

Hitched 1051

Chapter 1051

The Murphy clan was utterly flabbergasted at the level of respect Tarquin Bradford showed towards Clayton Hawkins. It was almost too much, they thought. Clayton, of all people!

Elysia Thorne, on the other hand, was quite pleased with Tarquin's demeanor. It warmed her heart.

After all, there's an old saying that you can tell how a man feels about his wife by the way he treats her parents. If he loves his wife, he'll naturally extend that love to her folks as well.

Elysia asked him, "Why didn't you give us a heads-up before dropping by? You mentioned this morning you might not make it today."

"My personal matters wrapped up sooner than expected, and I couldn't wait to see you all," Tarquin replied.

Initially, Tarquin had planned not to visit today. But with the mysterious figure aware of his presence in Oceanopolis, secrecy was no longer necessary.

Turning to Clayton, Tarquin expressed his gratitude, "This morning, when Evan went missing, Mr. Hawkins was incredibly helpful. I can't thank you enough, Mr. Hawkins."

Lowell, eager to boost Tarquin's image in front of his potential father-in-law, stepped forward with gifts, "Mr. Hawkins, our boss handpicked these gifts for you, as a token of respect. Each item was chosen with care. We hope you'll like them."

Roger Murphy craned his neck to get a better look, "There's whiskey, cigars, and even some high-end supplements. Isn't this the classic trifecta for impressing the in-laws? Wait, what kind of whiskey is that... My God, Dad-"

Bobby Murphy jumped, startled, "Will you quit yelling and scare me half to death?"

Roger, shaking with excitement, gestured wildly, "Dad, did you see? That's... That's..."

His eyes nearly bulged out of their sockets, while Bobby, annoyed, tapped him with his cane.

In times like these, who cared about such trivialities?

But could this fool not see the labels on the whiskey, the brand of the cigars, the supplements produced by the World Health Organization itself, coveted by the world's wealthiest?

Bobby was beside himself with envy. The more he looked at his son, the more irritated he became.

"You and your talk of the classic trifecta for in-laws. Do you see this? This is the gold standard! You think Larry could ever bring something like this? He couldn't even touch these!"

"Well... it's not Larry's fault we can't either," Roger muttered.

Bobby, missing his son's point entirely, smacked him on the head, "What about the bigger picture, son?!"

Rubbing his sore head, Roger speculated, "Dad, with Mr. Bradford being so generous to Clayton, could it be he's really seeing him as a father-in-law? Could they actually be...?"

"Impossible! If the Hawkins had such luck, I'd bite my tongue right now in celebration for them!"

Bobby was green with envy. If Clayton had any close ties with the Bradfords, he'd rather die!

Meanwhile, Clayton, touched by the thoughtful gifts, knew their value all too well. But what moved him most wasn't the lavish presents but Tarquin's respectful manner towards him.

In the midst of his own troubles, aside from his closest allies, respect like this was hard to come by.

Clayton felt a lump in his throat and quickly had his assistant take the gifts, "Mr. Bradford, you've gone above and beyond. I should be the one thanking you. Ms. Thorne and the kids have been a huge help. Thanks to them, my wife found peace again, and I was able to uncover so much going on at home!"

Tarquin, ever humble, nodded in understanding.

Chapter 1052

"Mr. Hawkins, you're too kind. We only just arrived in Oceanopolis this morning and already we've connected with the Hawkins clan. It feels like fate that we've crossed paths."

Clayton nodded enthusiastically.

"Absolutely, it's destiny. Just wait until you meet my wife, Ms. Thorne, and the kids. You'll see, their features, they resemble hers so much!"

The Patel brothers nodded in agreement,

"It's uncanny, really. Even though Ms. Thorne looks different from our sister, seeing her is like being transported back to when our sister was in her twenties."

Tarquin chimed in, "Well, they are her flesh and blood, so of course, they look alike."

He glanced at his wife, who remained silent, and he chose to do the same.

Clayton sighed, "Alas, my family, the Hawkins, are going through a rough patch. There are folks stirring up trouble, dragging Ms. Thorne into this mess and causing her distress."

Clayton knew the root of their troubles wasn't just Helen Murphy's viral mishap involving cat litter.

