

## **CEO Daddy 571**

### Chapter 571 My First Friend

Suzanne frowned and lowered her head. "I understand, Mr. Surrington."

Gwendolyn was driving a Mercedes-Benz out of the underground garage when she received a call. It was from Connor. He was now fully in charge of Solstice Group.

However, some contracts still required Gwendolyn's personal signature.

They agreed to meet at a cafe near the company at noon tomorrow.

When the car arrived in front of Zayden and Suzanne, the latter helped the former enter the vehicle.

Suzanne had wanted to sit with Zayden at the back, but a glance from him told her to take the front passenger seat.

Seeing Suzanne sitting beside her, Gwendolyn handed her a bag.

Suzanne didn't want to accept it at first because Zayden had berated her and forbidden her from approaching him. Basically, she was p\*ssed that only Gwendolyn could care for him.

If she was chased out of her home, it'd be Gwendolyn's fault.

She pursed her lips, opened the bag, and looked inside. Her eyes widened a second later because she saw many of her favorite snacks and lollipops.

Gwendolyn winked at her, hinting at her to stay quiet.

In response, Suzanne sent a flying kiss of gratitude to Gwendolyn.

Suzanne was ecstatic for the rest of the journey. She hugged the bag tightly and would occasionally chat with Gwendolyn.

Zayden kept staring ahead from the backseat. He was already getting pretty used to playing blind. What he did was look in only one direction without expressing any emotion instead of moving them around casually.

Two hours later, they arrived at the hospital. After parking the car, Gwendolyn got out and helped Zayden step out.

Suzanne wanted to stick around, so she was forced to be obedient. She couldn't touch him without his permission anymore.

She carried the bag and surveyed her surroundings. She wasn't angry anymore as she had delicious food to keep her company. I think my fondness for Gwendolyn is growing! Not only is she pretty, but she's also nice! I pity her, though. She doesn't realize she's being deceived by Mr. Surrington.

While holding Zayden's arm, Gwendolyn said in a gentle voice, "Be careful, Zayden. There are stairs here."

Zayden nodded. I can see the stairs, but it still feels nice to be looked after.

When the trio arrived at the ward on the sixteenth floor, they saw bodyguards stationed at the entrance.

The bodyguards stretched their hands to the trio upon spotting them. "This is a private ward. Please leave."

Zayden frowned. Suzanne was stunned, too.

She pointed at Gwendolyn. "This is Ms. Ashton. She's here to visit her grandfather."

Oh yeah, she's the eldest daughter of the Ashton family. In that case, why did she drive such a small and tattered car to the mansion? Even the security guards denied her entry because her car looks terrible. I can't even stare at it because it's too ugly. In fact, I'm scared of even sitting inside because I'm concerned I'll break something. Is it possible that she was chased out of her family? Is that why she's been having a rough time? In the past, I did resent Gwendolyn. However, we're friends now.

She's my first friend. There's no way I won't stand by her side when she's willing to offer me so many tasty snacks!

“I'm here to visit my grandfather. Step aside.” Gwendolyn spoke, too.

The two bodyguards didn't budge as though they didn't hear what the women had said. They had no intention of backing off.

Gwendolyn frowned. Harry was the one who called me and asked me to visit Grandpa at the hospital when I almost reached Dragonhill Mansion. What's going on here?

Zayden patted her hand. “No need to panic. Call Harry.” Old Mr. Ashton may be deathly sick this time, and Gwendolyn's family kicked her out some time ago. Now, there's this. I think they don't want her fighting for the inheritance.

## Chapter 572 Reputation

Gwendolyn nodded, released Zayden, and called Harry at the side.

Soon, Harry accepted the call. “Ms. Gwendolyn.”

“Are you at the hospital right now, Harry? We're outside of Grandpa's ward, but the bodyguards won't allow us to enter.”

“Unfortunately, I'm not there, Ms. Gwendolyn. There's a bit of an issue with my family, so I'm heading home right now. I'm currently at the airport. Perhaps you can call your other family members instead.”

“I see. I'll call them, then.” Gwendolyn hung up and let out a sigh. I think I know what's going on. Even after Grandpa has revealed my identity and welcomed me home, it's still difficult to meet him.

Returning to the entrance, she asked, “Who's inside right now?”

The bodyguard replied, “Mrs. Ashton and Ms. Felicia.”

Just as I expected, that mother and daughter will definitely act exceptionally filial right now. After all, Candace was originally a mistress, and Felicia is now considered a legitimate family member. They're clearly afraid that they won't receive anything once Grandpa passes away.

Gwendolyn knitted her brows and said, "Tell them that I'm here."

One of the bodyguards stepped into the ward while she returned to Zayden's side. "I'm sorry for making you wait this long while standing, Zayden." I bet a scion like him has never been denied entry before.

