

Divorce 1281

Chapter 1281 Insider of the Past

Insider of the Past

"But before I could carry out my escape plan, they showed up and gave me a needle injection. I lost consciousness and was transported somewhere else. It seems that this is when Clark sensed something.

"The environment there was better. Judging from the cement room where they kept me, this place was closer to civilization. That gave me hope! However, the good times didn't last long. After staying there for just a few days, I was taken away again," my dad said.

"That's right, Celine sensed that Clark was up to no good. She didn't even know where you were hidden, so she started looking for your whereabouts and began hunting down Clark," Atlas added.

Dad nodded. "They appeared apprehensive and did not give me a shot. I guess someone was after them. I seized the opportunity and escaped barefoot. I was eventually captured again due to my distinctive appearance.

"However, it was not just one group chasing after me."

"The Cross family and the Lively family were also searching for you!" Atlas said.

"After being captured again, Clark's son cut my Achilles tendons, leaving me unable to run anymore." Dad's face turned pale, and his hands trembled severely. "Clark told me some even more despairing news... Lucille is dead, and the children are missing."

I felt heartbroken, and I was short of breath. I could manage to take deep breaths quietly. Atlas reached out and embraced me.

"Since then, the people around me have all died. I became a walking corpse, with no will to live. I resumed my hunger strike, but Clark's men forcefully fed me!

"Until one day, Clark came to me in a rage, asking why Celine wanted you and what I knew." Dad's eyes showed hope as he recounted, "I smiled and told him that I knew a lot but wouldn't tell him!

"My words enraged Clark. But it was

clear that Celine was hunting him down. Suddenly, I understood that Celine's greedy ambition was too great. She must have sensed our BZ plan with Louis and is aiming to win over the ATL Empire."

"By then, it had been two years since the plane crash, so Celine dared to act! That was when I was separated from Stella." Atlas kissed me gently and said, "Celine might not

necessarily know about the BZ plan, but she wanted to find you to know about the ATL Empire."

Dad replied confidently, "That plan was only known to the two of us, so Clark's actions gave me a hint. They wouldn't just let me die.

"Moreover, Clark didn't know what was going on behind it all, either. All he knew was that I was valuable because they were all searching for

me. Making money was all he cared about. So, he sold me to Navi!"

Dad continued, "I'm not sure why I got into Navi's hands. All I know is that Clark was being chased at the time and was hiding at Navi's house, so he dared not reveal his face."

Atlas and I exchanged glances, both of us understanding perfectly well that it was because of my adopted parents.

Chapter 1282 Woman of Unknown Origin

Woman of Unknown Origin

However, we kept listening to Dad without bringing up this point.

"Navi is very cunning. At first, he was quite respectful of me and made an effort to obtain information from me. I pretended not to know and avoided the topic, never mentioning the BZ plan. I only mentioned that I was the son-in-law of the elite in Yare."

I looked at Atlas. "That's why another 'me' appeared in Yare! Navi is likely behind it!

Dad looked at me in astonishment, asking, "What are you talking about?"

Atlas spoke before me, "Several months ago, Yare welcomed a woman who resembles Stella and is greatly favored by the old lady! Her origin is unknown."

"The Avila family?" Dad fell into contemplation.

I asked, "Did you know about the organization at that time?"

"Yes, but I learned about it from Clark. The organization was after me too. When Louis and I were prospecting for minerals, we encountered them. They're a group of thugs and crazed plunderers. Louis and I always kept our distance from them."

Atlas said, "It seems that the real mastermind is this organization, and Celine is the catalyst."

"What do you mean?" Dad looked at Atlas, puzzled.

"The individual who is in all this is a member of the organization. And the one who initially discovered this clue was Aunt Lucille. She knew about the plane crash and was distraught. If it weren't for us, she might not have survived alone!"

Atlas's voice sounded scratchy, and his mood was always low when he reflected on these incidents.

"However, when the reports came out, she discovered that the person who died with the couple from the Pierce family was not you. She made the mistake of acting too quickly since she had no one to rely on."

The three of us fell into sorrow.

Atlas sounded very guilty. "I just hate myself for being too young and not knowing what was happening. My parents and my dearest uncle were all gone overnight!"

