

Hitched 1041

Chapter 1041

The bodyguards had Larry pinned down, and he was howling with rage.

"Let go of me! What are you doing grabbing me? Go after that witch! I'm with Helen! She's the enemy!"

Larry was under the mistaken belief that these were the Hawkins family's bodyguards, all on his side.

But in reality, these were Tarquin's men, placed there specifically to protect Elysia!

Of course, they weren't about to listen to Larry. Seeing him try to wriggle out of it, they snapped his wrist with a crisp crack!

"Ah-"

Larry screamed, the pain making him twitch uncontrollably!

"Are you... are you planning to betray Helen for some nobody from out of town? Foolish to the extreme! You... oh..."

Before Larry could finish, he caught a few heavy punches to the face, leaving him bloody and battered.

His glasses were crushed under a bodyguard's boot, and he lay curled up on the ground, in total disarray! Elysia glared at him with fury,

"What goes around comes around. You'll get what's coming to you for the dirty deeds you've done!"

Larry glowered back, teeth clenched in rage, "You... you'll regret this! You're marked!"

Evan stepped in with a kick, "You're the one who's marked, scumbag, daring to badmouth my mom! Take that! And that!"

The little guy delivered a few more kicks!

With Elysia watching, Evan tried not to go overboard, merely giving Larry a taste of his own medicine.

To any onlooker, it seemed like a child throwing a tantrum, his kicks seemingly harmless.

But in reality, Evan's kicks were far more lethal than those of an average adult!

Larry's ribs were shattered by the force, the pain so intense he couldn't even cry out!

Elysia was furious, never before wishing such ill on someone!

He dared to say that abusing her mother was a stress reliever!

Such a lowlife, lower than swine!

"Don't worry, Mommy. Those who hurt Grandma and Grandpa will not get away with it," Evan assured.

Larry caught Evan's reference to "Grandma and Grandpa," but he was in too much pain to ponder the implications.

All he knew was that his bones were broken, and his flesh ached terribly, feeling close to death.

Elysia instructed the bodyguards,

"Don't kill him. Murder carries a hefty price, and it's not worth it for scum like him!

Plus, we shouldn't let him off the hook that easily. He thinks it's relieving to torment others, let's give him a taste of his own medicine!" Evan thought to himself, this I can do!

I'm an expert at dealing with trash like him. I've got plenty of ideas!

But with Elysia nearby, he held his tongue, planning to deal with Larry alone later.

Evan took Elysia's hand and said,

"Mommy, let Dad's men handle this. Let's head back to the main house, wait for Grandpa, and keep Grandma company."

"Alright." Elysia nodded, shooting Larry one last venomous look before leaving with Evan.

She wasn't worried about complications.

The bodyguards Tarquin had placed around her and the kids were top-notch. Helen's minions were no match for them.

The commotion quickly alerted the entire Hawkins family.

Helen's minions, thinking there was strength in numbers, charged over to save Larry!

But in a matter of minutes, they went from standing to lying on the ground!

They writhed in pain, clutching their stomachs, unsure of what hurt!

Seeing his opportunity, Larry shouted to a servant amidst the chaos,

"Contact the Murphy family, quick! Tell them Helen and I are in trouble, and we need backup!"

Plans always seem to lag behind changes!

They had intended to confront Clayton when he was down on his luck, but Elysia had thrown a wrench into their plans!

Now, with Helen still in police custody and their cover blown.

And with Clayton still calling the shots in the Hawkins family, they needed external support to survive!

The Murphy family, another powerhouse in Oceanopolis, had significant influence.

Under normal circumstances, the Murphy family couldn't hold a candle to Clayton's status.

Chapter 1042

Nowadays, Bobby's influence in Oceanopolis could easily outshine Clayton by miles!

So, as long as the Murphy family stepped in, even if Clayton knew they were mistreating Pamela, he wouldn't dare touch them!

And Bobby wasn't worried about the Murphy family not showing up, because he had something on them!

Soon enough, the Murphy family arrived with their entourage.

The Hawkins family's gatekeeper, one of Helen's loyal people, spotted Bobby and immediately greeted him with a big smile, swinging the gates wide open for the Murphy family to enter.

As the Murphy family made their way to the main building, they intended to enter but were stopped by bodyguards stationed outside.

"Sorry, Mr. Murphy, my boss has ordered that without his permission, no one is allowed to set foot inside the main building."

