

Hitched 1551

Chapter 1551

Keaton Huber chuckled. "I didn't do a thing. They are just good judges of character. They saw right through to my amazing core!"

Winona Newsom's lips curved into a cold smile. "Aren't you embarrassed saying that? Don't you know what you're really like?"

"Handsome, a great guy, and a hit with the ladies!" Keaton declared.

Winona rolled her eyes, too tired to even argue. Then, remembering something, she pulled out her phone and opened the map. "We're going here first."

Keaton glanced at the screen. "What for?"

"Jess is staying with you, right? I'm going to pick up some treats for her. This shop specializes in prenatal desserts-they're delicious and safe.."

Keaton's eyes narrowed. "Why are you sucking up to Jess?"

Winona shot him another glare. "It's not sucking up. Jess and I are good friends."

Keaton muttered, "Anyone who didn't know better would think you have a crush on me and you're trying to win over my family."

Winona was speechless. "Oh, please! Get over yourself! I do not like you!"

"..." The two of them bickered their way to the dessert shop.

The shop was quite large, with a warm and cozy decor. Even the lighting was a soft, warm hue.

Seeing Winona and Keaton, a clerk greeted them enthusiastically. "Hello, welcome!" Both were wearing sunglasses and masks, so the clerk didn't recognize them.

"We'd like to buy some desserts," Winona said.

The clerk warmly led them inside. "Is this the first time for you and your husband, ma'am?"

Husband and ma'am?

Both of them pressed their lips together, each waiting for the other to explain. As a result, neither did, making it seem like they were agreeing.

The clerk smiled.

"The missus isn't

showing yet, you must be in the early stages. Are you newly pregnant? For the first trimester, I recommend the desserts over here. The second trimester options are over there, and the third trimester ones are further down."

After her introduction, the clerk didn't forget to add a compliment. "You're both so good-looking. Your baby is sure to be beautiful."

Winona: "..."

Keaton: "..."

They both decided it wasn't worth the effort to explain. Winona quickly picked out a few desserts, paid, and they left.

Neither of them noticed a woman in the corner who had been staring at them the whole time. She had secretly taken photos and even a video.

Soon, the photos were on Janelle's phone, along with a voice message. "Mrs. Huber, take a look. Isn't that your eldest son?"

Janelle looked. It was Keaton and Winona! She quickly replied, "That's Keaton! Where did you see them?"

"At a dessert shop for pregnant women," the other person said.

Janelle bolted upright in bed, her voice a sharp crack over the phone. "What did you say?"

Her loud voice startled Richard Huber. She hadn't eaten or drunk anything all day because of the incident with Winona and Richard had been staying home with her. Jessamine Huber had also been there during the day, only leaving in the evening.

Richard walked to the bedside. "What's all this about?"

Janelle ignored him. When Richard tried to ask again, Janelle snapped, "Just be quiet for a second!"

After snapping at him, she started

voice call with the other person. "Mrs Wallace, could you tell me the details? What do you mean, a dessert shop for pregnant women?"

Mrs. Wallace chuckled. "You're about to have a grandchild! Why didn't you share such wonderful news with everyone? Afraid we'd expect an invitation to a party?"

A grandchild?!

Richard's expression changed instantly. He pricked up his ears to listen intently. "!"

Janelle's heart pounded, her breathing uneven. She forced herself to suppress her excitement and asked, "Mrs. Wallace, what's this about a grandchild?"

Chapter 1552

Mrs. Wallace thought she was just being modest. "I saw it all. Your son brought a beautiful young woman to a maternity dessert shop to buy snacks. The girl isn't showing yet, so it's obvious she just got pregnant."

Richard was so excited he tried to grab the phone to speak!

Janelle shot him a glare, then smiled and asked Mrs. Wallace, "Could it be for his sister? Jessamine is pregnant with her second, after all. She's over four months along."

"Nope. The clerk called them 'sir and ma'am,' and they didn't deny it. The clerk said she was in her first trimester, and they didn't deny that either."

Richard couldn't hold back any longer and boomed, "Is that really true?!"

Mrs. Wallace paused for a second, then laughed. "Oh, Mr. Huber is home too! Yes, it's true! Just wait, I even recorded a short video. I'll send it to you."

Mrs. Wallace ended the call and sent a video clip.