He took a deep breath and

tel

continued, "But on the day Aunt Lucille died, I knew things weren't right. Her dead body was vivid in my memory. Although I was young at the time, I knew it wasn't normal."

Tears filled Dad's eyes as he glanced at Atlas. His lips trembled as he asked, "Her dead body...?"

I could feel Atlas's hand holding mine stiffen.

"Tell me. I want to know." Dad's voice trembled. This might be the thing he wanted to know most.

Atlas paused for a long time. Then, he described to Dad every aspect of my mother's death.

Dad was very strong this time, but tears flowed like a flood. I had never witnessed a man sobbing with such intense sorrow.

After Atlas finished recounting, he

said to Dad, Clark killed her. Aunt

Lucille questioned him, Clark

murdered her out of dread of being exposed. Later, Celine also wanted to murder Clark, but he managed to escape."

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"But there's... something not right here!" Atlas looked at Dad. "There must be someone else who knows the truth, perhaps about this BZ plan."

Dad shook his head firmly. "Impossible. Only your dad and I knew about the entire plan and had control over it. Those team leaders who went on the expedition only had partial information.

"We already had the global

distribution of minerals in our hands.

When it came to studying the

details, it was always just the two of

us. That's also why your dad insisted

that our family live with ove

"Could it be a servant from the Pierce family?" I interjected. "Like Granny, since she could hide that video, others might have leaked information."

"I later ruled out those people in our house back then. Either people break up, or die..." Atlas lamented.

After a moment of silence, Dad looked at Atlas. "Are you saying that Clark is still in your hands? I want to see him!"

Dad said coldly, "The one who started the trouble should end the trouble. We need to get a breakthrough from him!"

Chapter 1283 Midnight Attack

Midnight Attack

"Clark's son and grandson are also in our hands!" Atlas said, "But we'll wait until your condition improves before meeting them! Don't worry, I'll settle the score with them!"

At this point, Dad looked very tired sitting up. Atlas quickly went to lower the bed and helped him lie down.

"Dad! Don't overexert yourself. We have plenty of time to deal with things later. You must recover as soon as possible. Once all your indicators are back to normal, we'll figure out how to treat your leg."

"D-Do I still have hope?" My Dad's eyes suddenly lit up, then dimmed with disappointment. He sighed, "It's been almost fifteen years. It's probably impossible!"

"Don't give up. I'll hire the top surgeons from around the world. As long as there's a glimmer of hope, we shouldn't give up!" Atlas said firmly, "I'll help you stand up again! There are too many things we still need you for."

I quickly reassured him, "Believe in Atlas, he can do it! It's safe here."

After comforting him, we left his room. A group of guards was arranged outside.

Nevertheless, an accident did happen without warning.

After we arranged for Dad to leave his ward, Atlas asked me softly if we should return to Fremont Bay.

Without hesitation, I said, "No, it's too late, and I want to stay closer to him. Let's go back tomorrow!"

Atlas checked the time, and it was already early morning. He had no choice but to go along with my decision and stay in the hospital together.

He escorted me back to our room and said, "Get some rest. I'll go and check, then come back."

Perhaps I was too tired. I had intended to wait for Atlas to come back to chat with him, but I fell asleep shortly after lying down.

I was sleeping for a while when, all of a sudden, there were gunshots and chaos in the hallway. The sharp sound of gunfire woke me up, and I sat up immediately.

"...Dad!"

I exclaimed and felt around me. The bed was cold. Panic-stricken, I shouted, "Atlas...!"

There was no response at all in the dim room. The hallway outside was in chaos, with occasional screams.

In a flash of fear, I threw off the

covers and rolled out of bed. My mind was in turmoil, and I shouted while trying to get out of bed...Dad, Atlas..."

Even a fool could figure out that the gunshots in the hallway were aimed at my dad.

I didn't bother to put on shoes and hurriedly ran outside. As soon as I opened the door, a figure rushed in. I screamed in fright.

"Chloe, don't be afraid. it's me!" I heard Atlas's voice and immediately grabbed him. "Where's my dad?"

He patted my back. "It's okay. Everything's okay!"

