

Divorce 1461

Chapter 1461 No More Ellis Family in Nocturnia

The crowd's curiosity was at its peak. They were holding on to every word, eager for more juicy details. The plot twists left everyone curious and unwilling to leave. After all, Atlas's words held a lot of weight.

"What are you up to? Don't forget your identity. As the head of the Pierce family, you shouldn't..." Kevin was starting to panic.

I felt a rush of satisfaction. It seemed like this plot twist was about to get even juicier.

"You're right. I am the head of the Pierce family. From today onward, everything in the Pierce family is under my command. I won't spare a single penny of the Pierce family's wealth. I have no reason to support anyone from the Ellis family anymore."

The hall erupted into chaos.

"What does this mean?"

"Who is he talking about?"

"Is he referring to Adeline? No way, right?"

"Quiet down and listen."

Everyone in the hall was stunned, their eyes fixed on Adeline and Celine.

Just then, a high-pitched, angry female voice rang out, "Kevin, what does he mean by that?"

Kevin's face turned ashen. "Atlas! You're not making sense, and you're slandering my reputation. I'm going to sue you!"

"I'm slandering you?" Atlas coldly interjected, "Are you sure this is slander?"

Adeline glared at Atlas.

Atlas remained indifferent. "Kevin, how did the Ellis family develop over these 20 years? You surely aren't oblivious to it, are you?"

Kevin looked warily at Atlas and asked, "What are you trying to say? I advise you to stop."

"Stop? Are you threatening me? Well, I know everything about you. That's because I have never slacked off for the past 20 years.

"I don't mind letting everyone here

hear about your schemes. You're quite the strategist, aren't you? You got her pregnant, yet she's now a part of the Pierce family." Atlas's tone turned ominous.

"I'll sue you for defamation!" Kevin was visibly mad.

"Do you think you still have the chance to do that? Listen up. From now on, there will be no more Ellis family in Nocturnia."

"How dare you?" Leslie, the eldest son of the Ellis family, shouted among the crowd.

Atlas raised an eyebrow. "I can do anything I want."

Kevin was taken aback. Looking at Atlas's grim expression, his body involuntarily trembled.

Pointing at Atlas, he stammered, "What do you want to do?"

At that moment, Kevin's phone suddenly rang. Before he could answer it, the phones of the people beside him also started ringing. The urgent ringing sounded like a death knell causing everyone in the Ellis family to look down at their phones.

After the consecutive ringing, the members of the Ellis family cried hysterically, "What? Why? You can't do this."

I immediately understood. Something big had happened to the Ellis family, and it was something that could crush them.

I glanced sideways at Atlas, who looked calm and composed as he watched them.

Just then, the woman who had been

standing beside the impostor

suddenly rushed over. She ran to

Atlas, crying and begging in despair, "Atlas, please don't do this. Please don't harm the Ellis family.

"Why not?" Atlas raised an eyebrow, looking at the woman with a cold, unyielding gaze.

The next moment, the woman dropped to her knees with a thud and tried to hold his leg.

Chapter 1462 Rapid Reversal

As Tricia's hand hovered close to Atlas's body, his cold glare pierced through her, causing her hand to freeze mid-air.

She looked lost and desperate, pleading, "Mr. Atlas, please spare the Ellis family! Don't do this..."

Her previous arrogance disappeared completely. If I hadn't witnessed her earlier display of insolence, I might have felt sorry for this girl.

Kevin immediately crumbled. He looked at Atlas, seated regally on the sofa like a victorious emperor returning from battle. "You little scum! How dare you trick me?"

"Anyone who dares to meddle with the Pierce family will face my wrath. Kevin, the Pierce family has been investing in this case for 20 years. It's time for us to receive our gains." Atlas said to the disheveled Kevin, "Are you satisfied with tonight's banquet?"

"You"

Atlas's cold gaze cut off Kevin's angry retort.

"Since my father passed away, there's nothing I can't do. A businessman must always make a profit."