Janelle and Richard huddled over the phone, their eyes glued to the screen as the video loaded. Although Keaton and Winona were wearing sunglasses and masks, they recognized them instantly. The scene in the video was exactly as Mrs. Wallace had described. The clerk called them 'sir and ma'am,' and they didn't object. The clerk mentioned Winona was in her first trimester, and Winona didn't object. And they bought a whole bunch of desserts!

Mrs. Wallace sent another voice message. "They were so bundled up, I couldn't get a clear look at the girl's face, but judging by her figure and aura, she's definitely a stunner!"

"You Hubers are really something else, keeping such amazing news under wraps. Were you afraid we'd come looking for celebratory drinks?"

Richard and Janelle didn't reply. They watched the video several more times, bursting with excitement.

Janelle couldn't believe it. Could such wonderful news really be happening to them?!

She tugged on Richard's arm. "Honey, look again. That's Winona, right?"

Richard nodded firmly. "It is!"

Janelle: "So... what... what exactly does this mean?"

Richard said, "Isn't it obvious? Winona's pregnant, she had a craving for sweets, and our son took her to buy some!"

Janelle still found it hard to believe. "But... but why wouldn't they tell us something this huge?"

Richard reasoned, "They must have just found out themselves. They probably haven't had a chance to tell us yet!"

Janelle asked cautiously, "You don't think... they're thinking of not keeping it?"

Richard's eyes widened. "Impossible!

If Keaton dares to say he doesn't want it break his legs! Besides, think about it. They went out to buy maternity snacks That clearly means they plan to keep the baby."

Janelle: "Really?"

Richard: "Definitely!"

Janelle let out a long breath, her face beaming. "That boy... he really knows how to touch a person's heart. Without a word, he gives us such a huge surprise!"

She laughed, and Richard laughed with her. As they laughed, their eyes reddened with tears.

God only knew how desperately they wanted a daughter-in-law. A grandchild? They hadn't even dared to dream of it! This incredible surprise was just too moving!

Richard said excitedly, "Keaton

finally did something to make me proud! That's my boy! No! I have to announce this to the world! I have to Ter Mr Windham and Mr. Murphy know that I, Richard Huber, am going to be a grandfather!"

"Those old coots are always mocking me, saying my family line is going to end with me. Those old fools will be eating their hearts out when they find out I'm going to be a grandfather!!"

Janelle stopped him. "Don't say anything just yet. Let's wait for the kids to get here and ask them first. What if Winona doesn't want to go public? If you announce it, you might upset her."

Richard nodded quickly. "Right, right, you're right. I won't tell anyone... But it's okay

if I tell my ancestors, right?! I want to make them happy!"

"I need to let them know that their prized vintage wine wasn't wasted! The person

who drank it is giving the Huber family an heir. They got the better end of the deal!"

Chapter 1553

Janelle smiled. "Go on, go on. Go share the good news."

Richard scurried off to the family study to report the news to his ancestors' portraits. But just as he reached the door, he turned back.

"I hear a lot of young women these days are hesitant to have children. If our son doesn't want the baby, we can handle him. But we can't force Winona. We need to show Winona how much the Huber family wants this. Get the property deeds, the stock certificates, everything ready. We'll set up a meeting with her later."

Janelle knew exactly what he meant and gave him her full support. "Okay!"

Only then did Richard leave, beaming, to go find his forefathers. His son had finally made him proud, and now he could hold his head high in front of his ancestors!

Janelle wiped away a tear and replied to Mrs. Wallace with a cheerful laugh. "It's not that we were trying to hide it. It's just... they haven't had the wedding yet, so a sudden pregnancy is a bit awkward to announce. But you just wait, when the time comes for the reception, I'll save you a seat at the head table!"

Mrs. Wallace replied, "Okay, okay, my lips are sealed for now."

"Mhm, thank you so much."

Mrs. Wallace chuckled back. "Mrs. Windham and Mrs. Murphy are always talking about their sons' weddings, but their sons are still single, let alone having kids. And your Keaton, who always swore he'd never get married, is already having a baby! Your son is the one who really came through!"

Janelle couldn't stop grinning. "That little rascal. When he's annoying, he's truly infuriating. But when he gives you a surprise, he really goes all out! Hahaha."

Life was certainly unpredictable. Keaton and Winona's relationship wasn't even official, but in their parents' minds, they were already having a baby.

After hanging up with Mrs. Wallace, Janelle immediately called Keaton. He answered this time, since the issue with Winona had been resolved and he wasn't expecting to get yelled at.

"Hey, Mom."

Janelle, suppressing her excitement, asked, "Where are you?"