"Quick, where's Dad? Is he... okay?" I yelled loudly, completely unable to remain calm.

"Dad's fine!" He saw me standing barefoot on the ground and quickly picked me up. "Don't worry, I was prepared long ago!"

"What's going on?" I asked loudly. "How could there be gunshots?"

"It's an attack by the organization," Atlas said calmly.

I looked at him in horror. "An attack?"

"That's why I had to rush back as soon as possible. There was no way to be sure in Cirencester. Don't worry, I had made arrangements long ago." Atlas reassured me.

"No, I have to go see my dad!" I insisted unreasonably.

"Tomorrow! It's too late now!" Atlas held me back, persuading me.

I immediately said stubbornly, "I said now! Right now!"

"Okay. Then I'll help you put on your shoes!"

He put me back on the bed and crouched down to put on my shoes. As soon as the shoes were on, jumped out of bed and rushed outside.

"Be careful!" He hurried to catch up.

I was immediately struck with a sickening odor of blood as soon as I opened the door. I gagged up my gag reflex. I halted my pace.

Chapter 1284 Insane

Insane

Atlas immediately hugged me from behind. "Let's go back!"

"No, I just want to take a look at him and make sure he's safe!" Despite my agony, I persisted in my stubbornness.

The night shift nurses were shivering as they cautiously peered outside in the brightly lit corridor.

Atlas's men were putting a body into a body bag and carrying it away. The room they brought out was my father's ward. I suddenly felt uneasy.

When others had already entered my father's room, he continued to assure me everything was fine. I was dying to find out exactly what he meant when he said it was "fine."

I shook off Atlas's hand and rushed in. I saw another injured person kneeling on the ground, with a large puddle of blood on the floor, which looked horrifying.

However, the hospital bed was empty and unoccupied.

I looked at Atlas with a questioning gaze and asked, "Where's Dad?"

Atlas smirked sinisterly. "Don't worry!"

He then led me inside after that. Then, in front of that injured member of the organization, he reached out and pressed a switch on the bedside cab. Suddenly, a section of the smooth wall moved and flipped, revealing a spacious room inside.

The guy tried to stand up suddenly, but one of our guards punched him to the ground. When I briskly stepped into the ward, he howled and glared at

me.

"Dad!" I called softly, and only then did my heart finally settle.

He was awake, and the guard raised his bed. Observing all that was happening outdoors, he chuckled bitterly, "These animals! They're truly insane, audacious, and reckless!"

I looked back at Atlas in shock. "How did you know they would come again?"

With a little chuckle, Atlas drew me into his embrace. "They wouldn't accept that I caught their people. Just like Stella said, 'What she can't get, nobody else can! That's why I'm on guard every moment.'"

Then he looked into my eyes. "Do you doubt my abilities?"

I looked at my father, who was unharmed, and said shyly, "You always keep me in suspense!"

"Oh, did you receive Stella's

message I only remembered this

now. Logically, Dylan must have

news. He had been handling

follow-up matters in Cirencester.

"While tidying up the base, we didn't find Stella's body. She must have escaped!" Atlas told me truthfully.

"Escaped... she really escaped?" I murmured.

I didn't know whether to be happy or

disappointed. This 'Stella' really

emy blood boil, but I was

curious about her true identity.

"I just really want to know her true identity."

Ineq

still

I hoped she wasn't who we suspected, that she wasn't the lost daughter of my adopted parents.

Another question popped into my

mind, so immediately asked, "To further confirm it's Stella, we'll have to wait until we find her, right?"

"No need; we'll have the results tomorrow!" Atlas said confidently.

I was about to ask how he confirmed it. However, my dad repeated with a look of doubt, "Stella?"

Then, his gaze at me became skeptical. "How is there another Stella?"

I hurriedly sat next to him. "Yes, there's another Stella, but it's a bit of a long story. I'll tell you all the details."

Atlas ordered the people outside to take the captured person away and keep an eye on him.

Then he softly said, "Let's rest for a while. After daybreak, we'll go home!"

I saw a twitch at the corner of my father's mouth. "...Home?"

His voice was noticeably choked up. Perhaps these two words had always been his dream!

"Yes, we're going home!" Atlas said it unquestionably.

