

Chapter 416 The Worst Parents Ever

"That is the woman who saved Ryan's life!" Seeing Wendy stunned, Josie sneered. "I didn't find out either until later. After the kidnappers snatched Ryan, they had him taken to a remote village. You should be familiar with the place. The village is called Spring County."

'Spring County!' A sliver of memory flashed through Wendy's mind at that moment, but it was too fleeting to catch all at once.

Even though Josie's voice was calm and composed, it was unmistakable the hatred seen in her eyes. "We had no idea until Ryan got back safe and sound that Nellie originally intended to have him killed off at the very moment she decided to have him kidnapped. She could make money along the way."

Wendy did not feel good about Nellie in the first place. When she heard that Nellie had orchestrated Ryan's kidnapping and wanted to kill him, her hatred for her grew even more.

"I really couldn't wrap my mind around it. Anson and I treated Jaylen and Nellie with the utmost kindness. We were always pleasant to them and even offered them economic support when they needed it. Why would they want to kill Ryan?"

Wendy sneered. "For money, of course."

Some people would do anything for money.

Josie gave her a look and soon found herself calming down. "Yes, for money! Anson and I didn't find out until much later just how much the two of them hated us. Their hatred for us knew no bounds. In Jaylen's eyes, we were much closer to Ryan and Luke than we were to him. They brought up Ryan and Luke and watched them grow up to become outstanding individuals. They were afraid that once Ryan and Luke become adults, they would turn into obstacles that would get in Jaylen's way. So they decided to get rid of Ryan."

Keeping her eyes closed, Josie gnashed her teeth. "The thing I regret the most in my life is getting to know Nellie!"

Wendy did not say a word. After some time, she smirked.

"Why are you laughing?"

"Don't you think you are partly responsible for what happened to Ryan?"

Josie was shocked.

Wendy gave Josie the once-over with a cold smile. She finally understood why Ryan treated his mother so coldly. Earlier, she thought that it was because it was in his nature to be cold. But now, everything became clear to her. It turned out that Josie, as their biological mother, didn't even raise Ryan and Luke in their youth.

"What do you mean, Wendy?"

Wendy adjusted herself in her seat and squinted at the well-dressed and elegant woman sitting in front of her. "You have no idea what I mean? Ryan and Luke are your kids. How could you just leave the two of them in the care of Nellie?"

"I did that so that I could work hard and give them a better life," Josie answered venomously.

With a twist of her hand, Wendy stopped her. "Enough! You did this to give them a better life? Oh, that really justifies your actions. You don't look like a hardworking woman to me. Are you sure you did this for them and not for yourself?"

Josie averted her eyes and her face flushed a deep red. Faced with Wendy's questions, she did not have much to say.

Indeed, she didn't do this to give her two children a better life.

Back then, she fell head over heels in love with the mature and wise Anson at first sight.

Later, when Anson reciprocated her feelings, she was ecstatic. When he said he wanted to spend the rest of his life with her, she accepted his marriage proposal without hesitation. Although her family didn't approve of this union, she was hell-bent that she and Anson get married.

And as a matter of fact, she was right to choose Anson. After they got together, she became really spoiled. She no longer wanted to work.

As a young woman, her one wish was to be with Anson every day. But Anson's work kept him busy. He left early in the morning and didn't arrive home until very late at night. He usually left before Josie woke up and didn't return until she was already in bed and asleep. Such a marriage plagued her with insecurities.

This was especially true whenever she went to the company to visit him. She would be met with the sight of the well-dressed female employees in the company and would end up feeling sad and sorry for herself.

As much as she tried to suppress it, there was always an irking feeling in the back of her mind that someday one of these female workers would take Anson away from her.

Shortly after she gave birth to Ryan, she fell into a postpartum depression, and she had been in and out of a manic state for a very long time.

Every time Anson came back a little later than usual, doubts would overwhelm her mind. She wondered if he was with another woman while pretending to be at work. The more these thoughts festered in her mind, the angrier she got, and then they would fiercely quarrel over matters like this.

During that time, she always felt that she was on the brink of collapse. Anson was also tormented by her distrust and paranoia. Soon, he became as exhausted as her. They both lived a painful existence in such a marriage.

She knew that such paranoia was uncalled for. She knew that Anson was not the sort of man who would cheat on his wife, but she had little control over herself at the time.

Later on, Anson had her see a psychologist. Because she was receiving therapy, her condition got better, but she relapsed after she gave birth to Luke.

This time around, in order to keep an eye on Anson, she proposed that she start work at his company. Anson happily agreed.

That was why she left her two young sons in the care of Nellie.

As a matter of fact, as Anson's assistant, her job was to sort out documents and do other simple tasks. That was all her job required.

After two years of this, she felt more trusting toward Anson with his constant efforts to make her feel better, but she still postponed coming back to her kids. She enjoyed spending all her time with Anson.

To add to that, Nellie was taking good care of the two children. At least that was the impression she got. She was feeling more and more relieved.

After the kidnapping episode, she did feel some regret and blame herself for the incident, but no one ever blamed her for that. So she tried to convince herself that this was all Nellie's fault.

But just now, Wendy pointed out the truth.

Josie felt like a knife had been twisted in her heart. "Wendy..."

"I alone raised Ray ever since his birth," Wendy said in a blithe voice. "During that time, I had to take care of him and go to school. Sometimes when I got too busy, I would hire a babysitter to help out. But for the most part, I took care of Ray. As for you, you are such an irresponsible mother! You lived in the same house as Nellie and Jaylen. I can hardly believe that you never found out about anything! Even by giving your kids the slightest bit of your attention, I think you could have put a stop to this before things got out of hand."

Josie's face visibly paled.

Wendy continued, "As parents, you cared very little about your children, which gave Nellie and Jaylen that opening. So, don't you think that you and Anson should be held responsible for what happened? Don't you think this much is true?"



