

Divorce 1451

Chapter 1451 The Story Overturned Completely

Celine's face was filled with sorrow and distress.

"As the only surviving bloodline of the Pierce family, I had to shoulder the responsibility. Rory's wife passed away suddenly from grief, leaving two children in the mansion. As their aunt, I took over the care of the children and temporarily stayed in this mansion."

I seized on the loophole in her words and asked, "Temporary?"

She glanced at me, not responding directly, and continued, "It was chaotic at that time."

Celine calmly recounted the events, and if I didn't know the whole story, I might have been moved by her kindness.

Suppressing my inner anger, I maintained a faint smile, watching her continue performing.

Meanwhile, everyone in the hall nodded and sighed intermittently, their eyes filled with admiration for her.

"Little did we know, that night, someone took Rory's daughter away during the chaos. It wasn't until morning that she was discovered missing, and the Pierce family immediately sent people to track her down. Many days later, they found the child in a welfare institution in the west."

"Are you sure she was taken away and not sent away?" I asked with a smirk.

She looked at me firmly and said, "Yes, she was taken away."

Then, she shifted her gaze and continued, "I intended to bring the girl back, but just as my men arrived, someone tried to take her away again, resulting in her falling off a cliff and dying."

There was a collective sigh from the crowd.

"I felt guilty because my father had ordered me to bring the girl back at all costs, especially since she had grown up with the members of the Pierce family."

I narrowed my eyes at Celine, who showed no signs of panic. She remained calm, like a screenwriter laying out a plot with logical clarity and no loopholes.

Everyone in the room was completely absorbed in her interpretation of the events. Especially the younger generation, they were undoubtedly misled and thoroughly convinced by her explanation of the incident.

"My father intended to use this to lure out Rory but with the girl's death, I knew I couldn't escape blame. I had to suppress the

incident and bring back another

orphan from the same welfare institution, who is now my adopted daughter to replace Rory's daughter."

"Aunt Celine, it seems you put a lot of thought into this," I praised her.

Celine was shameless indeed, presenting her reason for taking over the Pierce family's mansion back then as if it were the most natural thing. I hated how she was

portraying herself as generous and

compassionate.

I glanced around at the crowd. They were earnestly watching her perform like they were all brainwashed fools.

I had to admit that she was a great actress.

Her voice echoed in the hall.

"Unfortunately, we've had no news

"UnforHowever, someone

pretending to be Rory's daughter has appeared frequently, hoping to join the Pierce family. For so many years, she's been relentless

As she spoke, she sneered, clearly insinuating that I was one of those impostors trying to be a part of her family.

"What a shameless and despicable woman!" A middle-aged woman looked at me and cursed, then stole a glance at Atlas, who had been watching all this with cold eyes.

Celine immediately added, "Furthermore, the Pierce family has never given up on finding Rory, but this person is cunning. He was always eluding us with the help of his classmate, Clark."

I was speechless. She had a convincing argument. Even the despicable man whom she had bought off had, in her words, become my father's accomplice.

How impressive. I scrutinized her coldly as she continued to tell her story.

"I had tried every means to find Rory through Clark but failed repeatedly. However, the investigation at the time revealed that Clark had seen Rory the night before my brother's plane crashed."

She stared into my eyes, smiling. "After that, the person on the plane was replaced with a double. Yes, it wasn't Rory at all."

Her revelation elicited gasps from the crowd.

Chapter 1452 Confrontation and Contest

"Aunt Celine, your storytelling skills are truly amazing. You know the details so well, and everything is logically sound. Why do I feel like you are the mastermind behind this whole thing?"

Her eyes swiftly locked onto mine before quickly returning to normal.

She remained composed as ever. "Do you think we gave up investigating over these years? It's no coincidence. Later, our people found Clark's body, which finally put an end to any leads regarding Rory."

I smiled. This twist eliminated Clark, leaving me wondering how she'd react if faced with him again.

"Not long ago, there was news that Rory was still alive. Stella rushed to the scene to bring him back but was ambushed by ill-intentioned people, resulting in her getting serious injuries. Her leg still hasn't fully recovered."