This time, I was terrified of losing more, and I never wanted to part with my dad.

I just managed to lie on the large sofa in the hidden room until dawn.

Chapter 1285 Finally Home

Finally Home

Good news arrived early in the morning. Loak was transferred from the ICU into a regular ward.

My father insisted on going to see him. His spirits seemed much better today. His eyes looked exceptionally bright.

So, I had to have the special guard bring a wheelchair and personally wheel my father to see Loak. After all, my father's life had been saved by Loak and his sister.

Last night, my father told me that if it hadn't been for this child's quick thinking, there wouldn't have been a chance to escape.

When we arrived at Loak's ward, doctors and nurses were examining him. Atlas and Cane were also present.

When Anya saw me coming in, she rushed to my side and said, "Madam, the doctor said he'll be fine!"

"Of course, he'll get better soon!" I smiled at her and spoke reassuringly. She looked delighted. I wanted to say a lot to her, but our language barrier prevented us from speaking openly.

Atlas approached me and said, "After the doctors finish their check-up, let's go back to Fremont Bay together!"

I was thrilled. Of course, I knew that Fremont Bay had a family ward and many basic facilities. When Atlas had his fake car accident, he was in the family ward of Fremont Bay.

"That's great, it'll be more convenient!" I agreed with Atlas's arrangement.

"I've arranged the attending physician! If he's out of danger, he'll recover faster at home! It should be rather safe with Anya and the special guard," Atlas said, glancing at me. "I'll take care of your father. You go check on Oliver! I ran into Ivanna in the hallway just now!"

"Really?" I wanted to check Oliver's condition but couldn't find the time. When Atlas reminded me, I remembered that I should see them. "I'll go right away and be back soon!"

I turned and walked toward the other building. Oliver's special care ward was not in this building.

When I arrived at Oliver's ward, I saw that he could already sit up, and his complexion had improved since I left. He wasn't as pale. When Lauren saw me enter, she exclaimed, "Oh my, you're finally back! Ivanna just said she saw Atlas at the hospital, and we were about to see Rory!"

"You should focus on taking care of Oliver!" I told her, then glanced at Oliver. "You look much better!"

"As long as everything goes smoothly! I'm fine. With Lauren here, you don't have to worry!" Oliver smiled at me and asked, "How's Rory?"

Just as he spoke, Alex walked in. Seeing so many people in the room, he nodded politely and went straight to Oliver's bedside. "Dad! Are you feeling better?"

He handed the thermos in his hand to Lauren. "Lauren, this is breakfast I brought for you. You've worked hard!"

Lauren looked at Alex with a happy face. "I told you, you don't have to come if you're busy with school! I can handle it myself. Come on the weekend, don't skip class."

Unexpectedly, Alex smiled gently. "Today is Saturday!"

Lauren smacked her forehead and said, "Look at me, I've become confused. I don't even know what day it is in the hospital; I just know it's mealtime three times a day!"

The two smiled at each other, a warm scene that settled my heart.

Ivanna quietly pulled me aside, then said to Oliver, "You three should have breakfast first! I'll chat with Chloe for a bit."

"Why don't we all eat together?" Lauren looked at the two of us.

Ivanna quickly said, "I've already eaten. That's why I brought breakfast for you."

"What about you?" Lauren looked at me.

"Don't worry about me. I just came to check on Oliver's condition. We'll be going back to Fremont Bay later. I'm sure everything's arranged at home, and we can eat there."

Ivanna quickly said to Lauren, "Don't worry about it. Focus on taking care of Oliver. If he's okay, then everything will be okay for all of us!"

Without further ado, she dragged me out of Oliver's ward.

Chapter 1286 A Small Gesture

A Small Gesture

Ivanna drew me to a seat in the ward's lounge area and inquired, "Is Rory really back? Tell me about his condition. Is he okay? Is it true that he can't walk? What did the doctor say...?"

Ivanna bombarded me with so many questions that I felt a little overwhelmed.

"He's not doing so well right now. But fortunately, our plan was solid, and we managed to bring him back. If we had found him any later, he might have... sigh!"