"Guards!" Celine's furious shout caused chaos outside the hall.

I felt uneasy, so Atlas gripped my hand to calm me down.

"Celine Pierce." Atlas paused and said, "Or should I call you Celine Ellis? It's no wonder you're so ruthless when you carry the Ellis family genes."

"Atlas, don't rejoice too soon. This isn't your turf. I respected you, but how could you defy me this way?" Celine confidently berated Atlas.

"No matter where I am, it's my territory. Also, you're not worthy of my effort." As Atlas spoke, Dylan strode in.

He stood fiercely before us, reporting, "Mr. Atlas, it's all settled."

Celine's eyes widened in disbelief as she looked at Atlas. Suddenly, she burst into wild laughter.

"Atlas, you're too naive to challenge

me. Don't forget that I'm your aunt. Whether you like it or not, I am the first in line to take over Pierce Corporation. Only my name is in my dad's will."

"I'm not dead yet!" Suddenly, a furious roar echoed from the entrance. Everyone turned to look outside.

There, David strode in with Abbas and others with determined steps.

Celine was stunned for a moment. She looked incredulously at David, who held a cane and exuded a cold aura.

In a murmured voice, she said, "You..."

et

"Do you really think I would die without seeing for myself how fate deals with you and your despicable mother?" David's eyes, sharp and full of disdain, pierced Celine.

I quickly stood up. "Grandpa."

"Stay seated," he said sternly to me.

Abbas had already brought a chair for Grandpa. He settled himself firmly into it, placed his cane in front

of him, and folded his

His presence immediately silenced the room.

Adeline, as if seeing a savior, rushed toward David. Though aged, she still knew how to act coy, calling out, "David!"

Chapter 1463 Facing Death

Before she could reach David, he suddenly lifted his cane and poked it into her chest.

"You wretch!"

Adeline cried out in pain, immediately clutching the area where David had just struck her. With a grunt, she knelt before David.

She looked at David sorrowfully, overwhelmed by his chilling aura. Her swollen face made her look even uglier, and the dried bloodstains at the corner of her lips highlighted the sinister horror of her face. Yet, her eyes radiated with a stubborn viciousness.

"Do you really think I am so foolish that I would believe your lies?" David asked.

"Dad..." Celine took a step forward. Don't listen to what they say. I've worked so hard for the Pierce family all these years."

"Dad?" David chuckled sarcastically.

Celine took another step forward, looking pitiful. "Dad, I've managed Pierce Corporation diligently all these years, and I've never been disloyal to you. You're the only father I acknowledge."

"Really? You've taken control of Pierce Corporation, yet you're ungrateful and dared to conspire with outsiders to harm my son and transfer the Pierce family's funds to the Ellis family! I must have committed heinous sins in my past life for you to call me father."

David choked up momentarily, then steadied his breath and chuckled maliciously. "Today, I'll show you what happens to your father."

"Dad!" Celine took another step forward, her eyes flashing with coldness.

"Do you really think the members of the Pierce family are blind and foolish? Every man in our family is top-notch. You're too naive to think you can play tricks on us."

David snorted. "Since you've worked so hard for 20 years, I'll let you rest and enjoy the prosperity of our family."

"You like living in my son's mansion, don't you? Very well, I'll grant your wish and get you an even better and more special mansion."

David's tone was filled with malice.

"Take these two women back to my place and let them recuperate," David ordered, and two tall bodyguards immediately came in, heading straight for Adeline and Celine.

"Wait!" Celine threatened, "David, aren't you afraid the Pierce family will cease to exist in Nocturnia?"

"That's why I'm making sure you live

well to see the prosperity of the Pierce family," Atlas said, as if he were a predator savoring the excitement of slowly bleeding his prey out.

"Atlas, who do you think you are to do this?" Celine shook off the guard's hand and glared at Atlas.

"Who am I?" Atlas asked coldly.

e

"Since the day you harmed my parents, you were destined to end up like this. You owe me not just the lives of my three closest relatives but also those who died unjustly at your hands. Who are you to question me like this?"