The real issue was Elysia uncovering and exposing the abuse Pamela Patel had endured, with evidence to back it up!

That's why the Murphys were hell-bent on taking Elysia and Evan. Once in their grasp, mother and son would undoubtedly face a severe beating. Moreover, the Murphys planned to use Evan as leverage to force Elysia into destroying the evidence and retracting her statements.

"It's all because of me... Ms. Thorne is suffering," Clayton lamented with guilt.

Elysia quickly asserted, "My troubles aren't because of you, but because of them!"

Elliot furrowed his brow, "Daddy, the Murphy family, they're bullying Mommy and Evan!"

Evan raised his voice in complaint,

"It's them! They're the villains! Daddy, they want to take me and mommy away, they're out to settle scores with us! Daddy, you have to stop them!" Tarquin's gaze sharpened, cutting through the air towards the Murphys.

The Murphy father and son duo shuddered, with Roger hiding behind his father at the intimidating sight.

This was a job for the senior Murphy, not the faint-hearted.

Bobby, disregarding his disdain for his son's cowardice, approached Tarquin with his cane shaking,

"My apologies, Mr. Bradford. I had no clue Ms. Thorne and the young master were your family. Had I known, I would've never caused them trouble; they would've been treated with the utmost respect."

Tarquin ignored him, turning politely to Clayton,

"Mr. Hawkins, let's set aside your grievances with the Murphy family for now. Allow me to address my own issues with them, shall we?"

Clayton nodded eagerly, "Of course, of course!"

He couldn't have been more pleased.

So the Murphys wanted a piece of Elysia and Evan? Now that they had backup, let's see them try!

Clayton, already buzzing with excitement at the thought of being related to Tarquin through his daughter, stood tall beside him, defiantly eyeing the Murphy duo,

Go on, keep acting tough in front of Mr. Bradford. Show us what you've got, don't hold back, or you're the coward!

Bobby, catching Clayton's challenging gaze, felt every bit of his being seethe with frustration!

But now, faced with Tarquin, he had to swallow his pride.

Even though he had never directly dealt with Tarquin, the rumors were enough: this was not a man to provoke, not unless you had a death wish. The Murphys couldn't afford to make an enemy of him!

Lowering his stance, Bobby offered a conciliatory smile,

"Mr. Bradford, this has all been a misunderstanding, truly."

Bobby hoped that since Clayton, who had no blood ties to Tarquin, was treated with courtesy, perhaps showing genuine remorse would spare the Murphys from further conflict.

Maybe, just maybe, this could lead to an alliance, fostering major collaborations ahead.

Chapter 1053

But let me tell you-

Tarquin's demeanor towards Bobby was polar opposite to how he treated Clayton and the Patel brothers!

The warmth he showed Clayton was replaced by sheer animosity towards Bobby!

With eyes dark and voice as cold as frost, Tarquin demanded,

"What in the world did my family ever do to make the Murphys so livid, storming into the Hawkins' place like some cowboy roundup?!"

Bobby was in a panic, lowering his pride yet finding no solace.

Grinding his teeth in frustration, he kept up his forced smile,

"This is all one big misunderstanding, really, just a mix-up. Someone's out to frame the Murphys, and it's got nothing to do with Mrs. Bradford or the young Bradford lad. We made an error, and I'm here on behalf of the Murphys to apologize for the scare. Sorry about that."

Evan scoffed, "Apology not accepted, buddy!"

The kid was nearly fuming; if not for holding himself back, he'd have thrown a punch already!

He was in no mood to accept their so-called apology.

Elysia, too, glared at Bobby, dripping with sarcasm,

"The Murphys sure know how to play their cards, switching tunes from threats to apologies in a heartbeat! If my child's father was just any regular Joe, my son and I would probably be at the mercy of the Murphys by now!"

Bobby's face turned fifty shades of red from embarrassment!

Humiliated and enraged, he wondered, at his age, how he could stand being mocked in front of everyone. But what could he do? The Murphys couldn't afford to make an enemy out of Tarquin!

"Mrs. Bradford, I understand your frustration, and it was indeed the Murphys' fault. I'll make sure to send over a generous apology later." Elysia snorted and ignored him, turning to Tarquin to tattle,

"And Helen, hiring hitmen, trying to pin the blame on Mrs. Hawkins after plotting to harm Evan! The culprits confessed it was all to target him... Their family's cruelty knows no bounds!"