My eyes welled up with tears, but I continued, "But he's back now, and he's alive. We need to take good care of him from now on. As for his leg... we'll have to wait for the final test results. Atlas is confident he'll recover, and he's hired an excellent orthopaedic surgeon. I trust him!"

"That's good. As long as Atlas is confident, there shouldn't be any problems." Ivanna nodded.

I looked at her belly and touched it gently with a smile. "How about you? Is the baby behaving? Are you still experiencing morning sickness?"

"I'm much better now. The morning sickness has passed, and I'm enjoying my meals. See, isn't it big?" Ivanna asked proudly, stroking her belly.

I examined it briefly and nodded. "Yes, it's big! Can you feel the baby?"

"Yes, there are flutters, and sometimes it even kicks me!" Ivan beamed with happiness, looking every bit like a contented woman.

I couldn't help but touch my flat stomach instinctively. Surprisingly, Ivanna's gaze fixed on this insignificant motion. She immediately asked, "You... could it be... are you pregnant too?"

She looked at me eagerly. I nodded, my face turning hot. "The doctor confirmed it last night. I had no idea at all."

"My goodness, you're brave. You went to Cirencester in this condition? Didn't you encounter any danger there?" she asked in shock. "There's no way nothing happened during your trip!"

"No danger?" scoffed at Ivanna's

words. "The people there are on the edge. Just think about it. It was definitely dangerous. If it weren't for my quick thinking, I might have lost my life there! Even Arnold was injured!"

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I didn't hide anything about my experience there.

I still shuddered when I thought about how I had outwitted Millard Jaden. He was a ruthless killer, but in the end, he protected us... sigh!

I thought about the narrow escape we had during the mall attack in Trestlewood too. It was terrifying to think about. There had been nowhere to hide!

"What happened? Was the rescue very dangerous?" Ivanna asked. "I asked Jared, and he said it was tricky, but he didn't go into detail with me because he was afraid I'd worry."

"He knows what you're like. It would be strange if he told you." I glanced at her and smiled helplessly. "This isn't something that can be explained in a few words. I can't tell you everything today. We're going back to Fremont Bay later. tell you When we have time."

"It's a good thing you rescued Rory like you wanted," Ivanna said with a lingering fear. "By the way, have you told your family about this?"

"Atlas should have made the arrangements. When I left, I wasn't even allowed to take my phone. My parents knew I went there, but I won't tell them about this until we return."

"They'll be okay with it, right?" Ivanna asked, worried.

"They were concerned at first, but I

explained things to them very clearly. I didn't intend to hide

anything from them. He's my

they won't have any el

biological father, after all. I'm sure

"That's good. You need to deal with this relationship properly." Ivanna looked a little worried. "Why are you so eager to go back to Fremont Bay?"

Chapter 1287 Suspicion and Prejudice

Suspicion and Prejudice

Ivanna was puzzled about why we had to return to Fremont Bay so soon.

I shrugged helplessly and said, "It's complicated. It involves the Triple Alliance, so the hospital isn't very safe. My father was attacked last night, but thanks to Atlas's precautions, nothing serious happened."

Ivanna stared at me in disbelief. "Another attack? That's outrageous!"

I nodded. "Yeah. The kid who saved my father was also seriously injured. He just recovered from the rescue, so it's safer to go back. Plus, there's the matter of Stella... sigh... it's hard to explain."

"What's the deal with Stella?" Ivanna asked in astonishment. "She's a troublemaker! Did she attack while you were in the hospital?"

"Those people are desperate. The situation is unstable because there are too many unexplained factors. That's why Fermont Bay is safer. Atlas has strict security there," I briefly explained to Ivanna. "So I can't stay too long. I just came here to check on Oliver."

"He's recovering very well. The doctors were very surprised. The power of love is boundless, you know. Lauren and his son get along very well now, and Oliver's mood has improved. His injury was a blessing in disguise." Ivanna smiled at me.

I smiled, too, and Ivanna continued, "Oliver handled things well this time. I think it was the result of a long conversation between him and Alex..." "A long conversation?" I asked.

"Yes. When you were in Cirencester, Oliver insisted on letting Lauren rest for a night when he noticed that she was tired. But Lauren refused to leave, so Oliver had to call Alex to replace Lauren for the night. As a result, they had a long conversation all night."