Zayden appeared calm. "It's fine no matter how long I have to wait."

His eyes darkened, however. I'll remember that pair of mother and daughter in the ward.

When the bodyguard walked into the ward, he saw Felicia half-lying on the couch scrolling through an online store. Candace was sitting on the couch, allowing her daughter's head to lie on her.

"That bag looks nice, Fel. When will it be released?"

"Next month. There are only five in the world. I'll do my best to grab one when the time comes."

Candace nodded. "That one looks good, too."

Felicia smiled. "You're getting more and more generous, Mom. Are you planning to buy four limited- edition bags like this in one go?"

"What do you mean four? Didn't I say I only want one?" Candace frowned. Four will cost tens of millions! As rich as we are, we can't spend money like this. Besides, Old Mr. Ashton is sick right now. When the time to split the inheritance comes, there's a chance Zachary's position as the CEO may be snatched away! Gwendolyn, Zayden, and her three children outnumber our family by two! This means more than half of the inheritance will go to her family. Based on how fond Old Mr. Ashton is of Gwendolyn now, it's likely he may even grant her control of the company!

"Aren't you going to buy it for me? I want it too!" Felicia whined.

“Don't you have pocket money? If you want more, ask your dad for it.” A frown settled on Candace's countenance. It took me a long time to accumulate my wealth. I'm not spending it that willy-nilly.

Right then, the bodyguard approached Candace. “Ms. Gwendolyn's here with Mr. Surrington.”

When the women heard that, they turned to Michael, who had just fallen asleep. He's exceptionally lucid this time around, so we must do all we can to prevent Gwendolyn from meeting him. Once he's in

a good mood, he may give most of the inheritance to Gwendolyn. If that happens, our family will suffer!

Felicia glanced at the bodyguard. “Didn't I tell you to guard the entrance and stop Gwendolyn from entering?”

Candace spoke, too. “Tell her Old Mr. Ashton has just fallen asleep and that she should visit when he's awake again.”

The bodyguard nodded and left.

Still worried, Felicia sat up and glanced outside. “Do you think she'll try to barge in here, Mom?”

Candace said calmly, “I doubt she'll do such a thing with Zayden around. After all, she's marrying into the Surrington family. She needs to maintain her reputation.”

Chapter 573 So Handsome

The bodyguard walked out of the ward and closed the door behind him.

“Old Mr. Ashton has just fallen asleep, Ms. Gwendolyn. You can visit him when he wakes up,” he repeated Candace's earlier words.

His voice was devoid of warmth. Standing tall and rigid, he resembled a statue.

When Gwendolyn probed for the rationale, he refused to respond.

Suzanne couldn't bear the mistreatment any longer. "Ms. Ashton, why are they so heartless? Why can't they let you see your grandfather?"

She rolled up her sleeves, preparing to start a fight.

Even though the two men might appear tall and strong, she was not intimidated.

With just a flick of her finger, she could easily toss them aside.

Gwendolyn promptly restrained her.

"Suzanne, don't resort to violence. You'll get hurt."

Suzanne handed her the bag she was holding and assured her, "Don't worry. They can't beat me."

With that, she was about to step forward and force her way in.

Zayden called out to her, "That's enough. Old Mr. Ashton is a patient, and he needs rest. You will only disturb him."

Since Zayden had spoken, Suzanne naturally dared not confront them anymore.

She took a step back and hugged the bag of snacks to her chest.

"Well, I won't fight, then."

Gwendolyn observed Suzanne, a young girl who seemed to be under eighteen. She had neat-cut bangs, and large watery eyes, and was dressed in a black and white maid outfit.

She looked like a little girl straight out of a comic book.

Gwendolyn had never anticipated that such a young girl would possess such courage and get involved in a fight.

Her affection for Suzanne deepened, and she pulled her into a warm embrace, gently caressing her head.

“Thank you, Suzanne,” she said sincerely.

As Gwendolyn held her close, Suzanne felt a comforting warmth envelop her heart. Her eyes welled up with tears, and she sniffled before breaking into a wide smile.

“You're Mr. Surrington's girlfriend, Ms. Ashton, so we're practically family.”

Gwendolyn gently caressed her cheek. “Yes, we're family. If you ever need anything, just come to me. And don't call me Ms. Ashton anymore. Call me Gwen!”

“Okay, Gwen!” Suzanne smiled.

“Great!”

The two women embraced each other affectionately as they exchanged laughter and playful banter.

Meanwhile, Zayden stood motionless, his gaze fixed on the two bodyguards.

He seemed to be looking for an opportunity to persuade Michael to shift the wedding date earlier. If he were to pass away before that happened, Gwendolyn might refuse to marry him.

