

Divorce 881

Chapter 881 Something Was Off

A solemn expression replaced the smile on his face, and he shook his head gently.

"Chloe, I'm sorry to disappoint you. I came because I was afraid you'd be anxious, and I wanted to update you on this matter. During my recent trip to Gerby, time was tight, and I found no trace of her. I had to start from scratch."

"I'm sorry for the trouble," I replied with a hint of disappointment.

"Don't say that. We were all classmates," Theo responded.

"I went to the four high schools in their city and finally found some information about her. I only learned the basics of her situation. After all, she's been away from school for too long. They also mentioned that there's been no news of Beatrice in recent years."

He shook his head and added, "But I can't shake the feeling that the situation is not optimistic."

Surprised, I asked, "Why do you say that?"

Theo straightened up. "I asked a hotel attendant about their address. The attendant said that those living in that area are mostly wealthy people from Gerby. It seems her family's conditions are good."

I nodded and said, "I knew that. She and I shared a dorm room, and we were very close. We talked about her family, and apparently they owned some kind of factory that was doing well. Otherwise, her conditions wouldn't have been so favorable. Beatrice is their only daughter."

Theo nodded. "I took a cab to the place. To my surprise, they live in a villa! Although the villa looks a bit old, judging by the well-maintained yard, the conditions are excellent." "That makes sense. Did you see her?" I inquired.

"See her? When I knocked and said I was looking for Beatrice, the person who opened the door rudely rejected me and said there was no such person."

As Theo shared this, he seemed a bit dissatisfied.

I was even more puzzled. "That's not right. Who opened the door?"

"It looked like some sort of maid. I intended to ask their neighbors, but the distance between the villas was quite large, and I had no choice but to leave.

"So I hurriedly returned to Foswood the next day, and in the end, I didn't see anyone. I didn't have enough time. If I had one or two more days, I could have learned some information!"

"Don't worry too much. I'm not in a

rush, either. As long as we find her, that's good. After all, I haven't seen her in so many years. I always think of how Beatrice always cared for me during those years. Among the girls, besides Ivanna, she's my only

friend."

I comforted Theo, "Take your time to contact her for me."

"I also want to meet her," Theo continued with a smile. "On the way back, I kept thinking of how bad that person's attitude was. If she's really a maid from Beatrice's family, it's way too impolite. She lacks basic manners. It just doesn't feel right."

"Could they have moved?" I speculated.

Theo decisively shook his head and said, "Impossible. When that person opened the door, I asked her, 'Is this the Chandler family?' She smiled and said, 'Yes!'" "That's strange."

"I don't know why, but the people in their house seem to have a reason for this attitude. You didn't see how that person's expression instantly changed. She slammed the door in my face!

"No matter what, Beatrice is the

heiress of that family. It seems like

there's some deep-seated grudge," Theo said. "My curiosity has been piqued. I'll definitely get to the bottom of this."

Chapter 882 Unserious Business

I did find it quite unusual.

"Well, I appreciate your efforts," I said apologetically.

"This time, it was a matter of time constraints. I was afraid you'd be anxious, thinking I was not getting things done. So, I had to come and see you first." Theo chuckled.

I smiled and quickly replied, "That's true. After all, we're old classmates, both here in Foswood. It's strange how we've grown so distant. How would I have found you guys if I hadn't run into Michelle?" "Hey, we've actually been keeping an eye on you recently! But..." Theo hesitated.

"That's normal. The situation between me and Matthew has caused quite a stir in the city," I awkwardly laughed.

Not wanting to dwell on the topic of Matthew, I changed the subject. "Beatrice's situation does seem a bit suspicious."

"At least we found her address. It's just a matter of time before we get some information. You can rest assured. I'll continue investigating the next time I go," Theo assured me.

Perhaps he sensed that I was deeply concerned about this matter.

"I'm determined to find out about her. After all, Beatrice is also our classmate. I thought about asking someone from my business partners to investigate, but I was afraid they would deceive me. So, I think I'll make another trip next time," I explained.