This was Clayton's man speaking.

After the incident, Clayton had immediately contacted his trusted bodyguards to ensure the safety of Elysia and her child, as well as Pamela.

Standing arrogantly in front of the main building, Helen's father, leaning on his cane, demanded,

"Where's Clayton? Tell him to come out and face me!"

"My boss isn't home. If Mr. Murphy has business with him, he can contact him directly."

"...Then bring Larry out to me!"

"My boss said, until he returns, no one is allowed to see Larry."

Bobby was instantly furious. "What does he mean by this? Is he trying to keep Larry under house arrest?"

Clayton's man didn't bother explaining, maintaining a formal attitude, "If Mr. Murphy has any complaints, he's welcome to discuss them with our boss." Bobby's voice turned icy, "I'm taking Larry with me!"

"Sorry, without the boss's orders, we can't let you take him."

"And what if I insist on taking him?"

"Then we have no choice but to offend!"

Bobby snorted in disdain, mocking,

"You're still loyal to him now, but do you have any idea what's going to happen in three days? When Clayton's reputation is in ruins, following him will lead you nowhere but dead ends!

If you comply today and let me take Larry, my family, the Murphys, will take you in, guaranteeing you a life of luxury under our protection!"

Bobby's words hung in the air, met with silence.

Clayton's men remained unmoved, not even acknowledging his offer.

Frustrated and angry at the lack of respect, Bobby vented,

"Ungrateful! If you won't let me take Larry, wait until Clayton is begging on his knees for me to take him!"

Bobby didn't leave but sat on the bench outside the main building, waiting for Clayton.

Elysia and the three little ones watched everything from the second floor.

Evan grumbled,

"Is that mean old man Larry and Helen's backup? He doesn't even respect Grandpa, shouting orders in his own house! Looking at him, he doesn't seem in good shape; can he even take a hit?"

Elliot frowned,

"The oldest one there is Helen's father, and that big guy next to him is Helen's brother. Larry is just dating his daughter."

Emmett mumbled,

"They all look so fierce and ugly, no sign of good fortune! But, I thought Grandpa didn't have any loyal people around him. Turns out, there are those who are truly devoted to him."

Evan nodded in agreement, "We should tell Grandpa to value these few."

As the children exchanged thoughts, Elysia remained silent.

Her brows furrowed as she stared at Bobby, thinking he dared to make her father kneel and beg him to take Larry away?

Such a bold thought!

Today, except for the officers dedicated to serving the people, no one else is taking Larry away!

"By the way, bring Evan and his mother over here, I have questions for them!" Bobby suddenly demanded.

The mother and children were surprised. The Murphy family wanted to question them?

About what?

The next second, Clayton's voice, hoarse and displeased, filled the air,

"What do you want to ask?!"

Elysia and the little ones quickly looked toward the voice, spotting a haggard Clayton.

He was breathing heavily, clearly having rushed back!

And his eyes were red and swollen, obviously from crying.

He had just found out today that Pamela had been mistreated for over twenty years. After the shock, he must have been overwhelmed with sorrow and guilt!

Chapter 1043

Bobby's eye corner flashed with a sneer, "The Murphy family's reputation and financial losses have been tarnished by that wild kid, Evan. Shouldn't his family owe us, the Murphys, an explanation?"

Clayton glared back, retorting, "Helen hiring someone to kill and frame Evan on Pamela, don't the Murphys owe the Thornes and the Hawkins an explanation?!"

Bobby scoffed, "That was Helen's maid's doing. What's that got to do with the Murphys? Don't pin this on the Murphy family without basis!"

Standing up, Bobby continued, "Since you're back, let's lay it all out. I came here today to take a few people with me - Larry, Evan, and his mother, Elysia. Hand them over, and I'll leave with my people, or else..."

Clayton's brows furrowed, sensing the threat in Bobby's eyes, "Look, Clayton, you're my junior, practically watched you grow up. Take my advice - only the wise know when to submit.

You know your situation. Whether it's within the Hawkins family or the business circles outside, you're no longer recognized!

Even though the Hawkins family's shareholders' meeting hasn't been called, the skies over Oceanopolis have changed!

There's no place for you in Oceanopolis anymore, Clayton. You're no longer the leading figure here; you've become everyone's punching bag!" Elysia clenched her fists, her anger palpable.