Roger hastily interjected,

"That was all Helen's doing, nothing to do with the Murphys at large. Let's not paint everyone with the same brush. You got beef, take it up with her, not the entire Murphy clan."

Bobby, infuriated, whacked him with his cane, signaling him to zip it!

With Helen plotting against Tarquin's own son, Tarquin's wrath could spell disaster for the Murphys, idiot!

The Murphys needed to distance themselves from Helen first and foremost!

Bobby quickly turned to Tarquin,

"This was the doing of a maid close to Helen, not Helen herself, let alone the Murphys! Mr. Bradford, if you doubt me, feel free to investigate it yourself."

Tarquin, with a furrowed brow and eyes seething with anger,

"Of course, I'll investigate. Whoever dares to target my son must be out of their minds! Until this is resolved, both Larry and Helen are suspects. If the Murphys wanna clear their name, best keep your distance!"

Tarquin's implication was clear: until the matter was resolved, the Murphys couldn't take Larry with them.

Clayton and the Patel brothers couldn't hide their excitement at this turn of events!

The faces of the Murphy men darkened.

Larry held secrets critical to the Murphy family's fortunes!

If they couldn't get him out now, and he spilled those secrets, it'd be the end of the Murphys!

Bobby, swallowing his pride, insisted,

"Mr. Bradford, I can assure you Larry had no part in this. Let me take him with me for now. If you need him for the investigation later, feel free to summon him from the Murphys any time.

Should it turn out he was involved in plotting against your family, I'll personally deliver him to you, tied up bow and all!

To be frank, Mr. Bradford, my urgency in taking him today stems from a personal vendetta between him and Clayton. I fear the Hawkins might mistreat him in retaliation."

Chapter 1054

Tarquin's response was icy, a firm "No way!"

Bobby's face darkened, he took a moment to simmer down before replying with a restrained anger, "How about we call the cops then, hand him over to the authorities, would that work?"

The narrowing of Tarquin's sharp eyes suggested he was surprised by the suggestion. Yet, Clayton and the Patel brothers furrowed their brows in concern!

Before Tarquin could even reply, they pulled him aside and said, "This smells fishy! The Murphys have a mole in the police department. They're probably planning to use the cops to take Larry first and then snatch him back from them. That way, they won't offend you."

Tarquin got the picture, "No worries. The Murphys might have someone, but as luck would have it, I also have a buddy in the police force. I'll give him a heads-up. The Murphys won't get their way."

Clayton, still uneasy, asked, "Is your friend influential enough, though?"

"He's alright."

But Clayton was fretting, "The Murphys have a tightwork inside..."

Under normal circumstances, he wouldn't have been worried. Even the Murphys' henchmen would've treated him with utmost respect.

But now, caught in a whirlwind, he felt disregarded!

The Patels looked serious, "If push comes to shove, we'll step in. Larry's the direct culprit behind mistreating our sister. We can't let the Murphys whisk him away!"

Clayton immediately shook his head, "No way! You should be even more cautious in dealing with government bodies."

Seeing their concern, Tarquin tried to reassure them, "Don't worry, my friend has a say in the police department."

Over at the Murphy camp, Roger was quizzing his dad, "Why think of calling the cops now, Dad? Didn't we agree not to involve them?"

"Times change, son. Calling the cops now works in our favor!"

As Clayton had pointed out, he didn't want to offend Tarquin by snatching Larry directly from him. So, the plan was to let the police take Larry first, then retrieve him from the authorities.

"What if Tarquin also knows someone in the police department?"

Bobby scoffed, "Unless he knows the Chief of Police, knowing anyone else won't do!"

"And what if he actually knows the Chief?"

"That's impossible! Tarquin might be powerful, but his stronghold isn't in Oceanopolis. His influence here is limited."

"Then why are we still afraid of him? Let's face him head-on!"

Bobby turned sharply, exasperated, "How did I end up with such a dimwit for a son! It's a curse, truly!"

Frustrated by his son's naivety, Bobby calmed himself before preemptively dialing 911, determined to make the first move.

After the call, he dialed a private number...

The Murphys had to take Larry today, both for their safety and their pride.