Adeline, seeing that the situation was hopeless, immediately kneeled before David.

She begged, "David, I was wrong. Please spare us. I will make sure the Ellis family returns everything to the Pierce family. I'll go back with you, so please spare my daughter."

"It's too late. Do you think there's still

an Ellis family? Do you want them to return everything? Can you make them? David sneered with disdain, "You really overestimate yourself."

"David, you old bastard!" Adeline, infuriated and humiliated, suddenly lunged at David. Her movement was so swift that it didn't match a woman's speed in her seventies.

But David was even quicker. He raised his cane and viciously struck her down.

Chapter 1464 Malicious Gaze

With a dull thud, Adeline's head was struck by the cane, causing blood to splatter everywhere.

Adeline let out a miserable scream as Atlas immediately shielded my eyes, covering them with his hands.

Celine stared blankly at everything before her. It was her mother who had been struck by David.

The hall erupted in gasps of shock. No one had expected such a brutal act from an elderly man.

Celine looked at David, unable to keep up the act any longer. Her face turned terrifyingly grim, and her eyes flashed with malice.

David, however, remained calm as he looked at her, raising an eyebrow in response. "Are you surprised? Do you really think I'm on the verge of death?"

After that, he glanced at Abbas, and Abbas immediately gestured toward the door. Everyone turned to look in that direction.

At the entrance stood a burly bodyguard holding a trembling maid in his arms. With a wave of his hand, he dropped the maid at Celine's feet. Celine took a step back, seemingly stunned.

"What? Don't you have anything to say?" David's voice was cold.

I glanced at Atlas, who had never mentioned to me that David was such a ruthless man. In everyone's words, he was just a coward. They said that after being deceived by his wife and children, he secluded himself for the sake of his reputation.

He was considered a puppet, doting on Adeline and Celine and obeying their every command.

But he was clearly a cunning and formidable tyrant. Just from the cane strike against Adeline, it was evident that he was a scary man.

The maid on the ground was terrified. She crawled toward Celine, clasping her legs, "Ms. Celine, I'm sorry."

Celine immediately kicked her away. "Don't touch me! Who are you?"

"Y-You can't do this." She crawled forward again, pleading, "Ms. Celine, please save me."

David looked at Celine with a grim gaze. "Don't you recognize her?"

Then he glanced at Abbas, who immediately took a bottle from his pocket and leisurely opened it. Next, he poured out a white pill and displayed it in his palm.

Celine's eyes narrowed. She tried to steady her breathing as she stared at David.

"You don't recognize her, so you don't recognize this pill either, right?" David's tone was menacing as he looked at Celine. "Alright, I believe you don't recognize it. Abbas!"

UMS

David's voice was sharp, and Abbas immediately walked to Adeline, lifting her chin with one hand to force her to raise her head.

Adeline immediately roared and tried

to retreat to the ground. Originally, she wanted to play the victim to gain sympathy from everyone, but when David appeared and struck her with the cane, she was terrified and forgot even to get up.

Now, she was struggling on the smooth marble floor, screaming, "David, what are you trying to do?"

David glanced at the burly

bodyguard who had brought in the

maid earlier. The bodyguard immediately understood what he meant and strode over, stepping on Adeline. He grabbed her neck with one hand and her hair with the other, forcefully lifting her chin and making her open her mouth.

Adeline struggled, making incoherent sounds from her throat. Her blood-covered face was creating a particularly grim scene.

Chapter 1465 A Group Brawl

David looked at her without a trace of pity and said, "When you plotted against my son, you should have expected this day, you evil bitch! You came to my house, and I treated you and your daughter well, but you repaid me by killing my son. I was blind and foolish."

"Let go of me!" Celine roared angrily, then looked at David.

"What? Don't you know what this is?" David interrupted, addressing the now exposed Celine.

"Since you don't know what it is, let your mother taste it and see what it is." Abbas stepped forward and forcefully pushed the pills into Adeline's mouth, and then the bodyguard swiftly closed her mouth.