I hadn't paid much attention to Theo during our school days, but unexpectedly, he was reliable.

"Thank you so much, Theo." I quickly expressed my gratitude. "It was an impulse on my part. I miss her a lot, so when I saw Michelle that day, I asked her if she had any news about Beatrice."

Theo waved dismissively. "Don't bother asking her. She's not someone who does serious business."

It seemed Theo had a very unfavorable opinion of Michelle.

"In fact, no one paid any attention to her at that class reunion other than when she said she found you," Theo revealed.

I was a bit surprised.

To clarify, Theo quickly explained, "Michelle is even more outrageous than she was in college. She's only interested in personal gain and will do anything for it."

I nodded. "She was like that during school, too, and she hasn't changed."

"The things she did at the reunion were too embarrassing. All of us were embarrassed. That's also one of the reasons I came to see you today." Theo blushed a bit as he brought up this topic, looking at me with an awkward smile.

"Don't think too much. After so many

years without seeing you guys, it's

normal for me to pick up the tab. Honestly I'm very grateful that Michelle managed to contact everyone. Otherwise, it would have been too long since I last saw my classmates," I said.

"I know you're sincere, but what she did was quite shameful. After all, there were only a few of us guys. What kind of behavior is that? So when we discussed it, we thought that if you had time, we could get together separately and have a good chat.

"We'll pay for it this time. After so many years as classmates, if there's anything we can help each other with, we can form a group. We spent four years together. This kind of friendship runs deep. It's better than being blind in this unfamiliar city, don't you think?"

Chapter 883 A Support Group

"Chloe, I can tell you're sincere. Otherwise, why would we promise to treat you to a meal? You won't look down on us no matter what we eat, even if it's just pickles. That's the Chloe we know." Theo spoke with a hint of excitement.

"Of course not! Haven't you seen me during the early days of my startup? In today's market, it's all about networking. That's how you get things done. What's there to look down on?" I replied in a relaxed tone. Theo's sincerity had won me over.

"You're someone who speaks the truth and gets things done. That's precisely what we appreciate about you. In the hearts of our classmates, you've always been like a goddess."

I smiled contentedly. "Really?"

"Yes! It's a pity things turned out this way between you and Matthew. If only it had worked out differently," he said with a touch of regret. "Among our classmates, you two getting together, and this being the result... well!"

Theo seemed hesitant, as if afraid to touch on a sensitive topic.

"In fact, I used to keep in touch with Matthew. Back then, a few of us guys would often hang out together and share our thoughts. But later, when Matthew rose to success, he distanced himself from us.

"So, the chances of seeing you diminished, but we've always kept an eye on your situation. We didn't expect things to get so complicated between you two. Well, actually, that's not too bad. He doesn't deserve you."

"People have their own thoughts, you know? I didn't expect that we'd drift apart one day, but for now, I have to say I made the wrong choice. Right from the beginning," I sincerely expressed.

I knew what my classmates thought about me and Matthew. Many doubted us, thinking I was staying in Foswood just for him.

I knew I had hurt Ryan, who had been by my side during those times.

"I'm not trying to gossip, but that's what everyone says."

Theo spread his hands, looking at me as he continued, "Back then, when we learned about your situation, we were all furious. You might not know, but we even

yelmet

planned to look for you at that time. Everyone was united against him."

As Theo spoke, he chuckled to himself, looking at me. "Maybe I've said too much? Haha..." "No, that's what classmates should be like. I didn't expect that I had such a supportive group." It gave me a sense of warmth.

"Yeah, let's get together. I'm going to the capital tomorrow and might not return for two days. So, whenever you guys want to meet, just pick a time that works after I return." en.swhovels.net

"Okay, I won't keep you any longer. Chloe, don't worry about Beatrice's situation. I'll take care of it for you! If possible, when I see her, I'll let her know you miss her and want her to come see you," Theo assured me.

"I'd love to see her too, as long as we find her." I quickly expressed my thoughts.

"Great, then I'll take my leave. You must be busy. It's a bit presumptuous for me to see you so suddenly," Theo said, picking up his bag.