Keaton grinned. "Take a guess."

Janelle: "Stop messing around!"

"I'm on my way home," Keaton said. "Get some good food ready for me. I have a surprise for you."

Keaton's surprise was Winona, but Janelle thought he was talking about Winona's pregnancy. She was overjoyed.

"Okay, okay, I'll go get everything ready right now. How long until you're home?"

"About half an hour."

"Are... are you with Winona?"

Keaton was surprised. "How did you know?"

Janelle didn't explain, only saying, "Drive slowly, okay? This early stage is a critical time. You have to be careful. Don't be careless!"

After hanging up, Keaton asked Winona, "What critical time? What was my mom talking about?"

Winona shook her head. "I have no idea."

Neither of them understood, so they didn't think much of it.

When they arrived at the Huber estate, they heard that Jessamine had already left so Winona left the desserts in the car. As soon as they got out, they noticed something was off. ^sw novels

The Huber mansion was ablaze with light, the courtyard glowing as if it were high noon. Even more shockingly, there was a red carpet laid out on the ground!

Keaton looked around, baffled. "What's all this for?"

A housemaid explained, "It's dark out. The madam was worried Ms. Newsom might trip and fall."

Keaton was stunned. "This is for her?! There's nothing wrong with her eyes, why would she trip?!"

The elderly housekeeper reminded

him, "Keaton..you mustn't say that.

The madam will have your hide if

she hears you. You know how much she adores Ms. Newsom."

Keaton looked at the thick carpet on the ground and sighed. "But you can't adore someone this much! This is insane!"

The maids just smiled without speaking, all greeting Winona in unison. "Good evening, Ms. Newsom."

Winona felt a little awkward. Even

the lady of the Huber house

probably wouldn't get this kind of

treatment, right? A red carpet just for her? Was she really that precious?

Chapter 1554

Winona didn't realize that in the Huber mansion, she wasn't just a guest. She was a national treasure—practically the house deity!

After greeting everyone, Winona and Keaton entered the main house together.

Janelle was waiting in the living room, wearing a stunning, festive red dress. The moment she saw them, she rushed forward to greet them, her eyes only on Winona, completely ignoring her son.

She grabbed Winona's hands, her voice full of concern. "Why are you wearing so little in the evening? Aren't you cold?"

Winona smiled and shook her head. "Janelle, I'm not cold."

Keaton tried to get some attention. "Mom, I'm cold."

Janelle shot him a sidelong glance. "Then freeze."

Keaton wasn't offended. He just grinned, his charming eyes crinkling. "Mom, be honest with me. Did you find me in a dumpster or something?"

Janelle rolled her eyes at him, then suddenly adopted a serious tone. "Son, you're all grown up now, so I won't hide it from you anymore. Fine, you want the truth? We found you in a cardboard box behind a dumpster."

"When I found you, you were filthy and stank to high heaven. Your father was so disgusted, he asked me where I'd found such a pathetic little stray dog."

"I told him, 'This isn't a stray dog, it's a person.' Your father said, 'It doesn't look like one.' I said, 'He will after a bath.'"

"So I washed you up, and only then did you start to look somewhat human!"

"We felt sorry for you, so we adopted you."

"If you feel unhappy with us, I can release you back into the wild right now. You can go back to being a little stray in the gutter!"

Winona couldn't help it; she burst out laughing. A little stray dog-that was Keaton Huber!

Keaton was speechless. He pursed his lips. "Mom, did you and Dad mess up your first kid and decide you want a do-over? Are you planning to give me a little brother?"

Janelle slapped his arm lightly. "You're a grown man, stop acting so childish all the time! Aren't you afraid of Winona laughing at you?"

"This is called humor," Keaton said. "Right, Winona?"

Winona, smiling, nodded along with him, her tone playfully placating. "Mhm, very humorous."

Keaton looked smug. "See? Even Winona gets that it's humor."

Janelle was exasperated. "Winona's just too polite to call you out."

"..." As the mother and son went back and forth, Winona stood by and listened, feeling a sense of warmth and joy. She really liked the Huber family's atmosphere.

Keaton was a good son. Even

though he was almost thirty, he never talked back when his parents scolded him, instead always joking around to make them happy. And while Janelle and Richard always and Richard always gave him a hard time, it was clear they loved him dearly.