Adeline struggled and shook her head continuously, her former commanding demeanor completely gone. She was now desperately struggling, refusing to swallow the pills.

"Mm... mm..."

Her eyes pleaded with David, but seeing him so stern, she turned to Kevin to seek help. However, Kevin was preoccupied with his own troubles and couldn't care less about her.

Her plea infuriated Kevin's wife even more. She rushed toward the helpless Adeline.

"You bitch! How dare you scheme against me? Do you really think the women in my family are weak and easy to bully?"

"How shameless! You've been controlling us for years, and now you reveal your true colors."

"Mom, we need to teach her a lesson!"

"Yes, slap her! No wonder she always discusses matters with Kevin. I finally know what they've been talking about."

The women angrily charged toward the restrained Adeline without regard for their own image.

"What are you trying to do? Stop!" Celine yelled as she rushed toward the Ellis family's women, who were attacking the defenseless Adeline.

But before she could reach them, she was kicked away by the men from the family.

Celine's butler quickly approached and helped her up, but no servant dared to intervene.

Seeing the situation, the bodyguard who had been restraining Adeline took advantage of the chaos to release her.

Celine watched helplessly as Adeline

was ruthlessly beaten by the group of frenzied women despite her continuous cries for help and pleas to stop.

Though she kept shouting, she could only watch as Adeline was mercilessly beaten to the ground, her screams echoing in the hall.

After all, when it came to such a despicable mistress who had hidden her true nature for so many years and had oppressed the man's wife, it was inevitable that public anger would arise.

When such a vile and shameless mistress received such punishment, no one would be willing to stand up for her.

Moreover, Adeline's arrogant trampling over others for years made her the talk of the town.

I even saw the women from the

But family rubbing their hands in anticipation: Presumably, Adeline and Celine often called Johnny over to their place, so the women were now itching for some action as well.

Kevin was truly powerless and utterly humiliated.

Chapter 1466 The Price of Peaceful Coexistence

Later, I heard someone tell me that Kevin's wife was notorious in their circle because her maternal family was of fallen royal lineage. In her words, she had noble blood, so she never respected Kevin and treated him as she pleased.

Of course, the Ellis family's business did benefit a lot from her family's connections, which gradually contributed to her domineering personality.

She had unexpectedly suffered a major setback this time. During all these years, she had never realized that Kevin would still cheat on her despite her constant pressure.

Her relationship with Adeline over the years had been delicate. Adeline always acted superior in front of her, while Kevin's wife showed great respect for Adeline and Celine under Kevin's supervision.

Although Kevin's wife often felt displeased and unhappy when she saw Adeline and Celine's arrogant attitude, Kevin always persuaded her to interact with them and maintain peace. After all, the Pierce family was basically a cash cow to Kevin.

Perhaps she had only now realized that it was all just a means for Kevin to maintain harmony between them.

Of course, all this information came to me later, thanks to Kevin's daughter, the girl who always followed behind the impostor, Tricia.

The women from the Ellis family were finally satisfied after beating Adeline up badly.

Everyone at the scene was forced to watch the brawl till the end. It seemed that no matter where it was, there would always be drama between a man's wife and his mistress.

Celine watched Adeline from afar. This was not the right time for her to be wailing and crying by her mother's side now. Instead, she glared at David angrily. "Are you happy now?"

"Not really, and this is far from enough. Even if the two of you died, it wouldn't compare to my son's death! This is just the start of everything. I want you two to feel the pain and to suffer bit by bit until you can't take it anymore," David said darkly.

Atlas watched the scene quietly, and I completely understood why he had remained indifferent during this confrontation.

It was because of the personal grievances between David and Adeline. He definitely wouldn't deprive David of the right to avenge his son.

As for our accounts, there was no rush. We would settle them with Celine slowly.

I heard the old man snort

et

disdainfully Do you really think I know nothing? Do you really think that if you drugged me with these pills, I would lie on the brink of death before Atlas returned, allowing you to manipulate me at will? You monster!"

