

Hitched 1131

Chapter 1131

Inside the hotel, Elysia was nervously preparing dinner with Emmett, trying to keep her composure.

Pamela and Baby were also in the kitchen, oblivious to the chaos unfolding downstairs. However, Tarquin and Elijah were well aware of the situation.

Elijah clenched his tiny fists, worriedly asking, "What are we going to do, Dad?"

Tarquin frowned, glancing toward the kitchen. Emmett was standing on a little stool next to Elysia, eagerly helping out. Every so often, he looked up at Elysia with eyes full of adoration.

Tarquin's concern deepened. He had refrained from releasing the video of Cecil's gambling to protect Emmett. He didn't want people to associate Emmett with Cecil, his disgraceful brother. A father's love thinks far ahead.

But it seemed the only way to shield Elysia and Emmett from online trolls was to expose Cecil's wrongdoings to the public.

Tarquin's phone rang; it was Elliot.

"Dad, we've got everything set up. What's the next move?"

"Post it online, now!" Tarquin commanded.

"Got it!"

After the call, Tarquin made another, instructing, "Organize all the evidence we've gathered and send a copy to the police and another online."

"Roger that!"

Meanwhile, Cecil was downplaying his sins to the media and bystanders, claiming his daughter desperately wanted to see her brother before she passed away.

But his act was interrupted when someone exclaimed, "Look at this! Isn't that Maria?"

People quickly pulled out their phones, and the atmosphere shifted as they turned their disapproving gazes towards Cecil.

Checking his own phone, Cecil was shocked to find Maria trending online. A video of her in a hospital gown, tearfully revealing the abuse at the hands of her father, had gone viral.

In the video, Maria shared the harrowing details of her life with Cecil-his temper, his violence towards her and her mother, and his gambling. She even showed off the bruises that "Dad" had given her, contrasting her own injuries with the more severe ones her mother

suffered to protect her.

Maria also revealed that Emmett wasn't taken by Ms. Thorne but sold by Cecil,

who now wanted him back only for a hefty ransom.

As the video ended, Cecil was left speechless, his reputation in ruins. He desperately tried to deflect

blame onto Claire, the children's net

mothe, and fled the scene to

confront the hospital about the

video.

The video was Elliot and Evan's doing. After Cecil left, Elliot and Evan had managed to get Claire out of the way and speak with Maria, executing their plan to expose Cecil and protect Emmett and Elysia from

Chapter 1132

Evidence of Cecil's gambling, evidence of Cecil's domestic violence.

They need to pin down Cecil for both gambling and domestic abuse!

Only by charging him with multiple offenses can they ensure a lengthy sentence!

The reason for reaching out to Maria was clear to anyone with eyes. Claire was beyond redemption; she would never confess.

Though Maria was but a child, she saw more clearly than Claire.

She didn't want her mother to suffer anymore, didn't want her little brother to come back to a world of pain, so she bravely stepped forward.

After all, she was on borrowed time. If speaking out could save her mother and brother, it was worth it.

By the time Claire found out, it was too late. The videos were already circulating online.

She wept beside her daughter's hospital bed,

"How could you be so foolish? How could you speak out against your father like that? He'll kill you if he finds out!"

"You're the foolish one, Mom. Keeping silent was to protect you. Dad's ruthless- he'll kill you for this," she sobbed uncontrollably.

Elliot and Evan were in the room, capturing it all on video and sharing it online!

This was all the proof needed; Claire also acknowledged Cecil's violence!

Let's see Cecil try to talk his way out of this one!

Maria, weak but determined, tried to console her mother,

"Mom, don't cry. Once Dad's crimes are out, he won't dare to hurt you or go after my brother anymore."

"But he'll come after you. He'll kill you," she wailed.

"I'm not afraid. I won't be around much longer anyway. I just want you and my brother to be safe."

Upon hearing this, Claire broke down into hysterical tears.