It was nothing like Zane Livingston and his mother... Priscilla was a bona fide shrew who acted like she was the Queen of Sheba. Because Winona wasn't available to wait on her hand and foot, Priscilla was perpetually displeased, complaining about everything under the sun. Zane had no patience for her, and their entire home was filled with a toxic suffocating atmosphere. In all the years she was with Zane, she'd never seen him and his mother share a warm moment like this, let alone enjoy such a happy family dynamic!

Keaton was still talking to Janelle. "Why are you dressed so festively today? Is there

a special occasion?"

Janelle gave him a meaningful look, her eyes clearly saying: *Go on. Keep pretending.*

Keaton: "?"

Pretending about what?

Janelle ignored him and gently pulled Winona to sit down, the affection in her eyes practically overflowing. *Oh my god, my idol is carrying my son's child!* This was something she wouldn't even dare to dream of!

Because she was so convinced Winona was pregnant, everything about her seemed to confirm it. Winona wasn't wearing high heels? Because she's pregnant. Winona's stomach was flat? Because it's still early.

Janelle was so happy she didn't know what to say. She just held Winona's hand and gazed at her. As she watched, her eyes started to well up with tears.

Keaton and Winona were taken aback. They both spoke at once.

"Mom, what's wrong?"

"Janelle...?"

Janelle sniffled hard. "It's nothing, it's nothing. I'm just so happy."

Winona assumed she was

e'

emotional because of the online drama from earlier in the day. "You must have seen the news online, she said. "Even though I got attacked at first managed to turn things around and come out even stronger. Please don't worry about me."

Chapter 1555

Janelle nodded with a smile. "I saw, I saw! It's all thanks to Old Mr. White!"

"Keaton did a good job this time, knowing to ask Old Mr. White to step in and support you. But Keaton, from now on, no more creating fake scandals! Shifra is the last one!"

Janelle assumed Keaton had deliberately set up the situation with Shifra to cover up his relationship with Winona.

Winona didn't get it, but Keaton did! Afraid his mom would say more, he quickly agreed. "I know, Mom. You can count on me. I'll listen to my dear mother."

Janelle beamed, feeling on top of the world. She wanted to ask about the pregnancy several times, but since Winona and Keaton didn't bring it up, she forced herself to wait.

After chatting for a bit, Keaton asked, "Where's Dad?"

"In the study," Janelle said.

Keaton jolted and sat bolt upright. "The study?! Is he still planning to use the family discipline?!"

Winona was startled too. She knew how severe Keaton's injuries had been the last time. Just as she was about to plead for him, Richard entered, his face flushed with excitement.

Seeing Keaton, Richard boomed, "Keaton!"

Keaton's breath caught, and he shot up, scrambling behind Winona. His dad only ever used his full name when he was furious!

Keaton whispered urgently, "Save me. I'll owe you big time. I'll do anything you ask! You're his favorite right now, you're the only one who can save me!"

Winona panicked and quickly stood up to shield Keaton. "Mr... Mr. Huber."

Keaton's hands pressed on Winona's shoulders as he hid behind her. He was so nervous he was fidgeting, causing Winona to sway with him.

Seeing this, Janelle's eyes widened in fury. "Keaton! Let go of Winona! Get away from her!"

Keaton wouldn't let go. "Mom, you have to calm Dad down first!"

Janelle glared. "Why should I calm him down?! Let go of Winona right now! Stop shaking her, let her sit down and rest! Be careful not to hurt her!"

Just as Keaton was about to speak, Richard roared, his eyes wide, "Stop shaking her! Let go of Winona! Let Winona sit down properly!"

Hearing this, Winona immediately sat down, straight and still. Her heart was pounding. She had no idea why they were so insistent on her sitting down, but she did it anyway!

She sat so abruptly that Janelle's heart leaped into her throat. She turned and yelled at Richard, "Why are you shouting so loud?! You scared Winona!"

Janelle immediately turned back to Winona, full of concern. "Winona, are you alright?"

Winona's nerves were shot. She was completely bewildered. "I... I'm fine."

"Good, that's good. If you feel uncomfortable at all, you have to tell me."

Winona managed a weak smile. "Janelle, I'm really fine."

Janelle let out a sigh of relief, then turned her frustration on Keaton. "How old are you? Why are you so thoughtless? Winona needs to be taken care of right now; we

can't let anything happen to her! And you were shaking her!"

Keaton was just as confused. "But Mom, I was just lightly..."

Richard's face darkened. "Just listen to what your mother says!"