He wouldn't let his grand show of force to the Hawkins end in humiliation, not in the eyes of Oceanopolis's elite!

Soon, the police arrived in force, heading straight to Bobby, who was greeted with respect by the leading officer.

Clayton frowned, "That's the Murphy's nephew, the deputy chief. With the Chief nearly retired, he's next in line. So, barring the Chief, he's the most influential there. Your friend... is it the Chief?"

Tarquin shook his head, "No."

Clayton's heart sank. If not the Chief, then who could possibly hold sway?

Chapter 1055

The tables had turned, and Clayton was visibly distressed, while Bobby was on cloud nine. After having a chat with Bobby, Mr. Murphy strode over to us.

He greeted Tarquin politely, a clear sign that Bobby had filled him in about Tarquin earlier.

But when his gaze shifted to Clayton, his demeanor changed drastically!

Frowning and with a stern face, he said coldly, "Mr. Hawkins, if Larry is a suspect, it's up to the police to handle it. You found an issue and didn't report it immediately, instead, you took matters into your own hands by detaining him. That's illegal! Be prepared, the police will be calling you in for a statement soon."

Clayton clenched his fists, his brows furrowed, feeling the harshness of the world.

The man hadn't even left, and the warmth of hospitality was already gone!

Gone were the days when he would greet me with respect, calling me "Uncle Hawkins"...

Elysia couldn't bear it anymore and retorted, "The incident just happened, Mr. Hawkins didn't even have the chance to report it before the Murphy family barged in! And isn't it illegal for the Murphy family to storm into a house with a group of thugs? When will you be taking their statements?!" Mr. Murphy's face darkened, "And you are?"

Tarquin stepped in, "My wife!"

Caught off guard, Mr. Murphy's expression softened, "Rest assured, the police will act according to the law."

He then turned back to Clayton with a less friendly tone, "Where's Larry?!"

Clayton's frown deepened, reluctant to hand Larry over to him-for that would be like delivering him straight to the Murphy family.

Bobby strutted over, looking more confident as if he had a powerful backing, stirring the pot, "What, the Hawkins family plans to go against the police now?"

Clayton glared at him, biting back his anger.

Bobby looked at him with disdain, his eyes challenging: A down-and-out dog could never win against a lion. Larry is coming with me today, no matter what.

Clayton's lips were pressed tightly together, his fists clenched, barely containing his rage.

Suddenly, someone called out, "Tarquin!"

Tarquin turned around to see a group approaching, led by a young man in a military uniform, excitedly waving at Tarquin.

Tarquin waved back, "My friend's arrived."

Clayton scrutinized the newcomer, "The friend from the police department you mentioned?"

"Yeah, you know him?"

Clayton shook his head, "I know quite a few folks at the department, but I've never seen him."

"Let me introduce you later."

Tarquin walked over with Elysia, and ElliotEvan, curious, followed along. Roger muttered, "I knew they had connections in the department. They were bound to bring in reinforcements!"

Bobby sneered, "I haven't even heard of this guy. Definitely an outsider, a nobody. He won't make waves!"

Then, turning to Clayton, he boasted now that Tarquin was away, "I told you, the times have changed in Oceanopolis. Clayton, you're out of your league. You think you can avenge Pamela? Ha! Even if it led to her death, my family, the Murphys, could cover it up!"

The Patel brothers were so angry they nearly came to blows, but Clayton held them back.

Bobby taunted, "Lay a finger on me, and I'll have you guys rotting in jail. The cops are watching!"

The Patel brothers were seething, their teeth grinding loudly.

Bobby added, "And Mr. Bradford, as powerful as he may be, Oceanopolis isn't his turf. Thinking he can control the Murphys is a pipe dream!"

Roger then arrogantly told Mr. Murphy, "Take a good look at him, make sure to remember his face. Find a chance to fire him! Make him wish he could never even touch the police department's doorstep again!"

Chapter 1056

"..." No one responded.

Bobby and Roger both looked at Mr. Murphy, who was staring blankly at the man.

Roger nudged him, "Hey bud, did you catch what I said?"

Mr. Murphy's body swayed, nearly falling to his knees, saved only by Roger's quick support!

Roger was puzzled, "You alright, man?"