Gwendolyn hugged Zayden's arm and said, “Let's go and do your health check-up, pick up the medication, and then we can come back.”

Although Zayden didn't like the idea of a health check-up, he concealed his emotions well.

“Okay.”

After all, Gwendolyn had moved to Dragonhill, indicating that she had cut ties with Patrick. Seeing that she had been relatively well-behaved, he decided not to give her a hard time and even granted her a small favor.

The trio exited the inpatient building and made their way to the outpatient building.

Gwendolyn had asked Angeline to make an appointment, so they could see the doctor as soon as they arrived.

The Surrington family held a prominent reputation in Avenport. When Angeline made the appointment, the doctors had to show them some respect. They were given priority for consultations and could proceed with the necessary examinations thereafter.

While a dedicated nurse accompanied Zayden for his check-up, Gwendolyn and Suzanne waited for him at the entrance and rest area.

Upon entering the medical facility, Zayden immediately said to the nurse, “You don't need to accompany me anymore. I won't be having the examination. Just get me a fake report and wait here afterward.”

Having said that, he cautiously moved forward with his cane. The nurse called out to him, “Mr. Surrington, what about your condition?”

“Don't worry. I'm used to it. Let's meet back here in an hour,” Zayden replied.

He then took out his phone and called someone.

“Jason, have you arrived? Good. Wait for me at the entrance of the inpatient building.”

He was going to look for Michael to request an earlier wedding date.

Gwendolyn stood up from the rest area and walked to the window to take a breath. The disinfectant smell in the air was overwhelming, and she couldn't stand it.

At that moment, there was a commotion among the people nearby.

“Wow, that man is so handsome!”

“The doctor beside him is handsome too!”

## Chapter 574 Horizontal Tango

Suzanne stood by her side, sucking on a lollipop, as she glanced into the distance.

“I think Mr. Surrington is the most handsome!”

In her eyes, Zayden was the most handsome man in this world.

Everyone else seemed ordinary in comparison.

Gwendolyn wasn't particularly interested in good-looking guys. After all, it was rare to find someone as striking as Patrick. She doubted she would pay much attention to handsome guys in the future.

The woman, lost in her own thoughts, slowly lifted her gaze, only to find herself locking eyes with two individuals before her.

Her mouth opened in surprise. They were none other than Patrick and Kevin, one dressed in black and the other in white. They exuded a captivating aura that turned heads around in the entire hospital.

She stared at him, her mind filled with memories of the intimate moments they had shared just the night before.

I even did that for him...

Her cheeks flushed with a rosy hue as she was unable to bring herself to recall the scene.

When Kevin saw Gwendolyn, he said, “Hey, that's Gwen. Let's go say hi.”

He started to walk toward her as he spoke, but Patrick ignored him and strode ahead.

Kevin was momentarily taken aback. He was certain Gwendolyn and Patrick had an argument.

“Are you here for medical consultation, Gwen?”

When he saw that she was at the ophthalmology department, he instantly understood that she must be accompanying Zayden.

However, Gwendolyn seemed oblivious to Kevin's question as her gaze remained fixed on Patrick as he walked away.

Suzanne nudged her shoulder and said, “Don't just stare at the handsome guy! He's talking to you!”

Startled by the bump, Gwendolyn snapped back to reality.

She glanced at Kevin. “What is he doing here in the hospital? Is he unwell?”

Kevin chuckled and replied, “No. He just came to collect his grandfather's report.”

He thought it was clever of him to lie that they were retrieving Hector's report instead of Patrick and Juliette's. That way, Gwendolyn would not be suspicious of their visit.

“Pat is still waiting for me. I should go now.”

Kevin gave a faint smile as he adjusted his glasses. He had intended to inquire about what had transpired between them and hoped that Gwendolyn could comfort Patrick.

After all, he had a bullet in his head because of her, and it still posed a threat to his life.

It was only right for her to comfort Patrick. However, given her attitude, she didn't appear to be someone who would easily give in.

It would be hard for them to reconcile, as both of them were angry.

Gwendolyn nodded in acknowledgment. "Mr. Chavez, you should get going!"

With that, Kevin swiftly departed to catch up with Patrick.

Gwendolyn's disappointment was palpable, and the crowd carried on with their discussions.

"He's the director of the hospital. What a talented young man!"

"How about the other guy? He's so much more handsome."

"He's Patrick Lowen, the CEO of Lowen Group!"

Gwendolyn turned away and looked out the window as she listened to those remarks.

She came to the realization that from that moment on, she would have to rely on others to gather information about him.

The opportunity to have a firsthand understanding of him was lost, and a sense of melancholy washed over her.

Suddenly, her vision darkened, and she fainted.