Her words were succinct yet captivating, completely changing the facts. Not only did she frame my father as the one who betrayed Louis, but she also portrayed me as an imposter.

In her narrative, the real Stella had long been dead.

I couldn't help but admire her control. Despite being at a disadvantage, she orchestrated a major turnaround.

Her words left me trapped. If I tried to claim my identity now, it would only backfire.

According to her, my father was the true culprit behind Louis's demise, and his betrayal led to his death.

Moreover, she completely absolved the imposter Stella, legitimizing her reasons for impersonating the real one.

"So... what were you implying?" Celine's gaze pressed me for more details, leaving me no room to escape.

My earlier words had pushed me to a dead end. Whether I affirmed or denied her words, I would expose myself to ridicule in this situation.

The atmosphere in the hall grew awkward as all eyes fixed on me, awaiting my response.

Celine's unwavering gaze met mine. They were tinged with scorn and disdain, a sentiment only I could discern.

Stuck between a rock and a hard place, we stood there, our gazes locked in a silent standoff.

Just then, a large hand at my waist discreetly nudged me forward.

I immediately grasped Atlas's intent. He was urging me to boldly step forward.

Encouraged by this subtle signal, I felt a wave of relief. With a

mischievous smile, I withdrew my intense gaze from Celine's face and glanced around the hall at the scrutinizing guests.

Then, I turned back to Celine, enunciating each word deliberately. "What I meant is... I am indeed Rory's daughter, and I am the real Stella White." Celine's expression morphed into a bizarre mixture of shock and disbelief as the words left my lips. She even staggered backward, as if overwhelmed by astonishment.

Her reaction fooled everyone into believing she was genuinely shocked and unable to contain herself.

I couldn't help but commend her acting skills.

"W-What did you say?" Celine stammered, looking at Atlas in confusion, then turning to me with a low growl, "Atlas, you....."

Although she didn't finish her

sentence her meaning was clear to

everyone. She was blaming Atlas for

showing such concern for the daughter of his father's murderer. It was simply unfathomable.

What surprised everyone even more was Atlas's unwavering step forward as he looked at Celine and stated firmly, "She is indeed Rory's daughter and the real Stella. There's no doubt about it."

The hall erupted into chaos.

Chapter 1453 The True and Fake Stella

The VIPs in the hall whispered and murmured, discussing the matter among themselves. Celine had successfully stoked their resentment, uniting them against me and even targeting Atlas because of my presence.

Suddenly, someone voiced dissent, and a familiar voice rang out, "Are you Stella?"

It was that impostor again. I knew she was about to add more drama to the scene.

She limped forward and turned to Atlas, saying, "Atlas, how did Ms. Chloe become Stella? This is impossible."

Her questioning immediately piqued everyone's curiosity once again. They were all eager to understand what was happening.

"Do you know her well, Ms. Stella?"

"What's going on? Can you explain?"

"Speak up. Who is this woman? Is she really Rory's daughter?"

"Doesn't she know where Rory is?"

Everyone urged the fake Stella, fearing she might conceal the truth out of embarrassment.

She said, "I've investigated her background. She was born in a small town in the northern part of Foswood. Her father was an ordinary teacher, and her mother was unemployed. She attended university in Foswood and later married a man from the Murphy family."

Her introduction painted me in a derogatory light.

However, I didn't interrupt her. At this point, I couldn't even if I wanted to.

"Later on, due to marital discord and

a desire for the Murphy family's wealth, she sued her ex-husband and the Murphy family in court, successfully taking over their company. She then managed this small company."

With her introduction, I was portrayed as a cunning, sinister, heartless, and shameless gold-digger with no moral boundaries.

But I remained silent. Of course, I couldn't speak up at this moment.

"And, according to my information, she now relies on Atlas's support to keep her small company running."

The crowd erupted into murmurs of skepticism.

Feeling even more triumphant, the impostor continued, "Ms. Chloe, don't blame me for exposing your secrets, After all, I'm a member of the Pierce family and responsible for protecting the family's property and reputation. Too many people have claimed to be Stella."

"After all, the truth cannot be concealed forever," I replied calmly.