Mr. Murphy's eyes were wide, his breathing rapid, "That's, that's, that's..."

"What's up? You know that guy?"

"That's the new Inspector General Mr. Watson sent from headquarters!"

"Who? Someone higher up than you?"

"Good Lord, ignorance is a curse! Inspector General, man! I'm nothing compared to him! Even the Chief of Police has to play nice around him!" The Murphys were dumbfounded: "?!?!"

Clayton and the Patels were equally shocked, "!!!"

What's going on here? A plot twist?!

Seeing Mr. Watson chatting casually with Tarquin, Mr. Murphy broke into a cold sweat,

"Mr. Bradford is friends with him?! We're doomed, Uncle, we can't afford to offend this man. Forget about Larry and Helen, trust me, not even the Almighty could save them now!"

Bobby was shocked, "He's that powerful?!"

Mr. Murphy nodded vigorously, "Sent from headquarters, the top Inspector General!"

Bobby: "!!!"

Clayton and the Patels: "Wow, Mr. Bradford's got clout!"

As Mr. Murphy finished speaking, Mr. Watson and Tarquin approached.

Before Mr. Murphy could grovel, Mr. Watson began to reprimand,

"The Oceanopolis Police Department has really embarrassed itself this time! This scandal's gone all the way up north! A family comes to Oceanopolis for a few days, and their son nearly gets murdered!

If this gets out, it won't just be you guys getting the flak; the whole Oceanopolis tourism sector will have your heads!

Do you have any idea how much effort has gone into promoting Oceanopolis as a tourist destination, only for you to set us back decades with your incompetence!

I'm already briefed on the situation. The maid has been arrested, and Helen is a prime suspect. She can't be bailed out and will remain in custody!

As for Larry, I heard the Hawkins had a tough time capturing him, and he's injured. Get him to a hospital under police watch. If he needs to be hospitalized, keep an eye on him round the clock!

Also, Larry and Helen were involved in abusing Mrs. Hawkins. Investigate this thoroughly, and if proven, they'll face multiple charges!

And the Murphys, storming into a private residence with a gang, are you running a mob operation?"

Roger was so scared he couldn't even fart, and Bobby was trembling,

"No, no, we're legitimate businessmen."

"Legitimate businessmen who break into houses? Then you're law-ignorant! Take them all in for questioning. If they're guilty, charge them. If not, it's time they learned the law!"

Hearing this, Bobby nearly passed out from fear!

Mr. Murphy didn't dare resist, nodding like a scolded dog,

"Right, right, we'll do as you say."

"No need for you! You're too close to the Murphys, you need to recuse yourself from this investigation! Hand in your badge and take some time off!"

Mr. Murphy shuddered. Hand in his badge and take a leave?

At such a crucial time, would he even have a position to return to?

"Mr. Watson, I understand I need to step back, but I don't have to take a leave. I can't sit still..."

"You might not want to, but headquarters wants you checked out. You won't have a choice, rest assured."

Headquarters was investigating him?!

The Murphys' hearts sank, utterly defeated!

Why did it feel like the end of the line for the Murphys?!

Chapter 1057

Mr. Watson turned his gaze back to Clayton, his tone notably softer,

"I've already been in touch with the legal authorities. They'll send someone over to conduct a medical examination for Mrs. Hawkins. Rest assured, I'll oversee that the Oceanopolis police handle this case fairly. Justice will be served for Mrs. Hawkins!"

Clayton was visibly moved, his eyes welling up with tears,

"Thank you, thank you so much! We'll cooperate fully with the police. I really appreciate your efforts!"

"It's the least we can do. Justice may be delayed, but it will never be denied!"

Mr. Watson glanced meaningfully at Tarquin and Elysia, then said to Clayton with deep implication,

"I know Mr. Hawkins has been having a tough time lately. Hang in there, your good fortune is yet to come!"

With a son-in-law like Tarquin, who would dare to mess with him again?!

Clayton didn't quite catch the drift, taking it as just a blessing from the inspector and kept expressing his gratitude.

Taking charge personally, Mr. Watson had some officers take Mr. Murphy and the Murphy family back to the station first.

The remaining officers interrogated all of the Hawkins family's staff, taking anyone with discrepancies away for further questioning!

