dared to mock them and only Matthew piped up. "Grandpa's scared of Grandma. He listens to her most."

Worried Matthew might bring up embarrassing topics again, Melissa swiftly changed the subject. Thankfully, Matthew obediently tucked into lunch with Yvonne.

The meal rolled along without a hitch.

Afterwards, Waylen and Rena had a chat planned with their son.

Since Janet had to clock in for work later, she exchanged a few words with Yvonne and took off. Shawn rushed to catch up, eager to give her a lift to her workplace.

But Janet wasn't ready to forgive him yet, refusing his offer to drive her.

Left with no choice, Shawn trailed Janet to the villa's gate. He watched her board a bus at the stop, feeling all flustered on the way back.