"But you are the most scheming one. Your age, background, experience, courage, and so on... Tsk, tsk." She shook her head. "I have to admit, your skills are truly profound."

Her words resonated with the crowd, and they all said, "Indeed, she's quite audacious."

"My goodness, I've never seen such a woman before!"

"You're Rory's daughter? What proof do you have?"

As the skeptical voices grew louder, these people saw my lack of rebuttal as an opportunity to escalate.

The impostor continued to add fuel

to the fire. "The real Stella fell to her death at the cliff. I saw it. Now, you claim to be her. You need to provide evidence to prove it. You should thank my mother's compassionate heart for allowing you to enter today."

Chapter 1454 Another Unexpected Twist Arises

"What a compassionate soul."

I glanced at Atlas beside me, feeling somewhat uneasy about him being subjected to ridicule alongside me. It was the last thing I wanted.

Those 'elderly' figures who seemed rather dignified were particularly disdainful. They confronted Atlas, criticizing him for getting involved with a woman of unknown background and bringing her to such an occasion, thereby inviting shame upon himself.

One of them even stated, "A woman of uncertain identity has no place here!"

"Yes, they shouldn't allow such despicable individuals to enter this premise. She should be kicked out immediately."

"Even if she truly is Rory's daughter, so what? Until the truth of the past events is uncovered, she shouldn't set foot in the Pierce family's residence because they are sworn enemies."

Once this mood was set, the atmosphere in the hall became tense.

Atlas remained silent, but his hand on my waist continued to guide me. Earlier, when he pressured me to admit I was Stella, he was hinting at something. But now, he pulled me closer and gently patted my waist.

I understood his signal. He was asking me to wait for the right moment to speak.

Currently, I was being bombarded with questions, but he signaled for me to remain silent. I had no choice but to endure it.

I believed he wouldn't leave me in this passive state forever, but I was growing increasingly impatient.

The imposter seemed intent on pushing me to my limits, ready to condemn me outright. So, she spoke up again tauntingly, "What's the matter? Cat got your tongue?"

"Stella, be respectful."

To my surprise, Celine suddenly reprimanded the fake Stella, halting her from saying anything further.

Then, adopting a parental demeanor,

she calmly addressed everyone,

"Let's all calm down. There's no

need for such aggression. Since this matter requires further investigation, let's be tolerant. Even if Rory committed grave mistakes, my daughter is innocent. After all, she

was just a child at the time."

I knew she was trying to solidify her kind image in front of everyone so she could take advantage of the crowd's attitude.

She thought her earlier groundwork was enough to push all the blame onto my father.

I couldn't bear it any longer and smiled lightly. "It seems you have already decided that my father was the mastermind behind everything."

Celine's eyes lit up at my words,

immediately casting a look of doubt

at me. "So, do you have a better answer? Or can you really prove that you are Rory's daughter? Can you overturn all doubts and prove your father's innocence?"

This time, Atlas finally said, "I can prove it."

Only then did I turn to look at him. His eyes were so sharp that they were sending shivers down my spine.

Celine glanced at Atlas, immediately intimidated by the chilling aura in his eyes, and quickly averted her gaze.

Then, with a smile, she said to everyone, "Since Atlas says he can completely prove it, let's not doubt this anymore."

Her words silenced everyone, showing that she knew when was the right time to stop.

"Today was supposed to be a joyous occasion for everyone. Let's not let any unpleasantness spoil the mood. Let's leave these matters for the police.

"Since Ms. Chloe is indeed a member of the White family, I have a suggestion." The imposter piped up again, addressing everyone, "How about we lighten the mood a bit?"

"The legendary Ms. Stella has been a

skilled pianist since childhood. So,

my mother has always urged me learn the piano diligently. Today, finally had the opportunity to appreciate Ms. Stella's piano skills. It'll also liven up the atmosphere. What do you all think?"

This imposter suddenly threw in another curveball.

I glanced at Atlas, and even he seemed taken aback. After all, he hadn't seen me play the piano since our reunion.