Larry, battered and bruised, was temporarily taken to the hospital by the police.

Dr. White, who had been through thick and thin with Clayton, took the chaos as a chance to slip away, prompting both the police and Clayton to send people out searching for him.

Once the legal authorities arrived, under Elysia's calming presence, they smoothly conducted a medical examination for Pamela.

Though the official results were not yet out, the examiners' offhand comments were like daggers to everyone's hearts,

"Judging by the scars, some are at least twenty years old. She's been enduring abuse for so long; how could the family not have noticed?"

"There are not many surface wounds, but the damage is internal, dense with needle marks on her bones. Clearly, this isn't a one-time injury. It's horrifying to think how many times she's been subjected to this."

"The damage to her stomach and intestines is also severe. She must have been forced to consume hot sauce and eat horseradish frequently to cause such irritation."

Needle stabs to the bone, drinking hot sauce, swallowing horseradish...

Just imagining the scene sent shivers down everyone's spine!

Elysia couldn't hold back any longer. No sooner had the legal team left than she buried her face in Tarquin's chest, sobbing uncontrollably. Pamela, seeing this, panicked!

"Irene, why are you crying? What's wrong? Come here, let mom look at you."

Elysia turned around and flung herself into Pamela's arms, crying her heart out.

Pamela sat by the bed, holding her, and cried,

"Who has been bullying our Irene? Who is it? The villains, oh, the villains! Irene, don't cry, honey, mom is here. I'll protect you, I'll make it right for you!"

Seeing this, the three little ones couldn't help but start crying too.

Emmett cried the hardest, and Tarquin, with tears in his eyes, picked him up, while also comforting Elliot and Evan.

The Patel brothers also had teary eyes. Clenching their teeth, they grabbed a tearful Clayton and dragged him out of the room.

Soon, sounds of a scuffle and Clayton's muffled groans were heard from outside.

No need to guess; the Patel brothers were giving him a beating!

Elysia quickly wiped her tears, trying to go outside and break up the fight.

Tarquin stopped her, shaking his head, "It's inevitable."

Pamela had suffered so much cruelty for so many years, and Clayton, as her husband, bore an inescapable responsibility!

Whatever the reasons, he had failed to take good care of Pamela!

So, it was only right for the Patel family to beat him; he deserved it!

"A beating will let them vent, help them feel a bit better. The Patel family knows when to stop; don't worry. I'll go check on them in a bit."

Though Elysia felt sorry for Clayton, she understood.

She didn't go outside, instead turning back to comfort Pamela.

After the outside quieted down, Tarquin put Emmet down, asking the three little ones to stay with their mom and grandma, then he stepped out of the

room.

Chapter 1058

Outside, the Patel brothers stood side by side, fists clenched, breathing heavily with red-rimmed eyes. Clayton was still lying on the ground, his face unscathed, the damage hidden beneath his clothes.

Tarquin walked over, silently helping him to his feet.

Sitting on the ground, Clayton was overcome with emotion, tears streaming down his face,

"It's all my fault. I failed to protect Pamela. It's all because I trusted those two scoundrels, Dr. White and Larry, too much! I let Pamela suffer for all these years. It's my fault... all my fault..."

After beating some sense into Clayton, the Patel brothers also started blaming themselves.

They regretted not being more vigilant, realizing they should have taken their sister for regular check-ups at the hospital!

Several men in their fifties, all shedding tears together.

Once the crying had subsided, Tarquin offered some comfort,

"Mrs. Hawkins' case is unique, with her self-harming behavior and reluctance to speak out, it's understandable how her plight went unnoticed.

Thankfully, the worst was avoided, and she didn't sustain critical injuries. With proper care, she'll recover soon.

Plus, with Mr. Watson overseeing, the Murphy family won't find any loopholes to exploit, and justice will be served for Mrs. Hawkins."

Hearing this, Clayton wiped away his tears, his lips trembling as he looked towards Tarquin,

"I can't thank you enough, Mr. Bradford. Without your intervention, things wouldn't have gone so smoothly. We are deeply grateful for your generosity!"

The Patel brothers added,

"We'll always remember the favor you've done for us, Mr. Bradford. The Patel family owes you one!"

Tarquin quickly responded, "It was nothing, especially since they targeted my son, I couldn't just stand by."