"Don't say that! Like you said, we're classmates. Why be so polite? In fact, the distance in the past was my fault. When I return from the capital, let's hang out."

Chapter 884 Thinking About Having Babies

"As long as it's not someone like Michelle," I said, laughing with a hint of distress. "You have no idea! She's been blocking me downstairs daily, and I have no clue what she's up to."

"Michelle does give off a vibe to avoid. You better keep your distance. Having her fixate on you can't lead to anything good."

With that, Theo stood up. "Chloe, I'll take my leave. Call me when you're back, and I'll arrange everything. Don't worry, they're all proper people."

"Are you really leaving?" I reluctantly stood up, feeling a bit unfulfilled.

Theo replied, "We'll have a proper chat when you're back. I won't waste your work time."

I escorted him to the elevator, and we agreed to meet again when he returned to the capital. It seemed that Theo was indeed a person who got things done, was straightforward, and had depth. After seeing Theo off, I called in Carol to ask about Michelle's visit in the morning.

Carol confirmed that she did come to visit the company. She stayed until everyone went for lunch, and only then did she leave.

I was certain she had another motive for seeking me out.

In the evening, returning to Pleca Park, Ava noticed my early return and rushed over. "Mommy, you came back so early! Did you take my advice?"

I almost burst out laughing. Take her advice? This kid was becoming quite clever.

Nevertheless, I nodded in agreement. "Yes! My daughter knows best. Of course, I should listen."

She became even more pleased with herself, glancing at Atlas. "Daddy, good job to you, too!"

Atlas put on a meek appearance. "Yes, I'll strive for your praise every day from now on."

She was instantly delighted, her eyes sparkling.

Looking up at Atlas, she asked, "Daddy, do you want to go see Grandpa's trees with us?"

Hearing her words, I realized it had been a long time since I last saw my dad.

Our schedules never seemed to align. By the time I woke up in the morning, he was already in the garden. When I returned home for dinner, he had already retired for the

night. We always missed each other.

I told Ava, "After I go upstairs to change clothes, we'll see Grandpa. Is that okay?"

Ava immediately agreed. "I'll follow you to change."

She asked Atlas, "Daddy, do you want to come with us?"

The sweet way she called him "Daddy" was so melodious.

"Sure!" Atlas readily agreed. "But I need to change clothes too, right?"

Ava, excitedly yelling for Jenny, ran to the kitchen. I saw her disappearing figure and said to Atlas, "It seems like she's grown taller again." "That's natural, and she's more lively now."

He was right. After the divorce from

Matthew, she used to be

absent-minded and gloomy.

Especially during the kidnappingnet

she was completely changed. We could only get her to sleep holding her.

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Ava would not be as healthy and active now if Atlas had not consoled her, brought her to Celestis Island, and brought Jenny in.

I held Atlas's hand and looked up at him sincerely. "It's all thanks to you."

"Both of you are my treasures." He squeezed my hand and smiled, leading me upstairs. "Come on, don't keep her waiting."

After changing our clothes, the two little ones had already run upstairs, shouting through the corridor.

This mansion would truly become lively if we added two more.

At that moment, my face involuntarily turned red. But having a child for him was a must. He loved children so much. I couldn't let him down.

Seeing me lost in thought, blushing, he hugged me from behind. "What are you thinking? Your face is all red."

I looked at him and said, "I'm thinking about having a baby! If we have two more, it'll be even more lively."

"Then I'll work hard for it." After

saying this, he kissed me, and I

quickly pushed him away. The\.

children's voices were so close now. He had to control himself,

Chapter 885 Is the Information Reliable?

The four of us walked downstairs together towards the backyard, which had a vast expanse of greenery.

The backyard had distinct layers, surrounded by numerous tall trees, creating a serene atmosphere with lush greenery. There was even a private shoreline at the back.

Despite living in Pleca Park for so long, I hadn't found the time to explore this area. On the left side of a gentle slope were rows of fruit trees, and below was a sizable vegetable garden. This backyard had been designed specifically for my father's tastes. Various types of flowers bloomed around the perimeter in each season, filling the air with their fragrances.