Chapter 1455 A Duet

The proposal immediately garnered everyone's support, and they all chimed in, "Then let Ms. Stella grace us with a piece."

I glanced at the impostor, her innocent expression masking her malicious delight.

Even Celine joined in, "That's a splendid idea."

Of course, I knew the impostor was aware of my memory loss. How could I possibly play the piano?

The crowd quickly cleared a path to the piano. As I gazed at it, it seemed exactly like the one from my recurring dreams.

Everyone seemed to be waiting for me.

Atlas's hand on my waist tightened. I looked up at him, and he gazed back, saying, "Don't worry, I'll play for you. It's been a while since I played for you."

He must have wanted to shield me. He probably feared I couldn't do it.

The piano used to be Stella's forte. Atlas once told me they won a piano competition together.

"Atlas!" the impostor cooed, wrapping her arms around Atlas's. "I'd like to learn from Stella's piano skills. Don't ruin this for me, okay? It's been my dream to listen to her play."

Atlas's eyes turned cold.

She paused, then turned to me, "You can't do it, can you?"

Everyone looked at me, their skepticism evident. The impostor wanted to expose me, and everyone in the hall understood that.

I smiled at her. "How could I disappoint you?"

Then, I glanced at Atlas and headed toward the piano. Atlas followed behind me, surprised by my decision.

I gently touched the keys when we reached the piano, feeling a strange familiarity.

Atlas stood close. He looked reluctant to let me do it, but he still whispered, "Can you do it?"

I looked back at his handsome face, teasingly asking, "Take a guess."

Everyone followed us.

Sitting elegantly on the piano bench, I gazed at the pristine keys, feeling like I was in a dream where reality blurred.

Perhaps fearing I'd falter, Atlas

removed his jacket and handed it to Tristan who had been with us all along. He then sat gracefully beside me, and we exchanged a magical smile.

"Let's do a duet," Atlas suggested with an indulgent smile.

I understood that he wanted to support me.

"How about we play 'Dream of Love'?" I suggested out of nowhere.

He looked surprised but delighted, flashing a smile that could enchant anyone. "Sure."

We exchanged another smile and placed our hands on the keys together. His eyes never left mine, brimming with excitement.

The next moment, our fingers

danced on the keys, filling the hall with a beautiful melody. It echoed in every corner, captivating everyone.

I felt exhilarated and immersed myself in the passionate rhythm. The music flowed like a gentle stream between us, and we exchanged affectionate glances occasionally until the piece ended, leaving us lost in its beauty.

A thunderous applause erupted in the hall seconds later.

Chapter 1456 Instantly Turning the Tables

Atlas extended his hand, and we rose together. He embraced me emotionally, kissed my forehead, and tenderly said, "My Stella, you're finally back." I could only say it was instinctive.

Actually, I never formally learned to play the piano after regaining my memory. Pianos were rare luxuries in the small town where I grew up.

During the holiday after my junior high exams, when I could laze around at home before starting college, I would often hear the piano being played when I was at home doing nothing.

The principal of the nearby school lived next door, and his daughter played the piano. I felt strangely excited whenever I heard her practicing in the corridor. I always listened intently and wanted to watch her play.

Finally, one day, I got a chance to do just that.

Her mother forgot her keys when she left the house that day. Since she needed the keys in the office, she wanted to ask her daughter to bring them over.

But she couldn't reach her daughter's phone, so she called my mom, who happened to be at the market that day. My mom then called me, asking me to see what was happening next door.

That was the first time I saw a piano up close. I explained why I was there, and the girl quickly found her mom's keys and happily took me along to deliver them.

I practically lived at their house at that time, spending my days accompanying her at piano practice, playing with her, and finally getting to touch the piano myself.

I felt a sense of déjà vu the first time I sat at the piano bench. I progressed rapidly under her guidance, grasping it faster than she did.

I remember telling my mom I had a natural talent for playing the piano when I got home. She just laughed and said nothing.

After school started, I moved to

Foswood To my surprise, there was

a piano in the music room at our

school, but only the students from

the music department could access it.

I decided to take supplementary courses at the music school. From then on, I felt like a fish in water, sneaking into the piano room whenever I could.