Elliot and Evan looked on, concern etched on their young faces, as they comforted Maria,

"Maria, don't worry, we've got your back!"

Bang-

Cecil kicked the hospital room door open.

"I'll be damned. You dare to cross me? I'll kill you today!"

Furious and not even noticing Elliot and Evan, Cecil advanced on Maria.

As Evan prepared to intervene, Claire suddenly rushed forward!

She threw her entire weight against Cecil, pushing him out the door.

She closed the door, blocking his entry, and pleaded through tears,

"Cecil, please, think this through. Let her go just this once. She didn't mean to defame you. Please, be ... I..."

let her

"I'll record a video clarifying everything. I'll say I caused her injuries! That I'm the one abusing her!"

"Please, just let her be. She's not well. She can't withstand your blows," she wept. "Out of my way!"

Cecil tried to shake Claire off, but she clung to him desperately,

"Hit me! Take your anger out on me, not her," she cried.

"You deserve it too!"

Cecil's fist connected with Claire's stomach, causing her to gasp in pain and release her hold.

Cecil then unleashed a barrage of punches and kicks.

Blinded by rage, he didn't stop even when Claire lay motionless; he hadn't noticed the camera in the corner. or

The media, having seen Maria's video, had rushed to the hospital.

They were on the lookout for a scoop, and they found one, explosive and shocking.

A scream pierced the air.

Elliot and Evan, who had been in the

room guarding Maria, had

anticipated Cecil's return and were

prepared to take him down if

necessary.

But they were caught off guard by the scream outside and rushed to investigate.

A reporter sat on the floor, staring in horror at the scene before them.

Cecil, too, was in disbelief, looking down at Claire, who lay motionless on the ground.

Two nurses checked Claire's pulse, their expressions grim with surprise, "She's gone!"

Claire had been beaten to death by Cecil!

Chapter 1133

Cecil didn't mean for it to happen, but Claire was really gone!

It was a fatal mistake by Cecil's hand!

The cameras caught it all, streaming live online.

The whole nation became witnesses, Cecil had no chance to deny it!

And those with ulterior motives trying to clear his name stood no chance either!

In an instant, the whole situation escalated to a new level.

At the same time, the police issued a lengthy statement summarizing the facts:

Cecil's involvement in illegal gambling, confirmed!

Cecil's history of domestic violence against his wife and daughter, confirmed!

Cecil trading his son for gambling debts, confirmed!

Cecil's involvement in a kidnapping case, confirmed!

Cecil exploiting his son's custody for blackmail, confirmed!

Elysia and Tarquin kidnapping children, false!

Elysia and Tarquin preventing Emmett from seeing his siblings, false!

Elysia and Tarquin using their power to bully Cecil, false!

The official document, in blue and white, silenced the online trolls.

It was like a merciless slap to their faces, smacking them so hard their faces almost twisted!

Those who had been the most vocal felt the sting the most!

When Elysia and Tarquin heard about Claire's death, they rushed to the hospital, only to find Claire had already been taken to the morgue.

Cecil had been arrested by the police.

Maria, unable to cope with Claire's death, was overwhelmed with emotion and fainted on the spot.

She was being resuscitated in the emergency room.

Elliot and Evan waited outside the emergency room, and upon seeing Elysia and Tarquin, they ran over,

"Daddy! Mommy!"

Elysia, panic-stricken, quickly embraced them,

"How did you guys end up here at the hospital? Did something scare you?"

"Mommy, don't worry, we're not

scared, We came to see Maria.

got scared, she was on the floor,

then she passed out!"

The two little ones were very worried about Maria.

Cecil was a scoundrel, Claire was a peculiar case, but Maria was innocent.

She bravely stood up for Claire and Emmett to reveal Cecil's crimes, which was touching!

"Mommy, can we do something to help Maria? I don't want anything bad to happen to her."

Their eyes were red with concern.

Elysia's brows furrowed, "I'll figure something out!"

Elysia contacted the hospital

administration, signed a consent et

enter

form, and donned a gown to the emergency room.