Evan fumed, "He's the real stray dog! How dare this nasty old man say that about my grandpa!"

Emmett also expressed his anger, calling out, "Old villain! Bad guy!"

Elliot's brows knitted tightly, his eyes shining with a terrifying light.

The Murphys didn't know they had crossed a major figure, who was now choosing the right moment for retribution.

The moment would come, and the Murphys would be finished.

Helen's older brother excitedly said, "Honestly, my dad calling you a stray dog is already giving you too much credit. You're more like vermin in the gutter, making everyone sick just by looking at you!"

It's such a pity Pamela went crazy. If she hadn't, she'd be regretting it by now!

What good did marrying you do for her? Her daughter's gone, she's lost her mind, doesn't even know she's being mistreated!

If she had chosen me back then, she'd be the legitimate Mrs. Murphy by now! The status, the identity, would have been glorious! But she chose you, huh, what a lack of fortune!"

Back in the day, Pamela was the belle of Oceanopolis - born into a good family, beautiful, with a great temperament!

Many men pursued her, among them, Roger Murphy.

Roger was lecherous in his youth, boasting about making Pamela bear his children.

But he never caught her eye!

The more unattainable she was, the more obsessed he became. If not for the formidable Patel family, and her three fiercely protective brothers, he would have forced his way long ago!

When Pamela married Clayton, his rival, Roger's resentment only deepened.

He hated Pamela for her poor choice, hated Clayton for always being one step ahead.

So, at this moment, he was more thrilled than anyone to see Clayton's downfall.

Suddenly, an idea struck Roger. He sidled up to Clayton and whispered, "Let's make a deal. I've always wanted Pamela, and even though she's lost her mind, I don't mind. Let her spend a night with me, and I'll... Ah!"

Before Roger could finish, he was met with a fierce punch!

Clayton grabbed his collar, not giving him a moment to react, and landed several blows.

Roger, with his bulky frame and clumsiness, didn't even have a chance to fight back.

Had it not been for the timely intervention of the bodyguards from both families, Clayton might have killed him on the spot.

"If you dare think about Pamela again, I'll make sure to kill you before I die!"

Roger, with a bruised and swollen face, protested, "You... you... Dad... he hit me!"

"Just shut up!" Bobby coughed in frustration.

Chapter 1044

Nobody could say it louder or clearer, not even his own dad could hide the disappointment he felt towards his son!

All day long, he was up to no good, a real layabout, getting mixed up in every vice under the sun - drinking, gambling, smoking, you name it!

He was about the same age as Clayton, yet he couldn't hold a candle to him. A real deadbeat, a blockhead!

He couldn't even match Helen in smarts or emotional intelligence!

If he wasn't the firstborn, his father would have washed his hands of him a long time ago!

Just as Bobby was about to say something, Roger suddenly went 'thud', kneeling down right in front of Clayton!

It looked as though he was bowing his head in submission.

Bobby: "What?!"

Clayton: "What?!"

"What are you doing?!" Bobby was embarrassed, angrily tapping his cane on the ground.

Roger, just as puzzled, quickly stood up.

But as soon as he did, down he went again with a 'thump', this time actually bowing his head to Clayton!

Clayton frowned, suspicious, not sure what was going on.

Bobby was livid, picking up his cane and starting to smack him with it,

"In this world, you kneel to the heavens, the earth, and your parents. What's this kneeling to Clayton about? Have you no shame? Get up!" "It's not like I want to kneel, I just..." Roger tried to explain.

"Get up!"

But as soon as Bobby finished speaking, his knees buckled, and he too went down with a 'thump'!

Clayton was taken aback, instinctively stepping aside.

Although Bobby was no saint, he was a generation older. It's said that if a younger kneels to an elder, it could shorten the elder's life. Roger's eyes widened in shock at Bobby, "Dad, you're kneeling too?!"

Bobby looked around, his face turning dark.

His knee had just given out, making him kneel without realizing it!

But looking around, he saw nothing out of the ordinary.

"Son, we must've run into some bad mojo! We need to get out of here with Larry, this Hawkins family place is bad luck."

"Shut up and help me up!" Bobby demanded.

Roger hurried to assist Bobby to his feet.

Evan was upstairs, lips pursed in amusement, fiddling with a marble.

Elliot and Emmett knew he was behind it, giving him a covert thumbs-up with his gaze.

Well done!