Terrified his father was about to resort to physical punishment, Keaton nodded repeatedly. "Okay, okay listening. I won't touch him, alright? It's far away from her, how about that? But I have one condition: we talk this out. Anyone who gets physical is a big, bad bully!"

Winona seized the opportunity to add, "Mr. Huber, Keaton hasn't done anything that terrible. It doesn't call for the paddle. You can talk it out calmly or maybe just kick him a few times, but please please don't take the paddle to him again.."

This time, it was Richard's turn to be confused. He was about to have a grandchild!

He was ecstatic! Why would he use family discipline?

Confused or not, seeing Winona protecting his son made Richard happy deep down. He never would have imagined that Winona would actually fall for his philandering scoundrel of a son. The Huber

family must have done something

very right in a past life!

Chapter 1556

Richard was beaming. "No family discipline, Winona, don't be nervous. I won't use family discipline." Richard then looked at Keaton. "You, come outside with me first!" Keaton was wary. "What for?" Richard said, "To the family study." Keaton's eyes widened. "Didn't you just say you wouldn't use family discipline?" Richard paused for a moment, then said, "Does going to the study always mean discipline? Can't it be to praise you?" Keaton looked skeptical. "Praise me for what?" Richard's lips moved, but with Winona present, he was too embarrassed to say it outright. He just said, "Good man! Get out here!" Good man? Keaton was floored. To his dad, he'd always been the problem child, the black sheep, the good-for-nothing disappointment. How had he suddenly become a 'good man'?! Keaton grew even

more suspicious. "No hitting?" Richard smiled. "I already said, no hitting! Winona is listening. Would I go back on my word?" Janelle also chimed in with a smile, "Go on. I'm sure your father couldn't bring himself to lay a hand on you today. As long as you don't burn down the study, he won't get physical." Seeing that Richard was indeed in a pleasant mood, Keaton got up and went out. The father and son walked towards the study. Keaton couldn't help but ask, "Dad, is there really some good news in the family today?" Richard looked at him with a loving smile. "Good man! You've finally grown up! I thought you'd be a lost cause for the rest of your life! I never expected you to give me such a wonderful surprise! I'm so relieved. My boy has finally seen the light!" My boy has seen the light? That didn't sound right. It sounded less like a compliment and more like an insult! "Dad, your son has always been a good person! Just tell me, what's the big surprise today?" Richard just smiled at him again, retorting, "Playing coy and not wanting to say, are you?" "It's not me..." "If you don't want to say it, you don't have to. You can tell your grandfather, your great-grandfather, and all the Huber ancestors in the study. You've finally done something worthwhile. Let them have a reason to celebrate." Keaton was speechless. So, he'd never done anything worthwhile before? He couldn't for the life of him figure out what this good news was. He had a vague feeling it might have something to do with Winona. "Dad, is this surprise you're talking about related to Winona?" Richard nodded. "You know your mother and I both adore Winona. The fact that she's willing to start a family with you is a blessing for the Huber legacy!" He continued, "Of course, without you, Winona wouldn't be joining the Huber family, and we wouldn't have such joyous news. So, you, my boy, are the hero here!" Keaton was stunned. Carry on the family line? He had just told a little lie about them secretly dating. How did it escalate to carrying on the family line? Before Keaton could ask, Richard let out a long sigh and lamented, "For the past few years, Dad really thought our family was done for. I had completely given up on you!" "Just because you said you wanted to be a bachelor for life, I had so many sleepless nights." "Look at my gray hair-half of it is because of you! Your sister never gave me this much grief. It's just you, always causing trouble!" "It's not like our family is short on money, but we're short on people!" "Your mother and I have been wishing on every star, hoping you'd get your act together, settle down, and find a good girl to marry and have kids with." "But you? You were about to turn thirty and still yelling about not getting married or having kids! I'd lost all hope in you!" "Who would've thought... there'd be such a shocking plot twist. Heh, you've really impressed me, son... my good boy..." As Richard walked and talked, he was showing a rare moment of genuine emotion, and Keaton didn't have the heart to interrupt him.