Ivanna briefed me on the situation with Alex.

"Alex is a very sensible young man. He understands everything now that he's grown up. He took the initiative to have a private conversation with Lauren the next day while Oliver was asleep."

"Oh?" I was surprised. That was unexpected.

"Yeah," Ivanna nodded confidently. "He clearly supports his father's wish to marry Lauren!"

I covered my mouth in astonishment. "Really? That kid is more sensible than his mother!"

Ivanna nodded again. "That's right.

He apologized to Lauren for his mother's actions, and even

explained the situation back then on behalf of his parents. He said he understood why his father handled things the way he did and why it caused Lauren to misunderstand him. He's very mature."

"How did he put it?" I was curious about how Alex had explained the situation.

"That put Lauren at ease. Alex's strong support was very effective. That kid is really smart!"

"Really?" I looked at Ivanna in pleasant surprise and said in relief, "Looks like everything has fallen into place. Lauren will finally be able to get married!"

"Yeah! Things are finally getting better after all those hardships they've been through. Alex also

exposed his mother's darker side e

That must have been why Oliver found a confidante like Lauren and kept her by his side despite public opinion."

Ivanna looked at me and whispered, "If his son hadn't mentioned it, I'm afraid no one would have known. Oliver has never revealed her dark past and schemes to anyone!"

"Looks like Oliver was very patient," I exclaimed, looking at Ivanna.

"According to Alex, if it weren't for his mother's extreme

narrow-mindedness and suspicion, that accident wouldn't have

happened. After the accident, his mother continued to torment Oliver and the child," Ivanna whispered,

mimicking their conversation softly.

I was shocked.

How could someone have been driven to do those things? It was truly unbelievable.

Chapter 1288 Schemes Revealed

Schemes Revealed

My impression of Oliver had always been positive; he was a cultured, stable, but somewhat haughty man.

After all, he was widely recognized as the big shot of Foswood. Who would dare oppose him? You couldn't underestimate him. He would do anything. But I didn't think his family would be like this.

I was perplexed by the woman he had been seen with before I had gotten to know Lauren. But that was his own business, especially for someone like Oliver, who was relatively low-key.

Ivanna continued, "But Oliver still took care of her silently and yielded to her. Oliver feared she would influence the child, so he sent him to boarding school. His ex-wife felt bitter as a result. It was her idea that Oliver had to find a woman to replace her. If Oliver didn't do as she said, she would curse him every day, saying that Oliver was a hypocrite and a villain..."

"How could that happen?" I couldn't believe someone like that existed. "Why would he do that?" I was puzzled.

"Don't you understand?" Ivanna asked. "According to Alex, she did that to show that Oliver had a reputation for infidelity, and she was secretly guarding herself against Oliver!"

I commented, "My goodness! It was all part of a carefully calculated plan!"

"Alex couldn't bear to watch it anymore and felt sorry for his father. Oliver, who was so sophisticated outside, was just a puppet at home. His mother's behavior was too much! Alex said he felt relieved when he learned that his mother had moved out.

"You tell me, Chloe, what kind of person would say such disrespectful words? What extreme measures must they be driven to to be so disrespectful?" Ivanna shook her head angrily as she glanced at me.

"He also said that after Lauren disappeared, Oliver was completely depressed and lost confidence for a while, which scared him."

I sighed. "It seems that fate plays with people. Despite having a very successful job, Oliver's life was a complete disaster. Fortunately, Alex was sensible. I hope the three of them will be happy in the future."

"Yes, Alex and Lauren talked a lot, which moved Lauren deeply." Ivanna sighed. "Hey! Why did they waste so much time when they could have done this earlier?"

"That's fate," I sighed. "If it weren't for this, no one might have known how Oliver suffered in the past. Lauren wouldn't have had the chance to find out about this either. How could a man like Oliver tell her those things?"

"Yeah, that's right." Ivanna nodded in agreement.

I continued, "And even if he had told her that, she wouldn't have believed it if someone else hadn't confirmed it. And that someone else turned out to be his son. She finally sees the truth now. Oliver is lucky."

"So are you saying that Oliver being stabbed was a blessing in disguise?" Ivanna asked, and we both laughed.