With a scowl, Bobby dusted off his knees, steadying himself, then said to Clayton,

"Cut to the chase, I'm taking these three with me, do you agree or not?"

"No way!" Clayton didn't even have to think before answering.

Roger interrupted, "I'm warning you, Clayton, Larry is practically my son-in-law! You know the saying, a son-in-law is half a son, if you block me from taking him, this isn't over!"

"Practically a son-in-law?"

"Yeah, Larry has been secretly dating my daughter behind your back! How angry does that make you, huh? Your own flesh and blood, and he'll be calling me dad soon! Ha!"

Angry? Please.

He was angry, but not because Larry would call Roger dad. He was livid that he'd raised a thankless wretch!

If he had known this would happen, he should have left him to fend for himself as a child!

"When I've settled the score for Pamela, I'll personally see to it that he's delivered to you! Your family, the Murphys, had better stick with him. You're tied to him for life now, better never to part ways!"

"We certainly won't part ways. Larry's been nothing but respectful to me, his future father-in-law. I'm quite pleased! It's a pity your daughter's gone. You won't have the joy of choosing a son-in-law, missing out on the happiness of being a father-in-law in this lifetime."

Roger sighed wistfully,

"When our Lynne and your Irene were born on the same day in the same hospital, I thought to myself, when the time comes to choose a son-in-law, I'd search high and low!

My son-in-law would have to be a thousand times better than Clayton's!

Such a pity, your daughter's gone, and you can't bring a son-in-law into the picture. We can't compare now, alas, no chance to show you up!"

Clayton's brow furrowed. His daughter Irene had always had strong principles. If she were still alive, she'd definitely choose a worthy man, not a traitor like Larry!

But he was powerless to argue.

With no daughter, how could he talk of a son-in-law?

Chapter 1045

Roger's eyes suddenly widened as he had an epiphany.

"Goodness, Clayton! You're protecting the Thorne family, mother and son alike. Don't tell me it's because that woman looks a bit like Irene, and you've started seeing her as your own daughter?!"

Roger burst into laughter, "Give it up, man! If she were your daughter, I'd be calling you grandpa! I'd take the Hawkins name!"

Clayton gritted his teeth, "The Hawkins family doesn't need a grandson like you!"

"Hmph! Just so you know, your daughter's long gone. Stop holding onto any fantasies!"

"I didn't ask for your opinion on my daughter!"

Clayton, refusing to discuss his daughter any further, shifted the topic.

"Larry, now there's a rare find. You better announce him as your son-in-law to the world, Roger, before someone else snatches him away!"

"I'll make the announcement today. Let everyone know that the child Clayton raised now calls me 'dad'!"

Bobby, irked, tapped his cane. "Will you just shut it!"

Bobby had never been fond of Larry.

Despite Larry's good looks, high education, and sharp wit, which allowed him to comfortably navigate around Clayton, he was still an orphan. He had no powerful family background, no significant social status, no wealth, and no power - hardly a match for his granddaughter!

His initial approval of their relationship was solely for Clayton's sake.

He had heard about the inheritance Clayton left for Larry, and given Clayton's affection for Larry, it was bound to be substantial.

But with things having soured to this extent, with Clayton detesting Larry, there was no chance of any more favors.

Without Clayton, Larry was nothing but an unwanted stray dog!

Only a fool like Roger would take an interest in him!

Announcing Larry as the prospective son-in-law of the Murphy family now would make them the laughingstock of the entire elite circle!

He would never allow his granddaughter to be with Larry!

This rescue mission was only because the Murphy family had some leverage over Larry.

Moreover, Bobby had been overshadowed by Clayton's father for years, and later by Clayton himself. He couldn't outdo the old nor the young.

Now that Clayton was down on his luck, it was the Murphy family's turn to have a moment of triumph. Of course, he wanted to make a show of force! Bobby eyed Clayton, his narrowed gaze filled with malice,

"Clayton, I must take these three people with me today. If you oppose, don't blame me..."

"Oppose! And what exactly does the Murphy family plan to do?!"

A rich, cold voice suddenly interrupted.

Everyone turned towards the sound, and the family upstairs craned their necks to see.

A group of people approached, led by three tall, well-built men with striking features.

The three shared a striking resemblance to each other, and upon closer inspection, one could see shades of Pamela in their features.

Evan, curious, said, "These three men look so much like grandma. Are they great-uncles?"