David glared at Celine and continued, "Realization hit me hard after my son died. It's a pity that my awakening came at the cost of my son and daughter-in-law's lives."

He choked up, then he glanced around at the people in the hall. "Rory's wife, Lucille, showed me what was suspicious about the plane crash. That was when I realized something was amiss, so I

line

secretly sent some people to investigate the case."

I was surprised to hear what David said. My mother had told him about that?

That was unexpected. It seemed my mother hadn't been as impulsive and naive as I thought, but she had faced it alone. She must have felt very helpless at that time.

That thought made me suddenly tear up.

Atlas quickly noticed my changing emotions and embraced me.

I heard David continue, "But that evil woman told Clark to poison Lucille and silence her, which I deeply regret. An innocent life was lost in vain."

"That's nonsense!" Celine tried to argue.

"Then she hypocritically came to me,

claiming that she was uneasy since the two kids were at home, so she

voluntarily, offered to take care of et

them. had no choice but to agree to let her stay in the Pierce residence in order to uncover the truth because I was afraid of alerting the enemy. But what did you do?"

Chapter 1467 The Burnett Family's Head Bodyguard

Everyone looked at Celine with complicated expressions.

David continued, "Am i right? If I hadn't secretly told the Lively family to take Atlas away, you might have tried to harm him too."

That was when I understood why Atlas said the Lively family had taken him away.

In that moment, images flooded my mind, from the night my mother died to Atlas holding me as we curled up in the corner and him being pulled away while desperately holding my hand.

Tears welled up in my eyes.

"Later, I finally found out that you bribed Clark to lure Rory away before that flight, leaving my son's confidant behind to find out their business plans. You're despicable!" David pointed his cane accusingly at Celine.

Finally, some people in the hall began to understand and stepped forward to condemn Celine.

I scanned the crowd carefully and realized that these people had not been deceived and were not opportunists.

"Afterwards, you sent people to hunt Atlas down even though he was just a child. If the Cross family hadn't sent him to the Beringer family in Foswood for protection, he might have died long ago."

David was truly furious. "Atlas had so many accidents all these years because of you. Now you've finally come after me, haven't you?"

"What are you saying? Clark was Rory's accomplice. It has nothing to do with me. Stop trying to frame me. I have no idea what you're talking about!" Celine retorted, still trying to deny everything.

"Accomplice?"

Atlas, who had been silently watching, finally said coldly, "Celine, why would Rory's accomplice collude with you? And why did you hunt Clark down later?"

"Stop trying to slander me!" Celine roared.

Atlas glanced at Dylan, who raised his hand, and soon, someone was brought into the hall.

As the man entered, he glanced around the hall with fear. Finally, he fixed his gaze on Celine.

"Celine, you ruthless bitch! When you found out Clark knew your secret back then, you ordered me to kill him quietly. But that cunning man escaped. I was afraid you would blame me, so I reported that he was dead, thinking you would fulfill your promise and pay me."

Someone in the crowd exclaimed, "Isn't that the But family's head bodyguard?"

I looked at Johnny, noticing he had turned pale.

The man stared at Celine and shouted, "But you can't be trusted! When reported that he had died, you still sent people to hunt me down. If Mr. Atlas hadn't saved me, I would have died long ago."

el.n

"Bullshit! You're the But family's bodyguard, so what does that have to do with me? Atlas, how dare you try to accuse me like this? I bet you've been brainwashed by Rory and her father!" she roared and charged toward me.

Tristan didn't hold back. He kicked her far away, and she crashed to the ground.

I squinted and watched Celine struggle to get up from the ground. "Are you really still trying to argue right now? You really won't change your ways until you hit rock bottom, Celine."

Celine glared at me and angrily shouted, "Chloe, you bitch!"

Then she turned to Atlas and firmly declared, "Clark is Rory's accomplice. He wanted to monopolize Louis's business. You're a fool for believing their lies."