It wasn't until I reached the backyard that I realized many of the fresh flowers in the rooms were sourced from our own garden.

Ava and Jenny chattered incessantly as we walked toward the backyard, like two butterflies fluttering around us.

At that moment, I suddenly thought of my biological father. I wondered where he was right now and if he was safe.

If he were here in the garden, witnessing this peaceful and wonderful scene, it would be such a joyful moment for him.

He could be tending to flowers in the yard, watching the children run around, sipping tea, and chatting. That would give me peace of mind.

However, I had no idea where he was.

Seeing me suddenly lost in thought, Atlas put his arm around me and looked at my face. "What are you thinking?"

"I'm thinking about my dad," I said straightforwardly. "I don't know how he's doing right now. Is he well-fed and well-dressed? Is he healthy?" The more I thought about it, the heavier my heart became.

Atlas tightened his grip on his arm and softly said to me, "There's news. He's still in Navi's hands."

I was shocked and immediately asked him, "How do you know? Is the information reliable?"

"It is. This time, we contacted the leader of the Bermuda Alliance, General Xavier. It's all been arranged," Atlas said with certainty.

"When are we going?" I was getting impatient. I couldn't stand the idea of him still being in danger.

I was afraid of even the slightest mishap. Now that my mom was gone, I couldn't bear to lose him either. No matter his state, I just hoped he was alive.

Fearing my impatience, Atlas

explained gently, "Once we wrap up

Matthew's situation, we'll go over. It's perfect timing because General Xavier also wants to gather evidence against Navi. If he doesn't comply and hand over people, they wipe him out."

"Do you have confidence?" I asked, a bit trembling. Although I had yet to go to Bermuda, I had heard about its conditions.

"This guy has been trying to dominate all three areas and colluding with external alliances to seize business, causing public resentment. So, General Xavier wants to put an end to him," Atlas explained.

He had done a lot of work.

"Is this what you meant by waiting for the right opportunity?" I asked.

He nodded solemnly. "Yes, we must be fully confident before taking action. Otherwise, Uncle Rory will face additional danger."

"Is he currently in danger?" I inquired.

Atlas confidently replied, "No, Navi is

using him to contact the

non-organization, trying to increase his bargaining chips to resist the Bermuda Alliance and achieve his goal of dominating Bermuda. So, he dare not let him be harmed.

After a moment of contemplation, Atlas continued, "But one thing is certain. The non-organization won't let themselves be manipulated by Navi forever. Once Navi gains power, they know it won't be easy to control him, so I'm afraid they also want to find and silence him.

Hearing this, I was surprised. "So, he's still in danger."

"For now, we can only rely on General Xavier's influence. That's why we have to wait and not act recklessly." Atlas's words sounded a bit passive, and I felt uneasy. As I was about to ask more, he stopped me

in time.

Chapter 886 Hints Everywhere

I was just about to ask another question when Atlas's hand tightened, clearly signaling me to stop.

Then, I heard Ava say, "Grandpa, I brought my mommy and daddy to watch you planting trees. Grandma said to hurry and finish up so we can have dinner soon."

I quickly composed myself and looked over. I saw my dad wearing a straw hat with a towel around his neck. His face was covered in sweat, and his complexion had become considerably darker.

But he looked much healthier, considering he used to be a pale, scholarly man.

Now, he looked like a farmer toiling in the fields.

"Why are you so tan, Dad?" I pointed at my dad's face and laughed.

He was delighted to see me and Atlas. He pointed to the woods behind him with a sense of accomplishment and said, "Look at what we've done! There's no way we can avoid getting sunburned while doing all this, can we?"

Then he pointed to all the differently shaped plants in the distance. "Those are our creations. Not bad, right?"

Atlas looked over admiringly. "I saw them on the way here. They're very impressive, and the vegetables in the garden are growing very well too. You're becoming quite professional at this, sir."