Luckily, Suzanne responded swiftly, catching her before she fell.

"Gwen, what's wrong with you?"

Seeing that Gwendolyn showed no response, Suzanne had no choice but to carry her to the doctor's clinic.

She was then carefully laid on a small bed.

When she regained consciousness, she found herself surrounded by three figures—a doctor wearing a white coat, Suzanne, and Zayden.

Suzanne grasped Zayden's hand excitedly and said, “Mr. Surrington, Gwen is awake! She finally woke up.”

Gwendolyn sat up, her hand instinctively reaching to touch her forehead.

“What happened?” She couldn't help but wonder what had caused her sudden dizziness.

I felt a little suffocated and walked over to the window to get some fresh air. However, I ended up fainting. Could it be a case of heatstroke?

The doctor smiled and responded, “Don't worry, Ms. Ashton. It's just a result of overexertion. Even though you're young, it's important to exercise moderation when doing the horizontal tango.”

#### Chapter 575 Downright Mortifying

The instant those words rang out, the air was suddenly sucked out of the room. Gwendolyn felt that she should have remained unconscious for a while longer. Gah! Why did I rouse so quickly?

Suzanne blinked her big eyes. “What's horizontal tango? Did you overtax yourself while dancing at home last night?”

She was at a total loss, with puzzlement written all over her face.

Conversely, Zayden's expression was dark, as black as thunder.

If he were not pretending to be blind right then, he might have just spun on his heel and stalked off.

The doctor swept a gaze over Zayden before snickering.

“Well, you'll understand that in the future.”

Gwendolyn hastily slid off the hospital bed. “P-Please excuse me.”

After saying that, she sprinted out of the consultation room at lightning speed as though the hounds of hell were on her heels.

Turning to Zayden beside her, Suzanne remarked, “Gwen's face was bright red, Mr. Surrington. She seemed very much shy.”

“Shut up!” Zayden roared lowly.

Is she really that naïve? Never mind if she's entirely ignorant, but she keeps asking questions! All it's doing is further embarrassing everyone and worsening the matter earlier, vexing me all the more!

“Okay.”

Suzanne was utterly confused at that reproach. Nonetheless, she did not dare object and could only go over and support him.

“Let's go after Gwen, Mr. Surrington! She's dead tired and might just pass out again.”

Hearing that, Zayden rolled his eyes. Good Lord! Is it going to kill her to remain silent?

Gwendolyn stood by the window in the waiting area outside, using the cool breeze to cool off the heat on her face.

Gosh, it was downright mortifying just now! Admittedly, I... I overtaxed myself a bit last night.

Patrick's stamina was too impressive, and she wanted to leave him an unforgettable night. In the end, they stayed up the entire night.

She then hurried home at the break of dawn, so she did not sleep a wink.

Hugging her arms around herself, she inhaled deeply.

It's all in the past, Gwendolyn Ashton. Don't think about it anymore. Henceforth, you and Patrick will be going your separate ways.

Patrick's family did not agree to their relationship and she did not want to disappoint her grandfather, let alone abandon Zayden. They were not meant to be together. She merely wished for him to be happy.

As for herself, she felt that there was no hope of happiness for her.

Ever since she was born, she had no mother by her side. Her stepmother and stepsister had always treated her badly. Later, they even ruined her life. Yet, she had no evidence at all.

She could not even sue them. She had a lousy lot in life, and she had resigned herself to her fate.

Suzanne came out of the consultation room while supporting Zayden. "Mr. Surrington is here, Gwen. Let's go and visit your grandpa!"

Gwendolyn dropped her arms, her expression having reverted to its usual calmness as she headed toward them.

"Let's go!"

Zayden noticed that she was seemingly not the least bit guilty.

She has changed so much that I almost can't recognize her anymore. She's my fiancée, not only having accepted my ring but also having agreed to my proposal. But then, she still went to bed with Patrick!

Fury blazed within him.

His pursed lips betrayed his emotions. It went without saying that Suzanne did not notice anything.

On the contrary, Gwendolyn perceived it. The man had been exceedingly gentle in the past. Never had she seen him angry or lose his temper.

That day, however, she sensed a chill emanating from him.

She turned around to avoid looking at him, not wanting to brood over the matter.

Without warning, Zayden grabbed her hand. "Come and support me instead, Gwen."

He shook Suzanne's hand off. A trace of disappointment crept into Suzanne, but Gwendolyn had already won her over completely by then.

She was comfortable with Gwendolyn, finding the latter a decent person who inspired a sense of trust in her.

Since she's going to be Mr. Surrington's wife soon, she can take care of him. Besides, I'll get to relax. So long as I'm allowed to stay in the house, I'm willing to do anything!