Suddenly, the But family's bodyguard seemed to have mustered up all his courage. He stepped forward, pointed at Celine, and shouted loudly.

Chapter 1468 Unexpected Disclosure

He accused Johnny in front of everyone. "That's right, I'm the head bodyguard of the But family, and everyone knows that. I'm in this situation today thanks to Johnny and Celine."

As soon as he spoke, Johnny panicked. His already pale face turned even paler, and his light gray eyes exuded coldness. He muttered, "Shut up! You're an ungrateful scoundrel, Antonio Knox. I searched for you everywhere when you disappeared years ago. How could you turn against me now?"

Antonio immediately sneered, "Do you even have a guilty conscience, Johnny? You knew exactly what you were doing. Were you looking for me, or were you trying to confirm if I was really dead?"

"Why, you!" Johnny tried to argue, but Antonio interrupted him.

"Celine and Johnny conspired to locate Clark, who was secretly hiding Rory. They tasked me with bringing Rory back secretly, even if he was dead. And they told me I could take extreme measures if necessary."

Celine lost her composure when she saw Antonio reveal everything about what happened back then.

"Who told you to say all this, Antonio? You've been bribed, haven't you? You really will say anything just for money." Celine pointed at Antonio, trying to divert everyone's attention.

"Are you still trying to deceive us, Celine? I do love money, otherwise, why would I have become an assassin at your and Johnny's instigation? If I didn't love money, how would I have ended up like this? My life has been ruined because of you and that beast Johnny."

He took a step forward as he finished speaking, and there was a 'clatter' under his foot, as if reminding everyone that he had become a prisoner.

"Are you still trying to deny

everything, Celine? Do you think you

can clear your name now?" Antonio questioned her continuously without giving her a chance to speak

Suddenly, I felt grateful for Atlas's decisiveness, which had caught Celine off guard and trapped her irreversibly.

I turned my head and looked at the handsome man beside me. He sat upright, holding my hand tightly and providing me with an unprecedented sense of security.

I didn't think he had gathered ample evidence capable of destroying Celine over the years.

"The moment you ordered my

assassination, I realized you were a

despicable villain." Antonio

el.n

continued, "You've long had ties with the Non-Organization, haven't you? Did you think I didn't know?

"Stop that crap!" Celine shouted in panic, her eyes scanning the hall frantically.

Atlas just smirked at this scene.

"You've been involved in several major crimes, including those related to the prominent families present here. Those sudden

incidents over the years, either,

deaths of the heads of househne

or the sudden shifts in power were albbecause of Celine's collaboration with the Non-Organization."

Suddenly, his words detonated like a bomb in the hall.

I saw Atlas calmly scrutinizing the now panicking Celine, like a cat playing with a trapped mouse.

Chapter 1469 Shocking Secret

Antonio continued, "Think about it. After those incidents, Celine intervened in your businesses. On the surface, she might have seemed like a savior, but in reality, she was a demon. She indirectly killed all of your loved ones."

Celine completely lost her mind at those words. She didn't care about her image anymore and quickly rushed toward Antonio, only to be kicked back by Tristan.

As Celine stumbled to the ground, Antonio looked at her with disdain and fiercely said, "Stop the act, Celine. We all know you're not innocent."

"You and the Non-Organization planned the plane crash involving Louis. You're the one who killed Louis, and you'll get what you deserve sooner or later. I've been waiting for this day."

The hall erupted into chaos. Everyone exchanged angry glances.

Those who seemed resentful had probably experienced unexpected incidents themselves.

Antonio grinned evilly. "Did you forget that you once told me to get rid of Clark because he knew too much? He knew you were the mistress of the Non-Organization leader and had a child with him."

"Guards, get this..."

Before she could finish her sentence, someone pointed a gun at the guard's head.

Antonio laughed and continued, "But in the end, I found out that Clark had sent Rory to Navi from Bermuda. I had to report back to you, and you ordered me to ensure that Clark died again."