Maria's condition was incurable, but they hoped she could live a bit longer.

Born into Cecil and Claire's tumultuous life, she probably hadn't seen many good days.

Since she had come into this world, she deserved not only to endure hardship but also to experience joy!

They hoped Maria could stay strong and truly experience the beauty of life!

It wasn't until the early hours that Elysia emerged from the emergency room.

Tarquin was waiting in the hallway. Seeing her, he quickly approached,

"How is she?"

Elysia, drained, replied, "We

managed to stabilize her, but she's still unconscious. She'll be moved to the ICU soon. Whether she wakes up or not is now up to fate."

Tarquin frowned, handing her a cup of warm water,

"Everyone has their fate, don't be too hard on yourself. You must be exhausted, have some water."

Elysia was indeed tired, the recent stress and hours standing in surgery had taken their toll.

She took a few sips from the cup, "Where are ElliotEvan?"

"I sent them home to look after Mom and BabyEmmett. Are you heading back to the hotel now?"

"I can't leave, Maria is still not out of the woods. Anything could happen, I need to stay."

Chapter 1134

"Alright, I'm with you."

The couple spent the entire night in the hospital for a little girl with no blood relation to them.

As dawn broke, Tarquin received a call from Hollis.

There was a snag in wrapping up the excavation project, and Hollis couldn't handle it alone. He needed Tarquin's help.

Axel was off with Folly and Clayton, transporting artifacts, while Lowell was babysitting at the hotel.

Tarquin let Elysia know before heading out himself.

Elysia stayed at the hospital, keeping company with Maria.

They thought that with Cecil's crimes brought to light, this chapter was finally closed.

But then...

Someone decided to stir the pot again for the sake of keeping the drama alive and pulling in more views, making Emmett the topic!

People said Emmett was a curse. His appearance marked the death of his

mother, his father's arrest, and his sister's uncertain fate.

Tragedy followed him, they claimed, he was bad luck incarnate!

Others argued, what good was Emmett's talent when he had such a father? Growing up, he'd be no better, a waste of potential!

Some went further, claiming bad seeds ran in the family. Cecil was scum, and Emmett was bound to be just as rotten, if not worse.

They even suggested sending Emmett off to a juvenile center, to have the state keep an eye on him, preventing him from evolving into a high-IQ criminal.

Elysia was furious upon seeing these reports.

She couldn't fathom how people could slander a child so viciously. Didn't they fear karma?

Then, at a little past seven in the morning, disaster struck Emmett!

Because they hadn't figured out how to explain Claire and Maria's situation to Emmett, they had kept it from him.

He was still in the dark.

Like always, Emmett came to the hospital to bring breakfast for Elysia and Blossom.

But as soon as he stepped out of the car, he was swarmed by the media waiting outside.

With cameras and mics pointed at a child, they bombarded him with questions, "Emmett, how do you feel about your biological mother's death? Are you sad?" "Emmett, has anyone been keeping you from returning to the White family, claiming your heritage?"

"Do you have a liking for blood and violence, Emmett? Do you think you're like your biological father?"

"Can you share your thoughts on your biological parents, Emmett?"

Emmett, not used to such attention, broke down crying on the spot.

Yet, the media didn't let up, continuing to flash their cameras at Emmett.

They were pushing for some explosive answers from Emmett to fuel their headlines and profit from the drama!

Upon hearing about this, Elysia rushed downstairs!

When she burst out of the hospital, Emmett was encircled by the media, crying in the arms of a bodyguard.

Given the ongoing saga with

Emmett and not wanting to stir

the attention, the boys to act. Content b

The area was swarmed with reporters.

Worried about causing a scene and negatively impacting Emmett and Elysia, they could only stand guard around Emmett, ready to strike back if anyone dared to make a move.

But the media's weapons were words, not actions.

With Emmett in tears, the reporters kept firing questions.