Standing up for your in-laws is a given, and such a big favor couldn't be easily accepted.

As the sun set, the Patel brothers turned to Clayton,

"We've got to eat, after all this drama, Ms. Thorne and the kids must be starving. How about dining out tonight?"

With most of the Hawkins family servants gone, and the remaining ones freshly hired, their cooking skills were uncertain.

"Let's dine out, I'll make arrangements."

Just then, Elysia pushed Pamela out,

"No need to go out, let's cook at home. I'll do it."

Clayton was momentarily stunned, then quickly refused,

"That won't do, Ms. Thorne. You've done so much for us; we can't have you cooking for us! We'll dine out, I'm arranging it now."

"It's not about serving, it's about enjoying the moment together. Plus, it's cleaner and healthier at home."

Elliot chimed in, "Grandpa Clayton, don't be shy. My mom doesn't like eating out; she finds it wasteful and unhygienic, and there's a better atmosphere at home."

"Exactly, the bad guys got their comeuppance, and no one will bully Pamela anymore. This calls for a celebration at home," Evan exclaimed. Emmett quickly wiped away his tears,

"My cooking is really good, let me show you and Grandpa tonight."

Pamela, excited, asked Emmett, "You can cook, Emmett?"

"Yep, my mom loves my cooking. I'll make something special for you tonight."

"Great, I can make something tasty too. Irene used to love my chicken when she was little. Let's cook together later?"

"Sure, we'll cook with mom!"

Watching the lively family, Clayton was moved to tears.

Their home hadn't been this lively since they lost their daughter!

"Alright, we'll cook at home. We should have ingredients in the kitchen, and we can send someone out to buy anything we're missing!"

Elysia turned to Tarquin, "Let's also bring Elijah and Baby over."

Tarquin immediately agreed, supporting his wife's suggestion, "Of course!"

Hearing Elijah's name, Charles's eyes narrowed slightly.

Chapter 1059

Clayton asked, "Elijah and Baby are...?"

Elysia chuckled, "They're our kids too. We hit the jackpot with multiples."

The Patel brothers were astonished, "Just like our family! The Patel gene has a thing for multiples. Us brothers, we're triplets."

Elysia smiled lightly, "How could it be any different? We're all family here!"

Though three of the children took after Tarquin, she knew that the multiples gene definitely came from the Patel side.

"It's fate, pure fate! Which hotel did you book? Let my assistant pick you up and cancel your hotel. Stay with us at the Hawkins residence."

Clayton was thrilled and immediately arranged for his assistant to pick them up.

Tarquin intervened, "I'll have someone on it."

He looked at Elysia, "Should we bring Emmett along?"

Elysia caught his drift and after a moment of hesitation, nodded, "Yes, bring him!"

Bringing Emmett was to keep Baby's appearance under wraps.

Baby looked too much like her younger self. If her father and uncles saw her, they'd be stunned and start asking questions.

And if they start asking questions, so would the people around them!

Who could guarantee that all the people around her father were trustworthy?

After everything, Elysia preferred to play her cards close to her chest.

Her father was an emotional man. If he found out she was his long-lost daughter, it would cause a stir.

That wouldn't help them root out the snakes in the grass!

She decided to bide her time, waiting for the shareholders' meeting the day after tomorrow to drop the bombshell and catch them all off guard! Tarquin understood her, offering a comforting embrace.

Adversity had only made Elysia stronger.

"I'll send Lowell over. Emmett, you go with Mr. Lowell to pick up Elijah and your sister. Then come back and help Mommy in the kitchen." Emmett nodded in agreement.

...

The Hawkins and the Murphy families were the talk of Oceanopolis today, causing quite a stir.

The town was abuzz with shock and chatter!

Mrs. Hawkins, the most renowned woman in Oceanopolis, subjected to abuse!

And for over two decades at that!

Pamela was well-regarded, so beyond the shock was a wave of sympathy.

Following the sympathy, there was a torrent of curses and insults directed at Helen, Larry, and their ilk!

From the cat feces incident to plotting murder and child abuse, and now a two-decade-long abuse scandal!

As these events unfolded, not only Helen but the entire Murphy family faced public outrage!

The Murphy family's stocks were halted!