Gwendolyn took Zayden's arm, upon which he clutched her wrist and hissed through gritted teeth, "You had sex with him?"

## Chapter 576 How Many Times

When Gwendolyn heard that question, her face flamed once more as she blushed to the tip of her ears.

It was her first time experiencing pleasure last night, and she would never forget such a matter for the rest of her life.

The corresponding images would pop up in her mind whenever someone mentioned it, and she would blush uncontrollably.

At her silence, Zayden repeated, “Did you?”

Following his insistence, Gwendolyn did not bother concealing the truth anymore.

“Yes. I love him.”

She had told him that previously, but he never listened to her.

How I wish to be with Patrick! But... But it seems that everyone is opposed to it.

Zayden abruptly halted in his tracks. He chuckled softly before lifting his hand to touch her face.

“I love you more than he does, Gwen. We've known each other for six years. I'll definitely make you happy. Since you've broken up with him, don't see him anymore henceforth. Furthermore, I'm a man. I don't want to be cheated on.”

Gwendolyn pursed her lips slightly. “Can't we just be friends, Zayden?”

She still wanted to try fighting for the sake of Patrick and the love within her, hoping that Zayden would give her his blessings.

Forcefully keeping himself calm, Zayden wrapped an arm around her shoulder. The sweet scent of cinnamon on her smelled incredible.

He wanted to find the same perfume, but he could not find it even after searching the entire world. Perhaps it was her natural fragrance.

It was an aromatic aroma that made one feel comfortable and relaxed. It was like strolling in a garden with cinnamon trees and drinking cinnamon hot chocolate, sweet and refreshing.

The scent slowly calmed him down, and he gave a bark of laughter.

“You agreed to marry me, Gwen. But if you disdain me for being blind, I've got nothing to say to that.”

His thinking was astute when he was in control of his faculties. A simple-minded woman like Gwendolyn could not possibly be his match.

Gwendolyn was stunned for a moment. She glanced at his face, or more accurately speaking, his eyes.

Only then did she suddenly remember that he could no longer see. Worse still, he had psychological trauma and was a patient.

If he doesn't get treated, his entire life will be doomed.

She bit her lower lip.

How could I do such a thing? I should be lending him a hand when he's at his most difficult time!

"I'm sorry, Zayden. It'll never happen again."

Zayden's lips quirked up. "I trust you. Come, let's go and visit your grandpa."

Meanwhile, Patrick collected a paternity test report in the lounge of the DNA Diagnostics Center in the medical technology building.

He stared at the results indicated in the report and frowned imperceptibly.

"Juliette isn't my daughter?"

"No."

Kevin was likewise surprised, but that was based on medical evidence.

Great disappointment was etched across Patrick's features. He was a person who kept his emotions masked, but at that very moment, his gaze visibly dimmed.

“Don't take it to heart. It doesn't matter. You can have a few more kids with Gwen in the future,” Kevin said.

However, that matter did not bode well for Patrick.

He had wanted to use the triplets to strong-arm Gwendolyn into staying by his side.

With his bargaining chips gone then, he had no right to have her remain by his side.

At that precise moment, Kevin's phone rang, and he answered the call.

“What is it?”

“Mr. Surrington's fiancée passed out, Mr. Chavez. She has been transferred to the obstetrics and gynecology department. Would you like to go and visit her in person?”

Some doctors had seen him talking to Gwendolyn earlier, and the duo appeared pretty familiar with each other.

They reckoned he would want to go and visit her since she had passed out then.

Kevin's brows knitted together. “Passed out? The obstetrics and gynecology department?”

He cast his gaze at Patrick in puzzlement.

The person on the other end of the phone explained, “She overworked herself. Perhaps she and Mr. Surrington were too unrestrained last night. Well, they're young, so this is common at times.”

After listening to it all, Kevin hung up the phone.

A devilish smirk curved his lips. “Pat, how many times did you do it last night that you managed to have Gwen pass out from exhaustion?”

## Chapter 577 Her Dearest Family Member

Upon hearing that, he abruptly stood up. “Where is she?”

Kevin arched his brows. “She’s at the obstetrics and gynecology department, but it’s not a good idea for you to go there since Zayden and the others are there.”

Being forcibly separated and appearing before each other would undoubtedly cause a lot of trouble.

After all, she was Zayden’s fiancée, and he was Felicia’s boyfriend.

People outside would still view Patrick as the third party who tried to ruin their relationship and accuse Gwendolyn of cheating on her fiancée.

Some might even mock Zayden for his obliviousness, not realizing that his fiancée had eloped with another man.

If that were to happen, Gwendolyn’s and Patrick’s reputations would be ruined. They would become the targets of public outrage, branded as cheaters and despicable individuals.

Patrick ignored him, left the lounge, and went to the obstetrics and gynecology department.