My dad grinned happily at this recognition from Atlas. "Come on, I'll take you to the orchard. All kinds of fruits are in season right now. Ava has never picked any fruit before, so she can give it a try." "We've never picked fruit either, Dad. I have no idea what the orchard looks like."

When Atlas heard me say that, he quickly pulled me over and said to my dad, "Let's go, sir. You've made Chloe really eager to try plucking some fruit."

The two little girls were even more excited. They started screaming in excitement, their voices echoing far away.

The uneasy feeling in my heart instantly dissipated.

As my dad led us to the orchard, he told Atlas about their achievements.

Atlas said sincerely, "This all seems like a lot of work. How about hiring a few more gardeners to help out starting tomorrow?"

My dad quickly opposed his idea. "No, that won't do! Jay and I will just take it slow. If we finish it all at once, we won't have anything else to do. This work requires simultaneous execution and design research.

"Jay is an excellent companion. He's skilled and specializes in this kind of thing. We get along really well too. We work together smoothly." My dad spoke convincingly, showing that he was on the right track.

"So we really don't need any more

people here. This is our family's yard

anyway. If we hire too many people, we'll mess up the whole process. Just the two of us can handle it. Besides, those people in the orchard are doing well. They can join us whenever they're free. It's perfect."

Atlas gave in. "Well, take your time. Your health is important. Don't overwork yourselves. If you need any seedlings or flowers, just let Nigel know. We can bring them over."

My dad laughed excitedly. "Nigel

brings in more than enough precious flowers and plants. My eyes have really been opened. I've never seen so many different kinds of flowers, plants, and trees before. Our yard is filled with treasures now. Even the books say these are some rare plants!"

I felt truly content as I saw how enthusiastic my dad was.

"Do you still want to go back to our hometown?" I asked him.

He knew I was joking and smiled. "We'll definitely go back, but it has to be when we have time. I want to go back with your mom to look around."

I patiently reiterated to him, "Just

sell the house already, Dad. We're staying here for good. You've already gotten used to life here, and I can't go back there. My whole life and family are all here. Why would you want me to be distracted?"

I almost spilled the beans, but no matter how I explained, they always found reasons to evade me.

"The climate in our small town doesn't suit you, and look at the year you've spent here. Have you had any health issues? So why do you still want to keep that house?"

"I've told mom this too. If you don't want to part with your books, we can arrange for someone to pack them and send them here. This place is huge. We can set up your study and make a laboratory for you without any issues."

After saying that, I looked at my father. But in that instant, I suddenly noticed his expression stiffen.

Something felt strange to me.

Chapter 887 Lost in Ecstasy

When my father saw me looking at him, he quickly resumed his smile. "I should do it myself. I need to throw some things I don't need anymore away too."

As soon as I heard him say that, I knew he was thinking about it, so I quickly seized the opportunity to convince him to follow through. "We'll have some peace of mind after we deal with that. It'll be better to not have to think about what things are like there every year. Won't that just be asking for trouble?"

"But we should never forget our roots," he said.

"Dad. Aren't I part of your roots? You should be wherever I am too." I said confidently.

My dad smiled but didn't say anything. He was probably still thinking about how to handle this.

Atlas understood what I was thinking and said, "Chlo is right, Dad. You should just settle down here. I'll send someone with you to help pack your things and deal with the house one day."

"It's okay. Your mom and I can go back together when the time comes. It'll be easy to deal with the house. Some people in the area will probably be interested in it," he said vaguely, looking like he was still attached.

I quickly added, "Don't ask for too high a price. Take the offer as long as it's reasonable. Or sell it cheap if someone wants it."

He hesitated but eventually nodded reluctantly.

Atlas and I exchanged a smile. It seemed like this matter was now settled.

But I felt a little uneasy. It looked like my dad had a secret.

As our conversation ended, we heard Ava's sweet voice calling. "Grandpa, what's that?"

We all turned to look. Ava was pointing at a breadfruit tree heavy with fruit.

My dad smiled and said, "That's the breadfruit you eat every day."