Grinding her teeth in anger, Elysia shouted, "Emmett!"

Seeing her Emmett cried even harder,

like a child who had found his long Parent amidst despair,

he wailed,

"Mommy! Waaah... Mommy..."

Chapter 1135

A bodyguard, planted by Elysia's side, cleared a path for her through the throng. Clutching Emmett close, Elysia plunged into the crowd, her voice a soothing murmur, "Don't worry, Emmett. Mommy's here, everything's going to be okay."

Emmett, tears streaming down his face, clung to Elysia's neck, sobbing, "Mommy, mommy..."

Emmett was a magnet for attention, but Elysia drew even more. Reporters swarmed around them, a few bold enough to question her in public.

"Ms. Thorne, there's a lot of chatter claiming Emmett is a jinx, saying there's something fundamentally wrong with his genes. Do you plan to continue your adoption?" one reporter dared.

Elysia glared back, her anger palpable, "Whoever spreads such lies about Emmett is the real jinx! There's nothing wrong with his genes! Emmett is the kindest child in the world, and he will always be my son, Elysia's son!"

"But aren't you afraid that he might turn out even worse than his father?" another pressed on.

Elysia retorted through clenched teeth, "And aren't you afraid? What about all of you? Dragging a five-year-old through the mud for clicks and views, don't you fear retribution, a strike of lightning for your cruelty?!"

One reporter responded, "It's not us tarnishing the kid, but he's Cecil's son. Considering how malicious Cecil was, how can the kid be good? There's definitely something off with the child's genes!"

"And what proof do you have of these so-called 'genetic issues'?" Elysia challenged.

The crowd of reporters fired back, "Cecil himself is the proof! He's the biological father!"

"Experts have speculated that Cecil might have had a unique genetic makeup, which could be hereditary. So, it stands to reason Emmett's genes might be affected."

Before Elysia could respond, an aged voice suddenly cut through the crowd, "Who's genes are you calling into question now?!"

All eyes turned to find an elderly man with short braids, stylishly dressed, and wearing sunglasses.

His assistant, looking worried as the old man spoke out, tried to say something but was silenced by a dismissive gesture.

The old man, glaring at the crowd, snapped, "It seems like it's your genes that have issues! A bunch of no-goods, bringing shame to

journalists everywhere! Have you all fed your professional ethics to the dogs?!"

The reporters, taken aback, challenged, "And who might you be?"

"Think we'll back down because you're old? Don't push your luck here!"

"Yeah, it's not just us saying the kid's got bad genes. The internet's full of it."

"Whoever says that is the real beast!"

The old man, authority radiating from him, looked livid.

Elysia, puzzled by this defender of Emmett, wondered who he could be.

As the old man approached, pushing through to stand beside Elysia and Emmett, he removed his sunglasses, his eyes red, "Emmett, my dear grandson."

The crowd gasped in unison.

Elysia was stunned, staring at the old man, "You are...?"

The old man, his voice choked with I'm Cecil's biological

father, Emmett's

The reporters, sensing a story, began snapping photos furiously.

"He's Cecil's father!"

"No wonder he was so angry. Speaking ill of Emmett's genes is like insulting him!"

Chapter 1136

"Like father, like son, Cecil is a piece of work. No doubt he's no good either!"

"Of course, he's no good. Isn't he the one who walked out on his family? I heard Cecil's mom got dumped the moment she got pregnant, so Cecil ended up living with his stepdad!"

"It figures, doesn't it? Bad blood runs in the family. Just you wait and see. If Emmett grows up without any issues, I'll livestream myself eating my hat!"

The crowd was buzzing with gossip, paying no mind to the elderly gentleman among them.

Despite his distinguished aura and his clearly upscale attire, he didn't seem to faze them.

Suddenly, a few black sedans pulled up steadily behind the crowd.

The cars were nothing out of the ordinary, but the men stepping out were a different story—all were clad in sleek jackets.

To those in the know, it was an unmistakable sign.