She continued, "It gave them an opportunity to figure out their true feelings and assuage Lauren's fears. Otherwise, there would have been all kinds of misunderstanding."

"I'm really glad things turned out like this. But I owe Oliver my life. If it weren't for him, I would have been injured. I might not even be here," I sighed. "Good deeds bring good rewards!"

"Don't say that. We didn't know that would happen, and I'm sure none of us would have stood by at such a critical moment. I'm sure you wouldn't have done that if it were you," Ivanna comforted me.

At that moment, Ivana's phone rang. She hastily removed it from her purse and said, "It's your husband, Atlas."

I reached out and took the phone from her hand. "He must be calling me home."

When I answered, sure enough, it was Atlas saying he was leaving.

Chapter 1289 Finally Back Home

Finally Back Home

After hanging up, Ivanna and I returned to Oliver's hospital room. I said, "Oliver, take good care of yourself. I'll come see you again tomorrow. I need to handle some things at home."

Oliver nodded quickly. "Go ahead. I'm fine now. You don't need to come if you're busy. Since Lauren's here, I'm sure I'll recover quickly. She takes really good care of me."

I smiled knowingly and teased, "Of course you're fine! She's very gentle, and she's the best of us!"

Lauren, who was still busy feeding Oliver, instructed, "Please see Chloe off, Alex."

"There's no need for that." I held Alex back. "We're not strangers. You guys go ahead and eat. I need to go back to Fremont Bay to see my dad. When he's discharged, your family should come to Fremont Bay, and we'll celebrate properly."

Alex immediately stood up. "Okay, Chloe. I'll definitely be there!"

After exchanging pleasantries, I quickly left them and returned to my father's side.

Atlas had already arranged for a caretaker to pick up my father and Loak and take them directly to Fremont Bay.

Since it was Saturday, everyone, including the children, was at home.

Atlas must have told everyone that we were coming back. As soon as we entered Fremont Bay, the whole family came out to welcome us. The car drove to the family ward area of the annex building. We settled my father, Loak, and the medical staff there.

We put my father in the annex so he could be treated there more easily.

Both my parents followed us, and Atlas introduced everyone. My father didn't know much about my experiences, but when Atlas told him that these were my foster parents, my father reached out a trembling hand and said, "Thank you!"

He held my foster father's hand and didn't let go. I understood that he had something to say to my foster father.

My father seemed tired, but he was in good condition. After all, he had finally come home, and I think he must have been very excited to be here.

Ava's eyes flickered as she looked at the man in the bed. She might have been shocked by how thin my father was, as she seemed nervous for the first time.

I pulled her over and said, "Call him Grandpa, Sweetheart!"

She silently crouched behind me when my father reached out to her, but she couldn't help but poke her head out in curiosity.

My father felt a little embarrassed and said, "I must have scared her."

My foster father very kindly held her in his arms and pointed to my father, saying, "Sweetheart, that's your real grandfather!"

Ava, who had no idea what a real grandfather was, simply stared at my father with a little fear in her big eyes. She hugged my foster father's neck, asking, "Why are there so many grandpas?"

Everyone laughed, but I felt a little sad.

My foster father explained, "It's because all these grandpas love you and your mom. You should love all your grandpas too!"

Ava nodded obediently and jumped out of my foster father's embrace. She walked over cautiously and leaned over the bed, calling out to my father softly and timidly. "Grandpa!"

She waited a moment before raising her little hand. When my father's skinny hand carefully grasped hers, Ava was completely enamored, staring at it with wide eyes.

My father's eyes filled with tears, and he choked as he said, "She looks just like when Stella was young! She's so beautiful! She's precious!"

At that moment, everyone felt a lump in their throats.

My mother couldn't control her emotions and wiped her eyes.

Only my father and my foster father stayed together after Atlas had made arrangements for someone to look after my father. Atlas knew that my father wanted to talk to my foster father.

We returned to the main building. Grandma Rose sighed with relief. "Finally, things have turned out alright. Congratulations! This is a joyous occasion!"

Then she looked at me. "Go wash up. Why do you look so tired? I'm sure you haven't gotten any rest. You worked so hard to bring him back!" Atlas looked at Grandma Rose and my mother. "We have some good news! Chloe and I are having a baby!"