Elliot, somewhat excited, asked, "Are they from the Patel family?"

The Patel family was shrouded in mystery, elusive even to him and Elijah.

Emmett, in a babyish voice, asked, "Did the great-uncles come to protect grandma and grandpa because they knew they were in danger?" Elysia's heart rate picked up. Were these... their uncles?

Downstairs, upon seeing them, Clayton quickly greeted, "Big brother, second brother, third brother."

The three nodded, positioning themselves beside Clayton, ready to stand against the Murphy family.

"Where's Pamela?" Joshua Patel, the eldest brother, asked.

Clayton's face was filled with guilt. Pamela had suffered for years, and as her husband, he bore an undeniable responsibility.

Chapter 1046

The Patel family had entrusted Pamela to him, but he had failed her miserably. It was his fault!

"She's upstairs, fast asleep now. Ms. Thorne and her kids have been looking after her. I...I'm so sorry for what happened to Pamela, I let down the Patel family..."

The Patel brothers, Joshua, Robert, and Charles, furrowed their brows in unison. "We'll deal with our family matters behind closed doors later," they declared.

Then, turning their gaze toward the members of the Murphy family, their eyes sharpened with an unmistakable intensity!

Upstairs, the excitement was palpable. Evan clenched his fists in excitement, "That's my granduncle!"

Emmett was jumping around, "Granduncle is so formidable, coming to stand up for grandma!"

Elliot's eyes sparkled with anticipation. The Patel family had arrived!

Elysia was so moved her eyes were rimmed with red. These were her uncles, her family!

While some were overjoyed, others were filled with dread. The moment the Murphy family laid eyes on the Patels, their faces turned sour.

The Patel brothers were triplets, each with their own distinct paths - Joshua in politics, Robert in the military, and Charles in business. Together, they were a force to be reckoned with.

The arrival of the second child, Pamela, brought immense joy to the family. As the only daughter, she quickly became the darling of the household. However, disaster struck when Roger Murphy, in a vile attempt to win her affection, nearly tarnished Pamela's honor.

In a fury, Russell and Sandra Patel publicly declared that their family would sever all ties with the Murphys, a feud that would last for generations. In retaliation, the Patel brothers gave Roger a beating he wouldn't forget, leaving him bedridden for a month. They even went as far as to vandalize the Murphy family's estate. If it weren't for the lack of evidence, Roger would have found himself behind bars.

The scandal rocked Oceanopolis, turning the Murphy family into the town's laughingstock. Given the Patels' mysterious and influential background, and the clear fault on Roger's part, the Murphys dared not retaliate.

For years, as the Patel brothers pursued their careers away from Oceanopolis, tensions between the two families simmered down.

Rumors about the Patels abounded. Some said the brothers worked in top-secret government roles, attributing to their enigmatic presence. Others believed they each dominated their fields, becoming leaders in their respective careers.

Meanwhile, Russell and Sandra remained in Oceanopolis, their health deteriorating over the years due to the distress caused by their daughter's ordeal.

They had refused to move away, wishing to stay close to Pamela, despite the brothers' wishes to have them nearby.

Helen Murphy saw an opportunity in their absence. With Pamela's protectors away, she acted maliciously towards the girl, thinking her actions would go unnoticed.

The family believed Pamela was safe with Clayton, who loved her dearly, and his trusted friends. Never did they imagine she would suffer such cruelty.

Now, with the truth unveiled, the revelation shocked and pained everyone involved.

Chapter 1047

Clayton was boiling with anger and guilt, and the Patel brothers were right there with him.

At this moment, looking at the Murphy clan, their pain turned into pure rage, wishing they could tear apart those scumbags from the Murphy family!

If it weren't for the Murphy's backing, Helen wouldn't have had the leverage to win over everyone in the Hawkins' backyard!

Helen was the mastermind, Larry and his goons were the enforcers, and the Murphy family were the accomplices!

"Larry's abuse of my sister is a fact, and not even your revered Murphy ancestors could save him now!" the Patel family declared, their stance firm and imposing.

Roger, upon glimpsing the Patel brothers, shriveled with fear, still haunted by a beating from years past.

He dared not speak, cowering behind Bobby.

Bobby, with brows furrowed, sensed the towering rage in the Patel brothers' eyes and threatened, "I might not know exactly what you Patels are up to, but I know each of you is a wizard with the web, definitely involved in cybersecurity!