As soon as he stepped out of the elevator, he witnessed Zayden embracing Gwendolyn, who offered no resistance. They seemed deeply in love, a sight that bothered him.

That scene was undoubtedly like a sharp sword piercing through Patrick’s heart.

He stood frozen in place as he watched them.

Gwendolyn’s undivided attention was focused on Zayden. She conscientiously reminded him to watch his step, fearing he might stumble and get hurt. She did not notice the man standing in front of the other elevator.

Under Patrick's watchful eyes, they entered the elevator and disappeared from his sight.

When Kevin stepped out of the elevator, he noticed Patrick standing with his back toward the elevator, but Gwendolyn was nowhere to be seen. Why is he standing still? What's he looking at?

Just when he was about to walk up to Patrick, someone exclaimed, "Sir, you're bleeding."

Patrick raised his hand to touch his face and realized blood was flowing from his nose and mouth. He knitted his brows as he experienced a severe headache.

Kevin quickened his pace and got up to him. When he observed Patrick's alarming state, his face darkened.

He took out his phone and dialed a number before reaching out to support Patrick. "Pat, how are you feeling?"

When the call connected, Kevin spoke in an urgent voice. "Come and meet me at the obstetrics and gynecology department. Bring along a stretcher."

Patrick narrowed his eyes and responded indifferently, "I'm fine." Then he strode into the elevator.

Kevin followed him anxiously. "Pat, you can't risk your life like this. We need to conduct an examination promptly to check if the bullet's position has shifted again."

"I don't need an examination. I'm fine," Patrick replied firmly. He remained unaffected by the blood staining his white shirt red despite the alarming sight it presented.

Ignoring Patrick's statement, Kevin pressed a random floor button, and as soon as the elevator doors opened, he forcefully Patrick out.

"Let's stop the bleeding first, and then we'll figure out the rest."

Meanwhile, Gwendolyn walked Zayden to the inpatient building. She noticed a change in the security guards stationed at the entrance, as they did not obstruct their passage.

Candace and Felicia were stunned when they saw Gwendolyn and Zayden. “H-How did you get in here?”

Zayden had made prior arrangements for this situation. He had ordered his men to divert Candace's and Felicia's attention elsewhere and replace their bodyguards with his own men.

After entrusting Zayden to Suzanne, Gwendolyn quickly approached the bedside. “Grandpa.”

Michael had been awake the entire time, pretending to have his eyes closed when the mother-daughter duo entered the ward. As soon as he heard Gwendolyn's voice, he immediately opened his eyes. “Gwen...”

His voice was hoarse, and he appeared frail, with a pale and unhealthy complexion.

Gwendolyn's eyes welled up with tears. She was worried about him. “Grandpa, how did you fall ill? I thought you'd been doing well lately.”

Michael held her hands tightly and responded with a faint smile, “Silly child, I've lived for over seventy years. I have one foot in the grave, and it's only natural for me to face health challenges at this stage of life.”

Tears streamed down Gwendolyn's cheeks as she shook her head. “Don't say that, Grandpa. You'll be fine. You'll be healthy and live a long life.”

To Gwendolyn, Michael was not only her grandfather but also her dearest family member. If he were to pass away, she would truly be left without anyone who cared for and loved her.

Chapter 578 Fate Is Never On My Side

Felicia knitted her brows when she saw their interaction by the bed.

She whispered into Candace's ear, “Mom, just look at her. She's so good with her words. Grandpa might give her all his assets if she continues to talk to him like that.”

Candace, too, could not take it anymore. She stood up and walked over. “Gwen, your grandpa needs to rest since he has just come out of ICU.”

Her expression darkened, but she refrained from explicitly telling her to leave.

Gently patting Michael's hand, Gwendolyn said, “Grandpa, I'll let you rest now. You take care, okay?”

She turned around and was ready to leave, but Michael held onto her hand. “Gwen, bring the three kids to see me tomorrow. I want to meet them. And let's carry forward your wedding with Zayden. I want to witness you getting married in three days.”

Gwendolyn could not refuse his request. Seeing her grandfather in such a condition, she had no other option but to nod in agreement.

Michael looked toward Zayden and called him over, “Zay, come here.”

Suzanne helped Zayden walk over and placed his hand on Michael's.

“Zay, I entrust Gwen to you. Take good care of her and bring happiness to her life.” Upon learning about Gwendolyn's arduous life over the past six years, Michael felt a wave of regret washing over him.

Had he known the hardships she had endured, he would have brought her back home much earlier. It's all my fault for making her go through such a difficult life alone.

Now, Michael was determined to make things right.

He wanted to entrust her to someone reliable, someone who would provide her with the love and care she deserved so that she would not need to face challenges in life anymore.