"Oh my! Is this true?" The two old ladies were overjoyed.

My mother grabbed my hand. "How long has it been? You... oh dear, you're pregnant, but you still went to Cirencester. That must have been dangerous. Thank goodness nothing happened."

Then she clasped her hands together in prayer. "Our family's been blessed with happiness!"

"The doctor advised her to get more rest. The examination showed that the fetus is a little unstable because of the rushing around she's been doing lately, so she needs to rest." Atlas looked at me and said, "She's been behaving terribly!"

Chapter 1290 Favoring Sons Over Daughters

Favoring Sons Over Daughters

My mom agreed with Atlas, saying, "Atlas is right. You can't be reckless. From now on, you should try to reduce your workload as much as possible. You need to think about the child."

Grandma Rose immediately said, "Why are you still here? Go take a shower and rest, quickly. Your mom and I will prepare some supplements for you and get a doctor to come check on you!"

"Oh, don't be so nervous. I'm fine. He just said that because he's worried." I glanced at Atlas and rolled my eyes. "He's making a fuss over nothing."

"Don't take this too lightly. The first trimester is very important. You're not young anymore, so you have to be careful," my mom said nervously. "Go back to your room and rest!"

Atlas was even more eager. Without a word, he picked me up and turned back to the building.

I said shyly, "Can't you be a little more discreet? This is embarrassing."

He smirked disdainfully. "We're married. Why are you embarrassed? This is my first time being a real dad, so of course I'm nervous."

His words left me speechless. It was true. There was no way he wouldn't be nervous. This was his first time being a dad!

As we walked, he said, "It would be great if we had a son, right? Then we'll have a boy and a girl. A perfect combination!" "So you prefer a son?" I winked at him and said coquettishly, "When the time comes, I hope you won't favor the boy."

"Of course not. I'm partial to my daughter." His words made my heart blossom with joy.

When I found out that I was pregnant with Ava, Matthew wasn't very enthusiastic. He thought it was a little early because the firm was just getting started. But only he knew the real reason for his reaction.

I shook my head. Why was I thinking about Matthew again?

The Murphys had always preferred sons and hoped for them eagerly. After I gave birth, when they said it was a daughter, Matthew's father left the hospital immediately.

It was like it happened yesterday.

"When I gave birth to Ava, the Murphy family was upset because it was a girl." I looked at Atlas and said, "Just because it was a girl."

"What's the big deal? I said I hoped it

would be a boy because it would make a good pair, but that was just a joke. Don't worry. I'll be fine with anything. If it's a boy, that would be good if it's a girl, then we'll have a pair of sisters in our family. They'll be inseparable. I'll make sure the two princesses of the Pierce family will be the happiest girls in the world. You can trust me!"

"I need to have a son! If this one is a girl, then I'll have another one!" I said firmly.

"Having those two would be good enough. Looks like you're really confident in your strength!" He teased as he looked at me.

I blushed and laughed, hitting him lightly, "Stop that nonsense. I like children. I would love to have a son, too."

We laughed and joked as we returned to our room.

The warm water made me relax. My wish to see my father again had been granted when he returned. I felt myself relax completely as there was no longer any pressure.

Drowsiness suddenly overwhelmed

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me. When Atlas helped me take out a change of clothes, I had almost fallen asleep in the bathtub. He immediately lifted me out. "You should finish washing up before you to fall asleep like this. You could drown, you know? Next time, don't take a bath if you're alone, understand?"

sleep. It's dangerous for Defore you

"Stop nagging me!" I murmured, my eyes closed.

He chuckled lightly, kissed me, then covered me with the blanket on the bed. He went to get the hairdryer and dried my hair carefully. The warm air blowing through my hair made my scalp tingle. I turned over and fell asleep.

Maybe it was because I had finally

returned home, or perhaps it was because my father had finally been brought back, or maybe it was because Thadn't slept well these past few days, or perhaps it was because I was pregnant and felt sleepy. I fell into a deep sleep. When I opened my eyes again, it was the next morning.

I was startled when I saw Ava by my bed, looking at me with a curious expression.