It wasn't until I decided to start my own business with Matthew that I completely bid farewell to the piano and never looked back.

After I had a daughter, I wanted to buy her a piano, but unfortunately, our house was too small, so I had to put that idea on hold.

So, playing the piano was never a challenge for me, but it had been a long time since I had touched one before today. The feeling of sitting in front of this piano was indescribable. It was as if I had suddenly unlocked a hidden talent.

To be honest, I had never played a duet before, but everything about today felt miraculous.

From the corner of my eye, I saw the impostor staring at us in disbelief and hatred. I met her gaze with a triumphant smile.

After the applause subsided, Atlas's

gaze suddenly turned cold. It swept over everyone present, and he said, "Since you all came here today with a purpose, I can't let you down."

His words were chilling, piercing through everyone's hearts. After all, these people had just revealed their intentions to Celine with smug expressions, and Atlas had seen right through them. Content belongs

At that moment, everyone felt a shiver down their spine and sensed that something was about to happen.

Chapter 1457 The Sudden Attitude Change

They all looked at Atlas with apprehension, unsettled by his sudden change in expression. Celine quickly caught on, maintaining her peacemaker persona.

With a rare smile, she preemptively spoke before Atlas could. "Atlas. It's been years since you last visited. Naturally, things are a bit unfamiliar to you

now.

"I just invited everyone here to reunite us all. Over the years, everyone has been busy with business, not to mention the upheavals in the Pierce family..."

Her voice trailed off, sounding melancholic.

"The upheavals in the Pierce family?" Atlas's tone carried a hint of mockery, his already cold gaze turning even colder. "Indeed, the upheavals in the Pierce family were quite significant. Even those who are here have become traitors."

Celine hurriedly interjected, "Don't be rude. Everyone who's here today are all dear friends of the Pierce family, and they all..."

"I don't see any friends here," Atlas snorted, cutting off Celine. "Every word they said to criticize us earlier was venomous. I saw no trace of affection for me!"

His words made it clear to me that he had been observing those radical individuals. I was sure that the one who had challenged me earlier must have been Celine's staunch ally.

"Are you trying to tell me you turned a family banquet into a scene for no reason?" Atlas glanced at Celine.

Celine's expression changed, and as she was about to speak again, a well-dressed elderly man stepped forward from the crowd. His sparse brown hair was neatly combed, emitting a peculiar sheen, and his features indicated his Nocturnian heritage.

His eyes betrayed his cunning nature. He glanced at me briefly before fixing his gaze on Atlas, saying, "Mr. Atlas, you're mistaken."

Everyone turned to look as the old man approached us.

"We are all old friends of the Pierce family, and our relationship with your family goes back almost a century. When the Pierce family was in turmoil, we were deeply distressed. Your father's passing was regrettable. He was such a talented young man. What a pity..."

He feigned a sorrowful expression, seeming like quite the actor.

"But in recent years, we all knew his death wasn't so simple, which has also caused hardship for your aunt. Back then, she was just a powerless girl who took on the mantle of the Pierce family in a crisis. It wasn't easy for her either."

A few murmurs of agreement accompanied his words.

Celine's expression instantly softened.

Encouraged by the approval, he continued, "At that time, you were still young, and your grandfather, who was mourning the loss of his son, was lost in confusion every day. It was tough for your aunt to manage the family business while investigating your father's case, and she faced immense external pressure. We didn't expect her to be so resilient."

It was clear he was trying to praise Celine.

"You've been away these past few years, so you don't know the details. But now, as we all can see, you've inherited your father's genes, and you've become a leader among the younger generation. However, you must remember to repay others for their kindness."

After speaking, he glanced at Celine, clearly seeking her approval. His expression was quite lecherous, which made me feel extremely disgusted.

Celine immediately returned his encouraging look.

The old man became more excited, continuing, "I have to say, both ATL Empire and Pierce Corporation owe your aunt for her perseverance and efforts.

"Remember to be kind, young man. Don't let love blind you. Your father's vendetta remains unsettled, so please stay vigilant!" He looked meaningfully at Atlas.