Dare to mess with the Murphy family, and I'll have it out that you've been illicitly accessing Murphy family secrets, destroying the Patels' reputation!" Elliot wondered, his uncles were cybersecurity experts?!

No wonder the Patel family was shrouded in mystery!

No wonder he and Elijah couldn't dig up anything!

If the Patels' operations were indeed tied to cybersecurity, their reputation was crucial!

It's like a high-tech firm, once accused of leaking client data, would be doomed!

Who would trust their products after that?!

The Patel brothers coldly retorted, "Say what you will, even if it costs us the entire Patel family, we will not let those who harmed our sister off the hook!"

"The harm they've done to her, we must repay twofold!"

"Including you Murphys, for aiding and abetting evil, you deserve to perish!"

Bobby scowled, "You're looking to take us both down?!"

"We're prepared to go down together if need be!"

The Patel brothers were resolute.

Their return to Oceanopolis was because of the impending Hawkins family shareholder meeting.

They feared for Clayton and his sister's safety post-meeting, suspecting potential assassination attempts, which is why they rushed back to Oceanopolis.

They knew Clayton, always upright, had blocked too many people's paths to wealth, making him many enemies.

Once Clayton fell, no one would risk their neck for him.

Without the Patel's intervention, he wouldn't stand a chance.

His danger meant danger for his sister, necessitating action from the Patels.

But to protect their own, they had to be ready to face numerous foes, ready for sacrifice!

Their resolve was set, and hearing about their sister's long-term abuse only fueled their murderous intent today.

Bobby's expression darkened further, "This is absurd, even if Larry and Helen did bully your sister, it was just that-bullying. They didn't kill her. Over such a trivial matter, you want to disrupt the peace between the Murphy and Patel families?!"

"You call this bullying?!" Robert hissed through clenched teeth, barely containing his rage.

Joshua held him back, glaring at Bobby, "Since Mr. Murphy deems it mere bullying, you needn't worry. It's just kids playing house, after all. We'll have a word with Larry and then hand him over to you!"

Bobby's face turned stormy, "You're stirring trouble. Why not go back and consult your revered Patel ancestors, see if they approve of your actions!" "The Patel family creed puts country first, family second, everything else is secondary! For our nation and kin, shedding blood and breaking bones is worth it! If our ancestors were here, they'd have already chopped Larry to pieces!"

Bobby, with a menacing glare, pressed the Patel brothers, "So, you're adamant about standing with Clayton, not letting us take anyone?" "Yes!"

The air was charged with tension.

The Murphy family was hell-bent on taking Larry away, while the Patel brothers and Clayton were determined to hold their ground.

Elysia, standing upstairs, was consumed with fear and anger.

Furious that Bobby had the audacity to trivialize decades of cruel abuse as mere child's play!

Chapter 1048

Fear gripped her heart...

She had no clue what business the Patel family was in, but from what she gathered, if the Patel family got involved against their will, it could spell trouble for them.

Why should the innocents suffer for the sins of scum like Helen and Larry?

It was utterly unfair!

Better to keep the Patel family out of it if it meant protecting them.

"I'll go check on grandma; you guys stay here," Elysia hurried downstairs.

Evan quickly followed, "I'm coming with you, Mom."

Seeing them leave, Elliot quickly turned to Emmett and said, "Emmett, grandma needs someone by her side. Stay with her. I'll go check things out downstairs."

"Protect grandpa and our uncles!"

"Got it!"

Elliot rushed downstairs after them.

Downstairs, the Patel family was taken aback at the sight of Elysia and her sons, Evan and Elliot!

Elysia had makeup on, but her distinctive eyes and brows were unmistakably similar to Pamela's.

It wasn't just the looks; it was the vibe!

Charles was staring at Evan and Elliot as if he had known them for years!

"Ms. Thorne, what brings you downstairs? Did Pamela wake up?" asked Clayton, concerned.

"No, she's still sleeping. Don't worry," Elysia replied, turning to the Patel brothers. She couldn't bring herself to acknowledge their relationship outright, so she pressed down her excitement and said, "Larry's abuse of Mrs. Hawkins is a fact. I have recordings of him and evidence. By our laws, they're enough to get him convicted!"

You don't need to argue with them; let the law handle it. No matter how powerful the Murphy family might be, they can't beat the law!" Joshua looked at her, his demeanor gentle, "So, you're the one from out of town who discovered my sister's long-term abuse, Elysia?" "Yes, that's me. These are my two sons, Elliot and Evan. Emmett is upstairs with Mrs. Hawkins."