The arrival of these figures instantly captured everyone's attention.

Reporters, caught off guard, hesitated to take photos openly, while quietly recorded the scene for a live broadcast.

The leaders, unaware of what had transpired, scanned the reporters with furrowed brows before making their way to the elderly man.

The reporters quickly made way for these untouchable figures, assuming they were here for an inspection of the hospital. Instead, the group made a beeline for the old man, stopping in their tracks.

With smiles and polite, respectful gestures, they bent down to shake hands.

"Old Mr. Gibson, we had no idea Bertram was coming to Silver City without advance notice. If anything were to happen to you here, Silver City would never forgive itself."

"We only found out this morning that Bertram had arrived in Silver City last night. We rushed to your hotel, only to find you weren't there."

"We didn't have your assistant's contact information, and couldn't reach you. After much inquiry, we learned you had come to the hospital. Are you unwell, sir?" The crowd was stunned.

Just who was this old man, to receive such reverence from the city's leaders?

In their presence, he was treated with the kind of respect usually reserved for high-ranking officials.

Yet, his attire and braided hairstyle hardly fit the image of a politician.

Before the reporters could fully process the scene, the internet was already ablaze.

"Bertram! It's Bertram!! OMG, Bertram!!!"

"My God, I knew there was something about this gentleman. It's the legendary Bertram!"

"Is Bertram still setting trends? That outfit must be from his latest collection; I've never seen it before."

"I adore the beads Bertram is wearing!"

"And those sunglasses!"

"That hairstyle is absolutely killer!"

Some were in awe, while others shifted the conversation to Emmett,

"No wonder Emmett is so talented at just five years old. He's Bertram's own grandson!"

"Whoever said there was something

Wheat your Bertram's genes, prepare

your words! It's your family's

genes that have issues!"

"Exactly, those bashing our Bertram, back off!"

"I'm going to make a formal

complaint; someone's been talkimet

smack about our Bertram. Mom,

please take action!"

As Bertram's identity was revealed, the internet was once again thrown into a frenzy.

But this time, nobody spoke ill of Cecil or Emmett. It was all praise and adulation.

After all, Bertram was a true icon in the world of fashion.

Single-handedly, he had

revolutionized the Western fashion scene, placing his country at the

e of style.

Chapter 1137

Because of Bertram, those international critics had to swallow their words about us being "outdated" or lacking a sense of style!

All the top luxury brands wanted a piece of him, but Bertram played it cool.

He wasn't tied to any brand, any company; he was his own man!

Living a life of seclusion, rarely making public appearances, he was almost a ghost at social events.

Yet, his reputation was legendary!

His designs didn't have a dedicated clientele; they were up for grabs to those willing to pay the price and to those deemed destined by fate.

With every season change, Bertram would release a new item, leaving the market buzzing with speculation on who would snag his latest creation.

Incredibly, whoever landed Bertram's new design was guaranteed a fortune!

For nearly two decades, every single one of Bertram's designs became a hit!

From fashion to fragrances, lipsticks, and jewelry, every launch was an explosion in the market.

The world praised: Anything by Bertram was guaranteed to be a masterpiece!

And so, every design of his was highly sought after!

Insiders admired his talent.

Outsiders appreciated his character.

Even the motherland itself repeatedly sang his praises!

Not just for his talent, or for the honor he brought to the country, but for his patriotism.

Anyone daring to utter a single word against our nation, whether in his presence or not, would find themselves blacklisted by him!

Banned from collaboration for life!

Numerous developed countries had tried to lure him into taking their citizenship, all to be refused.

So, you see, calling such a titan flawed?

Not only would his fans not stand for it, but the motherland herself would take offense!

The honor and economic prosperity he brought could easily fill an exhilarating saga!

Dare to slander Bertram's own grandson? You're asking for a slap from mother herself!

As for Cecil, yes, he is indeed Bertram's son, but... his situation is unique. Bertram politely shook hands with the leaders of Silver City,

"This was all because Emmett came back quietly. I had no intention of causing any stir."