Ava blinked her big eyes, staring at the fruit on the tree. "But the breadfruit I eat is yellow. Why is this one so dark, like a big winter melon? It's so ugly."

Jenny immediately countered, "No, that's wrong. Winter melons are smooth, but this one has bumps."

I laughed and turned to my dad. "Why is it so big though?"

"These saplings are some of the best varieties of breadfruit from many countries. Of course they're the best."

My dad led Ava and Jenny into the

orchard on a cement path that had been paved through the middle. "There are all kinds of fruits inside here. It's peak fruit harvesting season right now. Let's start by picking the smaller ones and gather

a Bunch to take home."

Ava and Jenny started running around the orchard once they got used to the new place.

The blueberries in the orchard were

large, round, and deep blue in color. I

picked one and put it in my mouth.

When Ava saw me doing that, her eyes widened and she pointed at me, shouting to Atlas, "Daddy, Mommy's eating blueberries without even washing them! That's so unhygienic."

Atlas had one too, and looked utterly delighted.

Ava was even more confused. "Uh, Daddy..."

I picked an even bigger blueberry and offered it to her. She blinked her big eyes, gazing at me for a moment. before opening her mouth to take it. Her face scrunched up in delight. en.swhovels.net

"Wow. It's so sweet!"

Then, she turned and ran to Jenny. "Come on, Jenny! You can eat the blueberries here. Mommy just gave me one, and they're so sweet."

She had discovered a new world, and was staring wide-eyed at Jenny, expressing her amazement.

Then she picked one and stuffed it into Jenny's mouth, asking, "Is it sweet?"

Jenny immediately nodded. "Yeah!"

The two of them quickly extended their little hands to pick and eat more blueberries while giggling. Before long, their little mouths were stained with blueberry juice.

Even Atlas's lips had a hint of blue. We indulged in blueberries, picked some mangoes, pomegranates, star fruits, lychees, and even peaches...

All the fruits were large and round, especially the lychees. I tasted one, and it was sweet and refreshing.

I had a sudden idea and quickly had the gardener pick a basket full of fruits.

Atlas was puzzled and asked, "What are you going to do with that?"

Chapter 888 The Shocking Project

I smiled and said, "I'm going to take them to Solaris tomorrow. I want to give them to Dominic. These are from our own garden, so they're different, you know."

"I feel terrible for that couple since they don't have any children. They said that if their child was still alive, he would've been around our age." I felt upset as I thought about Dominic's situation and muttered to myself, "I wonder how his wife is doing."

Atlas nodded. "You should definitely bring them some fruit. Take a basket for Archie too. I'll take you to the airport tomorrow."

Honestly, I was grateful that Atlas never stopped me from doing what I wanted.

Before we realized it, the day had gotten dark. If it weren't for the darkness, we might have continued to linger in the orchard.

Atlas gave the order. "Alright. Ava, Jenny, let's call it a day! If we don't go back, Grandma will come looking for us in the orchard."

My dad got someone to pick a few of the large breadfruits and had them delivered to the house.

As we left the orchard, we saw Nigel waiting at the orchard gate with his car.

Ava ran to the car, saying, "Nigel, you're so cool! How did you know I couldn't walk anymore?"

That made us all laugh. Nigel looked at her and said softly, "We thought you were lost in the woods. We were driving around looking for you."

Ava looked amused. "I didn't get lost! I just went to the orchard to pick some fruits. We're in our own backyard. How could I get lost? You're silly, Nigel. I can't walk anymore because I ate too much, though," she said while patting her little belly.

Everyone squeezed into the car and returned to the main building.

My mom was getting anxious. But when she saw the fruit, she realized we had gone to the orchard.

We were all exhausted that evening. Ava ate only a little for dinner and went to bed early.

I wanted to talk to Atlas about something, but after a short chat, I fell asleep.

The next day, Ryan and I landed safely in Solaris. The streets were filled with the golden leaves of fall.

Grayson came to pick us up. After a simple lunch, we headed straight to the company. When I entered the office, I was stunned. Even though I was the boss here, I couldn't help but marvel at how high-end

everything was.