"Well said. I do need to stay vigilant. Fortunately, I always have been," Atlas said, taking the cue.

"It looks like you're the spokesperson for these people today, Johnny But." Atlas's tone was disdainful.

The But family's former patriarch, Moses, had a close friendship with the Pierce family. But's business dealings with the Pierce family were mutually beneficial too.

Chapter 1458 Losing All Dignity

As the old man named Johnny basked in his glory, Atlas's clear voice cut through the air.

"That doesn't mean you can leverage the close friendship between the But and the Pierce families to act like you're in charge here and point fingers at me. Do you think you're entitled to that?"

Atlas's words stunned everyone. No one expected him to rebuke Johnny so harshly.

Johnny was taken aback. Glaring at Atlas, he gulped several times before finally spitting out a word.
"You!"

"You did everything for your own selfish gain. You caused your own brother to be paralyzed so you could be the head of the family, and you joined forces and formed an alliance with Celine!

"You manipulated public opinion, colluded with shareholders, and pressured my dad to relinquish control of Pierce Corporation. Have you forgotten all that? Did you think I didn't know? Or is it that you simply don't think much of the Pierce Corporation?"

Atlas launched a barrage of questions, each more relentless than the last.

"Do

you really think I didn't know about that? Your reward was a mere 0.5% stake in the Pierce Corporation. After achieving your goal, you couldn't get enough, and you knew that you could easily obtain it, so you stepped up your schemes and devised a plan to gain another 0.5%..."

Atlas's dark eyes bore into Johnny's, causing him to retreat step by step without knowing what to say.

"You audacious old fool! You dared to play tricks on the Pierce family, but you still had the audacity to claim to be close family friends with us. Who do you think you are? Do you think all of us are idiots?"

"You!" Johnny gulped, pointing at Atlas. He couldn't seem to find a suitable rebuttal, so he dared not speak any further.

"Consider this your notice. I'll make you pay for how you got those things and what you said about me earlier."

"You're young and arrogant! Don't

forget who I am." Johnny still had a good reputation in this circle, so he had shamelessly stepped forward today as Celine's spokesperson.

But he had unexpectedly been publicly humiliated by Atlas.

The people present were all shocked and somewhat unsettled. They all looked at Celine, not quite

understanding the situation.

Celine pressed her lips into a thin line. "Atlas, mind your manners. Ms. Chloe was

but you shouldn't..." shouldn't met

"She's my wife. Call her Mrs. Chloe," Atlas demanded harshly.

Celine looked at him coldly. "Your wife? Do you think she's worthy of that title?"

"She was born to be my wife."

Celine was rendered speechless by his retort.

"How outrageous! You should ask if I agreed for you to marry her!"

A stern reprimand sounded from the crowd, and I immediately recognized that voice.

The crowd parted, and there stood Adeline, striding toward us confidently with a disdainful gaze fixed on me.

Chapter 1459 You're Next

"Your wife? Her?"

Adeline exuded an aura of authority as she stood across from me. "What kind of woman dares to come to the Pierce family's residence and act so arrogantly? Your wife? Pfft."

She snorted and turned to Atlas. "This woman's background is unclear. Even if she is Rory's daughter, she has no right to be part of our family until Rory has been cleared from suspicion of betraying Louis."

People behind her echoed her sentiments, showing extreme disdain.

Adeline raised her voice. "Do you think I'm dead? How could I ever allow a divorced woman whose scandals are well-known by the entire town to be part of this family?"

She glared at me, and her words immediately ignited my anger.

"You're not dead, but you can't claim to be the head of the Pierce family."

I stood tall, full of confidence. "I married Atlas lawfully, which makes me Atlas's legitimate wife. Who do you think you are to meddle in our affairs?"

I finished my retort and strode to the main sofa in the hall, taking the dominant seat.

Tristan quickly followed, standing by my side.

"How outrageous! What gives you the audacity to behave like this here?" The old hag was furious, her anger evident in her roar.

"Don't forget, this is the Pierce family's residence. You've lived here for many years and acted like it's your retirement home. If anyone's being outrageous here, it's you and your daughter."