"But after landing and checking this child's information, I found out he's actually my grandson!"

"I had barely begun to feel joy when I saw all these slanderous rumors about my grandson online! I came to the hospital to find my grandson."

"I can't let them bully him! I can't let them ruin him!"

Words, invisible yet powerful enough to destroy a person!

The leaders of Silver City looked from Bertram to Emmett, shocked.

Emmett's case had caused quite the stir.

Involving two of the wealthiest, the leaders of Silver City were naturally concerned.

They had dealings with Tarquin in private, but never had they imagined Emmett to be Bertram's blood grandson!

Before, they had pitied the boy for his tough life and unfortunate family background.

Now, they saw him in a new light!

With a grandfather like the famed

Bertram, and foster parents being the heirs of Hawkins Sea-freight and the nation's wealthiest, the boy's life was set to be on an upward trajectory!

Before the leaders could even respond, Bertram turned to the surrounding reporters, his voice stern,

"The matter between Cecil and me will be clarified in a statement later. Cecil may be at fault, and you can criticize him, but you must not target my grandson!"

"Anyone daring to slander my Emmett for the sake of attracting traffic, will not let it go! I may be old, but I still have the strength to protect my grandson!"

Seeing Bertram's fury, the leaders of Silver City quickly intervened,

"There's no need for Bertram to take action personally. It's our responsibility to

deal with such matters within our jurisdiction."

The chief leader frowned, turning to his secretary,

"Find out which departments are involved. Make them handle this seriously. No one is to be spared!"

Chapter 1138

Reporters were utterly shell-shocked.

"Oh Lord, we've really stepped in it now!"

Their reactions ranged from sheer astonishment to downright terror, so scared that they wouldn't dare make a peep!

Bertram then turned to the officials of Silver City and said,

"Thanks for stepping in. I've got some family matters to sort out. Once I'm done, I'll come and visit you all."

The Silver City officials immediately responded:

"Don't mention it, Bertram. Just give us a ring when you're free, and we'll come over. If there's anything you need from us, just say the word."

This guy was beloved by everyone, even our moms!

If he was slighted in Silver City and went to complain to our moms, the officials would definitely get an earful.

After getting a scolding from our moms, Bertram's vast fanbase wouldn't let Silver City off easy either.

They feared an economic boycott, with people refusing to buy anything from Silver City.

In these tough times, with the economy in a slump, not just the ordinary folks but even the government was tightening its belt.

Everyone was pulling out all the stops to boost the economy and make some money!

But making money was becoming increasingly difficult!

And Bertram, he was a walking goldmine.

So naturally, everyone was warm and welcoming towards this mogul, who seemed to be dripping in gold.

After everyone had left, the elder said to Elysia,

"I've come to understand the situation between Ms. Thorne and my grandson. I want to thank you and Mr. Bradford. I owe you both a big favor!"

Elysia was stunned for a moment before she snapped back to reality.

Even though she wasn't part of the fashion scene, she knew who Bertram was.

After all, Bertram wasn't just some fashionista. His patriotism was well-known.

And Winona Newsom was a big name in the entertainment world!

Winona's favorite designer was Bertram.

Unfortunately, she could never get her hands on his latest creations!

Sure, she was a superstar, but in the elite circles, stars didn't rank very high.

So, every time Bertram released something new, Winona was left wanting, only managing to snag pieces during major sales.

Every new release had her looking like she'd lost her will to live, cursing her lack of connections to get closer to Bertram.

Elysia had never imagined that Emmett could be Bertram's own grandson!

She knew Emmett had a knack for design, showing promise at such a young age, but the connection to Bertram was a surprise.

Elysia swallowed hard before asking softly,

"Did... did you and Emmett take a paternity test?"

The elder answered, "Yes, I've done it with Cecil. There's no mistake."

They had indeed conducted a test between Cecil and Emmett, confirming their father-son relationship.