I couldn't believe that all of this had been set up without my knowledge. It was completely beyond my expectations, and they had even gotten me a decent office.

In front of the French windows, overlooking the city of Solaris, was my desk. I couldn't have dreamed that I would one day have my own office in Solaris.

And all of this had been done for me by Atlas.

Grayson gathered several key executives to meet me. They saw me with Ryan and seemed a little skeptical when they learned that I was the real owner here.

I modestly said a few words and

went straight to the point, listening to their presentations about the projects was highly focused.

because everyone working her net

were elites in town. There was no room for me to slack off, and being low-key didn't mean being low in intelligence.

It was only at this moment that I learned about the project Ryan had been talking about. It was three times the scale of the project in Bourdamun.

It turned out to be a key project in

Solaris. The entire area had been acquired by a well-established

consortium, and they were

responsible for the development of

this place.

To my surprise, the consortium that owned this land was none other than ATL Empire.

I was astonished.

This perfectly matched what Atlas had discussed with me yesterday about the cooperation between Hartz Construction and Tanum. ATL Empire would be our biggest support.

I wondered how Atlas had managed this, how much capital his company really had, and how they had secured such a large piece of land in Solaris.

After getting an overview of the project, it was almost time to get off work.

I called Archie, because Atlas had repeatedly told me to stay with the Beringer family after arriving in Solaris.

Chapter 889 Against One's Will

To be honest, I would have contacted Archie on my own even if Atlas hadn't told me that.

I could tell he was thrilled while we were on the phone. He insisted that Ardie would come pick me up and we should have dinner together.

After hanging up, Grayson said, "I knew it would be like this, so I didn't bother making any dinner plans for you. Ryan and I have a meeting, so we won't be taking you out.

"Suit yourselves," I playfully retorted. "I'm at the mercy of everyone else. People with families are different."

Ryan immediately snorted and said, "Easy on the boasting, and be mindful of your influence on everyone else. We're working hard for you, but you're enjoying your life out there."

I quickly retorted, "Hold on, I'm not stopping you from having your own life or family time. I'm just setting an example, you know? Good work comes from a good family. Balancing work and family is the key to success. And you, it's time to think about marrying Joyce. Both your parents have met each other, so what are you waiting for?"

Grayson chuckled and looked at Ryan. "Seize this opportunity. Don't make Chloe worry about you."

"You too. Don't act like nothing's going on." I directed this at Grayson.

We rarely had time to chat like this. Soon, Ardie's call came in, and I said to Grayson, "Come downstairs with me and bring the fruit."

Grayson followed me downstairs and brought two large baskets of fruit to Ardie's car.

Ardie was delighted to see me. "I've been looking forward to your visit for a long time, and you're finally here."

"I've been eager to come too. Something unexpected happened twice, and I ended up postponing my trip for several months." I sighed.

"How's everything? Is it all going smoothly now?" Ardie inquired, and I knew he was talking about the company here.

I smiled. "Ardie, everything's going so smoothly that it feels like a dream. He took care of everything."

"That's how it should be. It's his duty to take care of everything as a husband," Ardie said earnestly.

"But I envy you two. You work together very well. He's been like this ever since he was a child. He's meticulous, rigorous, and never misses a single detail."

I looked at Ardie, realizing that he held Atlas in high regard. Maybe he knew Atlas well.

Throughout the journey, we talked

about Atlas. This was the first time I had ever spoken so much to Ardie. He seemed reserved on the surface, but after getting to know him better, I realized that both of the Beringer boys were very cheerful.

But Ardie was a little more mature than Arnold, in my mind, I often recalled what Arnold told me. During the incident with Melvern, if Ardie and Atlas hadn't been decisive things wouldn't have been so simple, considering the different status of the Beringer family.

They say traffic in Solaris is a nightmare, but we were lucky today. We made it back to the Beringer family's house with no problems.

Their place in Solaris was surprisingly simple, even more so than I had imagined. But it was neat and clean, exuding a special warmth.