I sat arrogantly on the sofa like a queen.

"You madwoman! Guards, throw her out," Adeline said.

"We'll see who dares to do that!" Atlas's voice carried immense authority.

The guards who had started to step forward froze in place, looking at Celine.

Celine's eyes burned with raging fire.

"You unfilial thing! She's

disrespectful and doesn't have any manners. How could you protect her like this? You're going to ruin the family by marrying the daughter of your father's murderer!" Adeline shouted, pointing at Atlas,

"How audacious!" I shouted angrily. "Respect and manners are only for those who deserve them. And you don't deserve any of that!"

I looked at the old hag in disdain. "Who do you think you are to act so arrogantly here?"

"You've gone too far. Guards, what are you all waiting for? Throw her out!" Adeline was so furious she looked like she was about to punch someone.

She yelled at her servants while pointing at me as if she wanted to tear me apart.

One of Celine's bodyguards immediately rushed toward me, and the crowd flinched, trying to avoid getting involved.

Before he could reach me,

Tristan

made his move. He struck out his long legs with a swift turn. The

crowd couldn't understand what bodyguard had already been

was happening, but the towering

There was an instant uproar in the hall as people quickly dispersed to the side of the room, and the bodyguard lay motionless on the ground, groaning.

Atlas looked at Adeline and coldly said, "If you dare to say another word, you'll be next."

"How dare you? You..."

A shadow flashed past before she could finish her sentence, followed by a crisp sound.

Chapter 1460 This Is Too Satisfying

The crowd was shocked and wasn't sure where the sound of someone being hit had come from.

The old hag wailed hysterically. "How dare you hit me?"

Everyone looked at Adeline and saw her holding her face on the ground. Blood trickled from the corner of her mouth, and her face swelled visibly.

Adeline was used to being in charge, so she refused to back down. She glared at Tristan, screaming, "Murder! This is murder. You're all witnesses. That scoundrel dared to attack me, rebelling against authority. Atlas, you..."

"Didn't we say you should stop talking?" Tristan took another step forward, frowning. "You deserve this punishment."

Tristan's movements scared Adeline. She trembled on the ground.

"Atlas!" Celine shouted angrily. "You've gone too far. I tried to help you connect with our acquaintances in Nocturnia and solidify your influence here. And yet, you repay me like this."

She glared at Atlas. "Regardless of whether you admit it or not, I'm still your grandmother and an elder of the Pierce family..."

"An elder of the Pierce family?" Atlas's fierce eyes turned colder, sending shivers down everyone's spine.

When I saw how confident he was, I was sure he already had a clear plan in mind.

Right then, another old man stood up, looking like he couldn't bear what was going on. "You're a disgrace! You shouldn't be disrespectful even if she's just an ordinary old lady, much less to an elder of your family."

Atlas snorted, striding to my side and sitting down.

"It's up to the Pierce family to decide whether she's an elder of the Pierce family. Atlas's tone was sharp and authoritative as he stared at the old man before us. "Do you think you have a say in this?"

"How young and arrogant! Don't forget, you're just a junior in the Pierce family."

"You're right. I am a junior in the Pierce family. But as the head of the family, I have the right to handle any Pierce family matter," Atlas mocked.

"If you're so distressed about these

women

family ring in the Pierce

family, I'll give you a chance to take this old woman and her illegitimate daughter back to your family. You can reunite with them as you wish."

As he said that, even I was stunned.

What?

Illegitimate daughter? Reunite?

I looked at Atlas in disbelief. Before anyone could understand what he was saying, he raised an eyebrow

and continued, "My grandfather could tolerate this, but I can't"

"Atlas!" Celine tried to stop him, shouting angrily, "Stop spouting nonsense!"

Then, she turned to the crowd, urgently saying, "I'm sorry, but let's end today's gathering here. We need to handle some family business. Please excuse us."

As Celine's butler stepped forward to dismiss the guests, Atlas's cold voice rang out. "Hold on. Since everyone is here today, you can't decide when they leave."

He sat steadily, scanning the crowd, his voice softening slightly. "Are none of you interested in why Adeline is being punished?"