"You promised me a hefty sum and relocation to Monora, but since Clark was cautious, I had to fake a car accident using someone who looked similar to him to deceive you."

"But after you heard that Clark was dead, you tried to kill me. Atlas saved me. In fact, you had bribed Clark since long ago."

His words caused a sensation.

"What bullshit are you making up? You're a schemer, Atlas. You orchestrated all this just to get the Pierce Corporation, didn't you? You bribed him to do this, didn't you?" Celine retaliated.

Atlas smiled faintly. Dylan played a recording.

It was the sound of Celine talking to Antonio on the phone.

Celine looked terrified, but Antonio looked delighted. "Luckily, I kept this to help me, I was afraid you would come after me someday, so I recorded all our conversations Are you still going to deny this, Celine?"

sw nowel

"You thought you could get away with this, didn't you?" Atlas's sinister gaze locked onto Celine. Then he looked at Dylan, who turned on the big screen TV in the hall, showing the video evidence.

The screen displayed a thin Clark, making everyone in the hall gasp.

I could see that some people were losing their composure.

Atlas looked at Celine. "After you heard about my successful rescue of Rory, you poisoned Grandpa by secretly drugging his food. Did you think your despicable tricks would succeed before me, Celine?

Everyone working at his place was under my control."

"You..." Celine's eyes narrowed suddenly, revealing a fierce unwillingness.

"Do you want to know how I learned you were from the Ellis family?" Atlas asked sarcastically.

Chapter 1470 He Can Only Assist

That revelation instantly caught everyone's attention, igniting a collective curiosity about how Atlas had learned this 'secret'.

To the gathered crowd, Atlas seemed almost supernatural, possessing an uncanny ability to uncover hidden truths. How did he seem to know everything?

With a subtle smirk, Atlas calmly began to unravel the mystery. "Although my grandpa had a DNA test done to confirm that you were his daughter, the blood used for that test belonged to my father."

Atlas disdainfully remarked, "How cunning! Adeline had already bribed the doctors and nurses long before your birth. Of course, she paid the hefty sum to cover up the true identity of her illegitimate child's father, Kevin, the head of the Ellis family.

"But fate works in mysterious ways. Kevin overlooked one crucial detail. Thanks to the 'secret' you created, one of the doctors and nurses had a love affair.

"You inadvertently provided me with the clue, Celine. A simple investigation revealed the doctor and the nurse's affair, which led to their falling out.

"Thus, I knew you were Kevin's illegitimate daughter a decade ago. Do you understand why I allowed you to stay in this mansion?"

Celine's clenched fists betrayed her unease.

"I wanted to fatten you all up like pigs ready for the slaughter. Since you relied on the Pierce family for sustenance, it was only natural for me to return to claim what rightfully belonged to us."

Atlas's words resonated with an undeniable authority, instilling a sense of fear in everyone present.

"Atlas, you're crazy!" Celine seethed and glared at him.

"Crazy? That's rich, coming from you."

Atlas's patience had worn thin. He scanned the faces in the hall with a furrowed brow. "That's enough chatter. Anyone who attended this banquet tonight is inexorably linked to Celine. There's no escaping that."

UMS

His words sent a shiver down everyone's spine.

"If any of you dare betray the Pierce family, you know where you stand. Those who belong to our team will naturally return, while the rest won't waste my time on you

Even though he delivered his statement calmly, it had an underlying threat that left everyone too afraid to say anything.

Kevin approached Atlas. "I was wrong, Mr. Atlas."

"Where did you go wrong?" Atlas's question cut through the silence in the air.

"I shouldn't have listened to Adeline and helped her seduce Mr. David. I..."

"That's between you and my

grandpa. He'll deal with this. As a

junior in the family, I can only assist him in doing so. The final say lies with my grandpa, not with me."

His words suggested a reluctance to meddle in the mess of the past, but the subtle implication of his 'assistance' was enough to scare everyone.

As the truth unfolded in the hall, some people retreated discreetly, intimidated by Atlas's unwavering resolve.

But Atlas wasn't done yet...