Elliot and Evan promptly greeted them, "Hello."

Joshua and Robert nodded in response, while Charles, after a long stare, surprisingly commented, "What a twist of fate!"

Fate?

Before Elliot could inquire further, Roger, with a menacing tone, said, "I was just looking for you! Wretch, your devil spawn has brought disaster upon the Murphy family. As his guardian, you must give us an explanation!"

Clayton and the Patel brothers instinctively stepped forward, shielding Elysia and her sons behind them.

Elysia was completely hidden from view by Elliot and Evan, and then by Clayton and the Patel brothers, unable to even see the faces of the Murphy family.

Bobby, with a dark expression, barked, "You're meddling in Larry's business, and now this woman's too?! Have you Patel brothers lost your minds as well?"

Roger added, smirking, "Clayton is so desperate for a daughter, he sees her as one. Do you brothers see her as a niece too? Has the Patel family gone mad?!"

The Patel brothers, brows furrowed, retorted, "She's a witness to our sister's abuse by scum like Larry; of course, we'll protect her! As for your Murphy family's issues, we'll deal with that later!"

Bobby, visibly agitated, warned, "I'm telling you, if you insist on interfering, don't blame me for not holding back!"

At his signal, dozens of tough-looking henchmen glared menacingly at the Patel brothers and Clayton.

These men were all burly, their eyes filled with malice!

Roger gloated, "We have even more people outside! We could take you down in minutes! Elysia, get your sons and come here now!"

Evan clenched his fists, furious, wishing he could punch Roger right there and then!

White, coiled around Evan's wrist, bared its fangs, equally enraged, longing to let Roger taste its venom!

"If you refuse the toast, you'll drink the bitter cup. Go, grab that woman and her kid for me!"

Just as the Murphy family's thugs were about to make their move, a man's voice echoed from afar,

"Touch them and see what happens."

His tone was calm yet carried an undeniable threat that demanded respect.

Chapter 1049

The crowd turned towards the source of the commotion and saw a man who exuded an aura of undeniable power and sophistication. Dressed in an impeccably tailored dark suit, tie neatly in place and a lapel pin adding just the right touch of elegance, he was the epitome of high society. His wristwatch glinted under the light, and his hair was groomed to perfection. It was clear from his demeanor that he was no ordinary man.

Trailing behind him was another man, his features pleasant and his presence soothing, carrying an assortment of gifts. It seemed they were here on a visit, a master and his aide, perhaps.

The Patel brothers were the first to recognize him, their surprise evident. "Isn't that Tarquin, the wealthiest man in Jindale City?"

Clayton was taken aback. "Mr. Bradford? What's he doing here?"

The Murphys too were wide-eyed, their surprise mingled with suspicion.

Roger voiced his disbelief, "Dad, is that... is that the famous Tarquin, the nation's top tycoon? Why would he come to the Hawkins residence? What could possibly link the Hawkins to him?"

Bobby was skeptical, "Impossible! If Clayton had any ties to him, we'd have known by now!"

"The timing of his visit is curious, though. Could he be Clayton's secret ally?"

"That's even less likely! The Hawkins Sea-freight is known worldwide, sure, but they have no dealings with the Bradfords up north. They don't mix business with pleasure, so to speak. It's not like Clayton has the charm to woo anyone he pleases!"

"And yet, Mr. Bradford arrives bearing gifts, as if on a social call..."

"Those gifts might not even be for the Hawkins!"

Bobby was adamant, refusing to believe Clayton could have such a connection, especially not with someone of Tarquin's stature. After all, Clayton, despite being Oceanopolis's richest, was small fry compared to the national wealth of Tarquin. Moreover, Clayton was practically a pariah now; who would willingly associate with him, let alone someone of Mr. Bradford's caliber?

"Dad, doesn't Mr. Bradford look a bit familiar to you?"

As Roger finished his sentence, a child's voice rang out, "Daddy!"

Elliot and Evan suddenly dashed through the crowd towards Tarquin.

The Murphy men were stunned. Daddy?!

They looked from the boys to Tarquin, their shock palpable. Good heavens, could it be that these kids were Tarquin's own?

And what about Elysia?