And since Bertram and Cecil were related, that made Bertram Emmett's grandfather!

Elysia, shocked yet puzzled, said,

"Cecil has been causing us trouble for so long, and he never mentioned you."

The elder sighed gently,

"Years ago, I was tricked by a

woman in a bar. After getting drunk one night, we ended up together, and she demanded a large sum money from me afterward. We parted ways and never contacted each other again."

"I had no idea she was pregnant or that she had my child."

"I've been single all these years, never imagining I'd have a son, let alone a grandson!"

"It was after seeing Emmett's

designs that I wanted to take him

under my wing. Then, through

investigating Cecil, I found out about Emmett's grandmother."

"Matching up Cecil's birth date, I had my suspicions and quickly went for a paternity test, only to discover he truly was my son!"

Elysia was speechless...

No wonder there was such a stark difference in character between Emmett and Cecil.

Cecil's morals were influenced by his mother, compounded by his stepfather's abusive nature, leading him astray.

Meanwhile, Emmett seemed to bypass his parents, inheriting his grandfather's exemplary genes directly.

Indeed, there's always a trace to follow in the grand scheme of things.

Chapter 1139

"Ah..."

Bertram's eyes were filled with deep sorrow.

His affair with Cecil's mother was a tragedy from the start, and its conclusion was far from perfect.

Cecil's mother died young, her life a tapestry of scandal and illness.

And now Cecil, tangled in the web of law, sentenced for his myriad crimes, his future beyond the prison bars was nothing but a distant dream.

Such tragedy...

Bertram sighed, turning to his assistant beside him,

"You know the story between Cecil's mother and me. I want a statement released under my name, detailing our relationship truthfully and acknowledging Cecil as my own son!"

"No need to hide or sugarcoat anything about me, just tell it as it is!"

"As a father, regardless of the circumstances, I have failed to fulfill my duties from day one, and for that, I owe Cecil an apology!"

"However, as a citizen, the actions Cecil took are unforgivable, and I will not use my influence to clear his name!"

The assistant looked solemn. For a public figure, scandals were a nightmare.

And Cecil was Bertram's scandal.

Having such a disgraceful son, honestly, was embarrassing!

By going public with this relationship, Bertram was only inviting criticism.

Bertram saw his concern and said,

"When have I ever cared about public opinion? Do as I say, and release the statement!"

"I might have been ignorant of his existence before, but now that I know, I cannot ignore it. No matter how despicable he may be, he is still my son, and it's my duty to acknowledge him!"

"Besides, I have grandchildren to think about! Let's see who dares to slander their genetics after this!"

"Also, announce that Emmett and Maria are my legitimate grandchildren, and that they will equally share my inheritance when the time comes!"

The assistant was shocked. He had never seen anything like it. Bertram hadn't even heard a 'grandpa' from them, and he was already talking about inheritance?

Bertram's fortune was immense.

Just the royalties alone were enough to live a life of luxury!

Seeing Bertram's serious expression, the assistant nodded without further questions,

"I'll arrange it right away."

"And one more thing!" Bertram's voice grew stern, "Send legal notices to any media outlets that have slandered my grandson. Don't let any of them off!"

"Right away!" The assistant went aside to make the arrangements.

Bertram then looked at Emmett with a gentle gaze.

Emmett was hugging Elysia tightly, looking at him with a mix of curiosity and caution.

Bertram's voice was soft,

"Grandpa knows how close you are to your mommy. Don't worry, even though grandpa has come to claim kin, would never force you two apart."

one

"Whatever makes Emmett happy, grandpa is willing to do!"

"You'll continue living with your current mommy and daddy, don't worry about me taking you away!"

Elysia was stunned. After Cecil's troubles, everyone assumed Emmett's custody would fall to his grandfather.

Unexpectedly...

Emmett's eyes lit up with surprise, "Really?"

"Of course, real. Grandpa has decided not to take Emmett away. Instead, grandpa will come to Emmett!"