Zayden responded, “Don't worry, Old Mr. Ashton. I'll love and cherish Gwen.”

Gwendolyn's gaze remained fixed on Michael's face. He has really aged so much.

The thought of losing her last remaining loved one overwhelmed her, and tears streamed down her cheeks uncontrollably.

Candace could only retreat to the couch. After taking a seat, she stared at them, a mixture of emotions stirring within her. Gwendolyn will soon marry into the Surrington family, and that'll make her an official lady of a prominent family. I guess it's a good thing they're getting married. It'll clear the path for Felicia to marry Patrick without any interference. The Lowen family is in a whole different league compared to the Surrington family. Even after Gwendolyn becomes a wife, we can still keep our grip on her and keep oppressing her. Furthermore, the fact that she'll be marrying a blind man means her life will just go downhill from there.

Felicia was all smiles when she picked up her phone and shot videos of their interactions by the bed. Great. It's over between Gwendolyn and Patrick.

She was determined to send those videos to Patrick, eager to deliver the message that Gwendolyn was now someone else's, and he should let go of any hope for a future with her.

Felicia believed that her grandfather falling ill was actually a positive development because it allowed Gwendolyn's wedding to be brought forward. If only I had a good relationship with Grandpa, then maybe I could have convinced him to make Patrick marry me as soon as possible. But it seems that fate is never on my side!

She could not contain her excitement about marrying Patrick. I wish I could marry him tomorrow! But when will he propose? When will he make me his wife?

Candace inched closer and asked, "What are you doing?"

Felicia kept away the video and whispered, "I'm going to show the video to Patrick so that he'll give up on her!"

Candace gave her a thumbs-up, and Felicia smirked in response.

Michael, feeling exhausted after his words, closed his eyes and weakly waved his hand. "You all should go home now. I'm tired."

Although Gwendolyn wanted to keep him company, Michael did not allow it. I'll come and visit him tomorrow, then.

As they walked toward the door, Felicia suddenly spoke up. “Congrats, Gwen! You're going to be Mrs. Surrington soon!”

Gwendolyn gave her a cold glare. She then ignored her and walked away with Zayden.

Felicia snapped, “Gwendolyn, where are your manners? I sincerely wish you well, yet you gave me this attitude.”

Suzanne turned around, shooting daggers at her. “Your words didn't sound like a blessing at all. They were more like a curse to me.”

#### Chapter 579 Love Means Nothing

Felicia looked at the girl in a black maid uniform who looked like a character in comic books and chuckled coldly. “So what if it was a blessing or a curse? It's none of your business!”

Suzanne glared at Felicia in response. In the next second, Felicia seemed to have lost consciousness as she slapped herself across the face twice.

Candace heard the slaps and rushed toward Felicia. “Fel, what are you doing?”

Felicia regained her senses the moment her mother touched her. “Huh?”

Needless to say, Felicia didn't know what had happened. Suzanne had already skipped her way out of the ward.

Felicia felt the pain on her cheeks and touched her face. “Mom, why do my cheeks hurt so bad?”

Candace touched Felicia's forehead and said, “You slapped yourself across the face twice just now. Do you have a fever?”

Felicia was shocked. “What? I slapped myself?”

Puzzlement was written all over Felicia's face. I can't remember what happened moments ago!

“Fel, have you been working too hard lately because of Patrick? Let's go. You need to rest.”  
Candace thought her daughter was on the verge of losing her mind. What if she has mental issues? I think I should get her to sleep and closely monitor her. I can't let anything bad happen to her.

Zayden and Suzanne got into the car first. When Gwendolyn was walking toward the driver's seat, she suddenly felt her heart lurch with dread. Why do I feel as if someone has just squeezed my heart? It

hurts so bad.

She took a deep breath and glanced at the sky. Gwendolyn, stop overthinking. Grandpa is in such bad shape. You should just fulfill his wish and please him. Besides, you owe Zayden so much. It's time to repay him. What's love in the face of all this? Love means nothing.

The more she comforted herself, the worse she felt.

She got into the car, started the engine, and drove out of the parking lot.

All of a sudden, Zayden said, “Gwen, the wedding needs to be brought forward, so we can't customize your wedding gown anymore. Let's head to DK to check out their wedding gowns. You like their designs the most, right?”

Gwendolyn had thought she could return to Dragonhill Mansion. At that moment, she desperately needed some quiet time for herself.

Upon hearing Zayden's words, however, she knew she had to pull herself together. I'm getting married to Zayden in three days' time. He's right. I need to decide on my wedding gown.

“Sure.”

“We'll go to your house tomorrow to propose a marriage. Wait for us at the Ashton residence.”

“Okay!”