Archie had been waiting for me at home. He once told me that he would stay in the office until late most of the time, then go home to sleep as his office was nearby. For him, this house was like a family inn.

To be honest, it pained me to see that there wasn't a woman to take care of him.

As I thought about that, Bella's

image flashed in my mind. When I

met Archie the first time, I felt that his feeling's for Bella were different. It was also clear that Bella had an extraordinary relationship with Grandma Rose.

Archie was happy to see me. "You're finally here, Chlo!"

"Hi, Dad. I've been wanting to come earlier, but something kept coming up, and I kept missing the chance. How have you been?" I walked over and sat beside him.

"Every day is the same for me. It feels like home when you're here." He smiled and asked, "How many days are you staying?"

"I have to leave tomorrow night."

"So soon?" He was surprised. "Why the rush?"

"I came to check on the company, discuss some project business, and visit an old gentleman." I answered truthfully.

"So there's no time for me in your schedule?" he asked with a hint of dissatisfaction.

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I smiled awkwardly, saying, "How could that be, Dad? I'm here to see you now, aren't I?"

Ardie, who was holding the basket of fruit, chimed in. "These are some fruit she bought for you from Foswood."

"We picked those from the orchard in Pleca Park last night." I quickly added, "Ava personally picked them for you." "Oh?" Archie looked delighted. "Get them to wash this for me, I'll try them. Is that mischievous little girl doing alright?"

"She's doing great. I'll bring her to see you next time." I said to Archie. They really liked Ava, especially because of her mischievous charm.

"You should come sooner. The winter weather in Solaris is terrible. This season is just right."

He then asked me, "How's the company doing over here?"

"Everything's going well. Atlas has entrusted it to some reliable people, so I don't need to come over so often. The operations here have been well-organized, and Atlas always tells me to keep a low profile," I said that to reassure him.

He nodded. "Hmm, that's good. Atlas is a careful one. Looks like I don't need to worry about that at all."

"I came here mainly to see Dominic. He helped me when my company ran into some difficulties last time. But his wife was seriously ill then. I caught up and helped take care of her for a few days. After that, I always wanted to visit again. I wanted to check on the project and visit that couple too."

"That's good, Chloe, that's the way to go. You should always repay kindness when you can," Archie praised.

"In fact, Dominic's a great person." I started telling Archie about Dominic.

"Dominic is a bit of a scholar. His child passed away in a construction accident when he was young. He wanted to stop anything like that from ever happening again, so he resigned from his position as a university professor and focused on quality control in construction materials. He's developed a complete set of inspection data standards. He's a very stubborn man, but I do feel sorry for that couple sometimes."

"I've heard about him. He's an excellent chemistry professor," Archie remarked.

"Yes, that's him. His inspection

methods are trustworthy and widely recognized in the industry." I continued, "I'm currently looking to turn Tanum Construction into a high-end brand like Pinnacle Group, so strict quality control is essential. I want to use our high quality to establish my brand in the construction industry. I'll need the recognition and appraisal of expert professionals for that."

"Good. You're certainly someone who gets things done." Archie, upon hearing my words, expressed his approval.

He turned to Ardie and instructed, "Tell Gina to get dinner ready now. After dinner, your brother can take you to see that couple." "There's no rush. I do want to talk with you for a while," I said quickly when I saw that he was so eager to arrange things for me.

"No, it's important for you to go see them. We can chat anytime. We're

family all. We can continue our

conversation after you return. I don't usually go to bed early anyway." en.swhovels.net

After saying that, he asked Gina to prepare dinner.

It was clear that he was a decisive man.

The meal turned out to be a true family feast, with simple and not extravagant dishes.

But Archie said to me, "I asked for two more dishes since you were here. We're family, so there was no need to be extra."

I laughed, "Of course. I'll eat

something? No way. It's just that I didn't expect to have a home to

you think I'm picky or

come back to in Solaris."

He seemed pleased with my words, laughing heartily. "You really are my daughter."

To be honest, the meal was very comforting. It really felt like coming home.