"Wherever our Emmett decides to live, grandpa will move there too."

Elysia was visibly surprised, "You're planning to move to Jindale City to be with us?"

"Yep, I want to be close to my

grandson. Wherever Emmett is, that's where I'll be. I've already had people looking for houses in Jindale City."

Having established his connection with Emmett, Bertram made this decision.

He couldn't ruin his grandson's happy childhood. Emmett was happiest with Elysia!

But he also couldn't stand the thought of being away from his grandson. A joy in his old age, how could he let go so easily?

Chapter 1140

So he decided to settle down in Jindale City!

Not only could he be near his grandson at all times, but he could also pass on his skills whenever he wished!

He aimed to teach Emmett everything he knew in his lifetime, ensuring that Emmett would carry on his legacy and shine in the fashion world!

Elysia was thrilled, "Thank you for making this possible. I know it might be a bit of a hassle for you."

Bertram immediately responded,

"It's no hassle at all. I should be the one thanking you. Without you, I wouldn't have such a wonderful grandson! He's healthy and sensible, all thanks to Ms. Thorne!"

"I came in a rush today and didn't bring a proper gift for Ms. Thorne, but we'll have plenty of time in the future!"

Elysia wanted to refuse, but then she thought of Winona.

Winona adored Bertram's creations to the point of obsession!

If she knew her godson was Bertram's own grandson, she'd be over the moon!

So, Elysia silently accepted the future promise of a generous gift, planning to save it for Winona.

When Winona came back for the holidays, she'd immediately take her to visit Bertram!

"Don't worry, Emmett. Grandpa's not going to steal you away. How about a hug for grandpa?"

Emmett looked towards Elysia with big, sparkling eyes, and she gently nodded. Only then did Emmett open his arms wide and leap into Bertram's embrace. "Hi, Grandpa."

Bertram's eyes reddened again, his voice choked up as he tried to hold back tears, "Oh, oh, oh."

He had thought he'd end up a lonely old man, but now he had a grandson. How could he not be thrilled?

Holding his grandson, Bertram took a deep breath, looked up to the sky, his eyes brimming with tears,

"Thank you, Lord! Thank you! Thank you for not forsaking me! Oh, oh, oh..."

Elysia was also moved, her eyes reddening with emotion.

The built-up pressure of many days finally released in that moment.

After the heartfelt reunion downstairs, Bertram hurried to see his granddaughter in the ICU.

Outside the intensive care unit, Maria lay quietly on the hospital bed, her small body hooked up to numerous tubes.

It was a sight that broke Bertram's heart.

His defenses crumbled once more!

This was his granddaughter. Had he

known

her sooner, he

3 bout her to his side without

hesitation!

She wouldn't have had to suffer for so many years with Cecil and Claire!

...

When Tarquin returned to the hospital, he found Elysia cradling Emmett.

The little guy had seen his sister's dire state through the glass window and was heartbroken.

Bertram, too, was glued to the window, tears streaming down his face as he gazed at his granddaughter.

It was only when he saw Tarquin that he quickly wiped his tears and greeted him,

"Mr. Bradford!"

Tarquin, having been briefed on the way back, politely responded, "Hello, Bertram!"

Bertram clasped his hand tightly, his eyes moist,

"Thank you, truly, thank you! I... I'm so grateful! Extremely grateful!"

Tarquin wasn't in need of money or power.

With no way to fully repay this kindness, Bertram could only pour his gratitude into those heartfelt 'thank yous.'

Elysia had been a benefactor to Emmett, and in the same way, Tarquin had shown great favor towards Emmett!

In a world where family lineage is everything, Tarquin, knowing full well that Emmett wasn't his biological son, still gave Emmett his name and equal inheritance rights as his own children!

He didn't just provide Emmett with fatherly love, but also gave him a complete family!

Only someone as foolish as Cecil would

fail

to recognize such

kindness, still scheming to exel