Their numerous restaurants were vandalized with cat feces, forcing emergency closures!

The Murphy food companies faced strikes and had to shut down temporarily!

With the Murphy family in such a dire state, the shareholders of Hawkins Sea-freight were restless, gathering overnight to strategize.

"It seems the Murphy family's downfall was orchestrated by Mr. Bradford from Jindale City. Could he be Clayton's knight in shining armor?"

"I'm worried too. Why else would Mr. Bradford arrive in Oceanopolis now of all times?"

"And I heard his son was accidentally taken to the Hawkins residence, sparking this whole series of events between Mr. Bradford and Clayton. The kidnapping itself is fishy!"

"What's more shocking is, they say Mr. Bradford's wife bears a striking resemblance to Pamela. Could it be that she is..."

They all knew he meant Irene Hawkins, and the mood turned grimmer.

If Elysia truly was Clayton's daughter, they were all in deep trouble.

Chapter 1060

In a moment of silence, all eyes turned to Carl Hawkins.

"Mr. Carl, is there any way you could arrange a paternity test?" someone asked.

Carl pursed his lips, "My wife's plotting to take down Mr. Bradford's son. Do you really think Mr. Bradford would let me anywhere near Elysia? That man's a ticking time bomb; I'd rather not mess with him."

Everyone frowned in concern.

Carl continued, "The guy I've got keeping tabs on my brother told me that Mr. Bradford going after the Murphy family wasn't to back my brother up but to avenge his own wife and son!

And then there's Elysia, always calling my brother Mr. Hawkins. If she were truly his daughter, wouldn't she have acknowledged him by now? What's with the delay?

Plus, I know my brother. Given how much he misses his niece, he'd be over the moon if he found her. He's all about loyalty and honesty, not acting. If he'd found his daughter, he wouldn't be able to hide his excitement. He'd have definitely informed the old man up in the mountains by now!"

The crowd nodded in agreement, "Makes sense. After years apart, any daughter would recognize her father immediately, and no father could hide such emotion."

"Clayton despises us to the bone. The moment his daughter returns, he becomes the winner. He'd immediately turn his guns on us!"

"As long as Elysia isn't Clayton's daughter, not even the Almighty could help him. No matter how powerful Mr. Bradford is, he can't interfere with our Hawkins Shipping!"

The group exchanged ideas, successfully dispelling their doubts and comforting themselves. They began to whisper about their plans for a hostile takeover at the next board meeting. They plotted to eliminate both Clayton and Pamela and even take down the Patel family!

Their betrayal and treachery grew more heated as they talked, quickly energizing the room.

"Once Clayton is gone, and the Patel family is out of the picture, Oceanopolis will be ours to rule!" they laughed heartily.

Soon, their scheming was transmitted to Evan Thorne's smartwatch.

Someone had sent Evan a lengthy video.

Upon viewing it, Evan's brows furrowed immediately.

Besides the video, he also received a location and a photo of the fleeing Dr. White, now hiding out with the Murphy family! Seeing Evan's concerned expression, Elliot leaned in and asked, "What's up?"

Evan pulled Elliot aside and showed him the video.

After watching it, Elliot asked with a frown, "Who sent you this?"

"That oddball who keeps following me around."

"The one with the scarred face?"

"Yeah."

"Why would he send you this? Is he trying to make amends? Not planning to kidnap you anymore?"

Evan shrugged, "Not sure. He's been helping me out lately, but we haven't had a chance to chat."

Elliot paused for a moment, "Well, as long as he's not aiming to hurt you. But we should find out his intentions when we can."

"Yeah, but what do we do about these jerks?" Evan asked, clearly upset.

"They might be laughing now, but mom's decision to keep her identity hidden is all about catching them in one fell swoop. We can't tip them off. Keep the video safe; it's all evidence."

"But what if I can't wait? I'm furious now and want revenge!"

Evan was visibly irritated, puffing up his cheeks in anger.

White, too, looked at Elliot with a sense of unease, as if saying, "Bro, I'm pissed too."

Elliot sighed, "Alright, after dinner, you and White can go 'play' with them a bit. Remember, just play. No serious business."

Both boy and pet perked up instantly, "Got it, just play! We'll just have a little fun."

Just a little fun...