Zayden went on and on after that. In fact, it seemed as though he already had the wedding planned out. He could still pull it off if the wedding were to be held the next day.

Suddenly, Gwendolyn noticed that Zayden was a reliable man.

Although she was driving and looking ahead, she was in a daze. Images of Patrick began appearing in her mind. I know what he looks like when he talks, converses about dirty topics, and acts indifferently. I can also remember clearly how he looks when he's angry. It seems that I've seen all sides of him. Yet, no matter how he looks, he's still the most handsome man I've ever seen.

Knowing that she needed to focus on driving, Gwendolyn took a deep breath to compose herself. I need to concentrate on the road. I can't get into an accident and die. My three kids need their mother!

When they arrived at DK's headquarters, Tiffany was already there waiting for them.

Zayden had made an appointment with her in advance. Indeed, everyone in Avenport respected him.

Tiffany was taken aback when she saw Gwendolyn walking in. "Gwen? You're the bride-to-be?"

Zayden knew no one could make the perfect wedding dress within three days. He thought Gwendolyn could pick one out and get Tiffany to make a few amendments.

If Tiffany could make some adjustments according to Gwendolyn's liking, it would still be a special wedding gown.

Gwendolyn walked up to Tiffany. "Hi, Tiffany. Yes, I'm here to pick my wedding gown."

Tiffany held Gwendolyn's arm and walked inside to check out the wedding gowns.

"Congratulations, Gwen!" Tiffany congratulated Gwendolyn. I'm happy as long as she's not marrying Patrick.

Gwendolyn felt horrible when Tiffany congratulated her. If I'm picking a wedding gown to marry Patrick, I'll definitely feel different. In fact, I'm sure I'll be on cloud nine!

She took a deep breath and replied, "Thanks!"

Tiffany glanced at Zayden, who was nearby. "Mr. Surrington, Gwen is my mentee, and she's like a daughter to me. You must take excellent care of her." Gwen is getting married! If Sophia knows about this, she's going to be beyond happy! I think Sophia will surely attend Gwen's wedding.

Zayden flashed a faint smile and promised, "Don't worry, Ms. Myers. I will cherish Gwen."

Tiffany was actually her stage name, and her real name was Willow Myers. However, very few people would address her that way.

Willow thought Zayden was a good man. It seems that Zayden has done some research. At least he's putting his heart into picking a wedding gown for Gwen.

When Suzanne saw the staff pull the curtains to reveal all sorts of wedding gowns, she exclaimed, "Wow! These gowns are so pretty!"

She hurried toward the gowns and touched them, imagining the day when she would put one on herself.

Gwendolyn was also flabbergasted. Although she had been attending classes every week, she had never been to the studio. That was the first time she had seen those gowns. This is amazing!

"Gwen, come here! Look at this! This is gorgeous!" Suzanne exclaimed.

While Suzanne and Gwendolyn were looking at the gowns, Willow smiled and told the staff to attend to Gwendolyn.

"Ask her what she thinks about the gowns and take note of the things she doesn't like and the things she wants to change." I think my award-winning gown suits Gwen the most, but she doesn't seem to like it.

Before Suzanne went to see the gowns up close, she had helped Zayden to a nearby couch. He was sitting elegantly and staring at Gwendolyn. He could see the emotions on her face. Gwen doesn't seem happy. Heck, Suzanne looks even more excited than Gwen. Is she thinking about Patrick?

Zayden's expression turned gloomy.

Just then, Willow sat down next to him. Needless to say, she was happy to see Gwendolyn choosing a wedding gown. From CháPTèRSFlô\_W\_COM.

“Mr. Surrington, I can actually make a gown for Gwen for free. It'll be my wedding gift for her.”

Willow's high-end designs were worth at least a million. It would be a huge gift.

Zayden replied flatly, “We're in a rush, actually. We're getting married in three days.”

Willow was stunned. “What? So soon?”

Willow was disappointed because she couldn't get one done in three days. Fortunately, Gwen has a lot to pick from.

“Yes. Old Mr. Ashton wants it done as soon as possible.”

Michael was the one rushing it. As the younger ones, they were obligated to fulfill their elders' wishes.

That was also a factor that gave Zayden control over Gwendolyn. He knew she was too kind to go against her family's wishes.

Willow nodded. “I see. How about you, Mr. Surrington? What kind of suit do you like?”

“Gwen will decide for me. I like whatever she chooses for me.”

Willow couldn't help but smile when she heard that. I saw the news, and I know Zayden is blind. Now, Zayden's father is the head of the Surrington family. Zayden treats Gwen very well, and I can see how much he loves her. It's nice of him to accept Gwen. After all, she's a single mother with three children. I really hope she'll be happy for the rest of her life! That way, Sophia and I can stop worrying about her.