Automatically, their gaze shifted towards her, only to see her approaching Tarquin, her eyes shining, "Honey!"

The Murphy men nearly collapsed. Bobby would have fallen if not for his cane.

Elysia's affectionate call left them bewildered.

"Weren't we told that Elysia came from a humble background, that her husband was just some unemployed nobody?!"

Bobby asked, shaking.

Roger was equally panicked, "I... I had no idea! My sister said Elysia was just an ordinary housewife and her husband was jobless. They said her family was easy to push around!"

Bobby was furious, "You idiots!"

If only they had known her connection to Tarquin, they would have steered clear of any trouble. Now, they had truly bitten off more than they could chew.

Aside from Charles, who seemed unfazed, Joshua, Robert, and Clayton were utterly shocked at the unfolding scene between Tarquin and Elysia.

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When they saw Elliot and Evan, they couldn't help but notice how much the boys resembled Pamela. Yet, they seemed to forget that in every other aspect, the boys were the spitting image of Tarquin! Those two little rascals were none other than the esteemed young princes of the Bradford family!

And Elysia, who they dismissed as just another ordinary woman, she was none other than Mrs. Bradford herself, a woman of unparalleled stature in society!

Over there, Tarquin had already scooped up the boys and made his way over to Elysia.

Seeing him, Elysia's eyes welled up with tears even before she could speak.

Tarquin frowned, setting down Elliot and Evan to take a closer look at her, "My dear Elysia, what's troubling you?"

Elysia's tears started flowing freely!

Unable to hold back any longer, she threw herself into Tarquin's arms amidst the crowd, sobbing uncontrollably.

So wronged, she felt so wronged!

Her heart ached terribly!

And she was also incredibly moved!

Though she had only been apart from Tarquin for half a day, it felt like an eternity to her.

So much had happened in that half-day, and she had so much she wanted to tell Tarquin.

She had seen her parents, her uncles, and she was thrilled.

But the abuse her mother endured, the oppression her father faced, and the threats against her uncles deeply saddened her.

Moreover, the Murphy family had stormed into the Hawkins household, flaunting their power not just to take Larry away but also to cause trouble for her and her son!

"They... they bullied us... sob sob sob..."

Tarquin's expression darkened, filled with both heartache and fury.

The Murphys dared to bully the woman he cherished above all else!

The audacity of the Murphy family!

Tarquin, trying to contain his anger, focused on comforting her first.

He wrapped one arm around Elysia and gently stroked the back of her head, soothing her,

"Don't cry, darling. I'm here now, and I'll make things right for you. I'm going to find out who was bold enough to mess with my wife and child!"

His disdainful glance towards the Murphy family caused them all to shudder in fear!

Even though the saying goes that even a mighty dragon cannot crush a local snake, Tarquin was such a formidable dragon that not even the local snakes dared to provoke him!

Bobby, trying to calm his nerves, stepped forward to appease,

"Mr. Bradford, it's all been a misunderstanding. We didn't know they were your wife and child, we..."

Elysia, stopping her tears, stepped out of Tarquin's embrace. She wiped away her tears, shot Bobby a glare, and took Tarquin's hand, heading straight towards Clayton and the Patel brothers.

She left Bobby standing there, utterly disregarded!

This gesture might not have been physically hurtful, but it was a severe blow to his pride!

Bobby, lips tightly pressed and face turning dark, was furious but dared not speak his mind!

Elysia, leading Tarquin to Clayton, saw Tarquin clear his throat softly and straighten up as he prepared to greet him.

Just as Tarquin was about to call him 'Dad', he heard Elysia introduce him,

"Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Patel, this is the father of my children, Tarquin. Tarquin, this is Mr. Hawkins, and these are the Patel brothers." Tarquin instinctively glanced at Elysia.

Seeing that she hadn't corrected herself, he dared not either.

After all, he was in his wife's family home, and he knew to follow her lead.

Tarquin's demeanor was humble, showing the respect a younger generation owes to their elders,

"Good to meet you, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Patel."

Clayton and the Patel brothers were thrilled, politely greeting him in return.

Clayton said excitedly, "We had no idea Mr. Bradford would honor us with a visit. Please forgive our lack of hospitality."

Tarquin quickly responded, "The fault is mine for not announcing my visit. Please accept my apologies."

The idea of his father-in-law apologizing to him was something Tarquin could never accept!

In front of his wife, his father-in-law could do no wrong!