Chapter 1557

He could only suppress his confusion and listen quietly. Looking at the white at Richard's temples, he felt a pang of sadness. He and his parents had a major disagreement about marriage, and his refusal to compromise had clearly taken a toll on them. They arrived at the study. Richard looked at the portraits of their ancestors and sighed again. "That's all in the past. Dad really does love you." Keaton knew, of course. He smiled, trying to lighten the mood. "Alright, Richard, old sport, that's enough. Any more of this sentimental stuff and I'm gonna start crying. You said you love me, so that means no more family discipline, right? If you're mad, you can slap me a few times or give me a kick, but not the formal stuff!" Richard chuckled. "I already swore to our ancestors. I won't hit you again! And I definitely won't use the family discipline!" Keaton's eyes lit up. "Really?" Richard nodded. "Of course, it's true!" Keaton said, "A gentleman's word is his bond!" Richard said, "If I hit you again, I'll..... well, you can ground me for a month. How about that?" Keaton immediately replied, "That won't be necessary. Just keep your word."

Richard was in a great mood. He smiled and said, " "Alright, first, go offer your respects to the family elders. Let them be the first to know. Tell them the good news yourself." Keaton asked, "What good news?" Richard reminded him, "About you and Winona, of course!" Richard was referring to the pregnancy, but Keaton thought he meant their relationship. Keaton looked embarrassed. They weren't really dating. Announcing it to his ancestors felt like deceiving them. That was highly disrespectful! If he lied to his ancestors, he'd truly be a terrible son! "Dad, it's a bit too early to announce it. Winona and I haven't gone public yet." But Richard said, "You can still tell them even if it's not public. They're our own ancestors, not outsiders. Just share the good news and make them happy." Keaton shook his head. "No, it's not right. What if we break up later? We'd get their hopes up for nothing! They'd be even more disappointed!" Hearing this, Richard's eyes widened. "Break up? After all this, you can still break up?" Keaton nodded. "You never know with relationships. We might seem all lovey-dovey now, but we could have a falling out any day! The possibility of a breakup is still pretty high." Richard's brow furrowed, his lips tightened, and his face darkened as he stared at Keaton. She was pregnant, and he was already thinking about breaking up? It sounded like he had no intention of keeping the baby! They, the Huber family, had wished on every star for this one heir, and he was thinking of throwing it all away! "You brat! You disappointment! Kneel properly!" Richard was furious, instantly transforming from a loving father back into a strict one. Seeing his dad's sudden change, Keaton quickly knelt properly. "Dad, wasn't I your 'good boy'?" "You rebellious son!" Keaton was speechless. His dad's mood flipped faster than a pancake! One second he was 'good man' and 'my good boy,' and now he was a 'rebellious son' again. Although he didn't want to anger his father, he couldn't back down. He could lie about dating Winona, but he couldn't guarantee the future. The lie would eventually fall apart. He would have to tell Richard and Janelle that Winona didn't like him anymore and had broken up with him. Faking a relationship was one thing, but faking a marriage was out of the question, let alone carrying on the family line! Steeling himself, Keaton said, "Dad, don't be angry yet. Listen to me. I'm not trying to break up with Winona, but relationships are unpredictable. Breaking up and getting back together is normal, I..." Richard roared, "Don't give me that useless crap! Just tell me, are you or are you not going to take responsibility for Winona?"

Chapter 1558

Keaton's head was spinning. "I'm not! I'm just trying to be realistic about the situation with you." Richard roared, "You call this realistic? It sounds to me like you've already cooked up a wicked plan to ditch her! How could you be so heartless? When you were still in your mother's womb, I told you that you must be a responsible person! The day you were born, I told you again that you would grow up to be an upstanding man who loves his country and protects his family! And what did you become? A deadbeat! You brat! You... you... I've spoiled you rotten! I swear I'm going to beat you to death today!" Richard picked up the disciplinary paddle, and Keaton shot up in terror. "Dad, what are you doing? Didn't you just tell the ancestors you'd never hit me again?!" Richard was seething. "Today, it's not me hitting you, it's the ancestors hitting you through me! I'd rather call you 'Dad' than not beat the sense back into you today!" Seeing his father was serious, Keaton stopped trying to explain and just ran. As he fled, he yelled, "Winona! Help! Winona—" At this point, only Winona could save him. Even his mom was no use! Richard chased after him with the paddle. "You little monster! Get back here!" Late at night, the father and son were in a frantic chase. One yelling 'Winona, save me!' and the other shouting 'You monster, stop!' What was a scene of fatherly affection just moments ago had devolved into chaos. The

Huber family staff wanted to intervene, but when they saw the disciplinary paddle in Richard's hand, they didn't dare move. This wasn't just any object; it was a family heirloom passed down from the Huber ancestors, and only the head of the family could touch it. It was rarely used, but when it was, it meant serious trouble. The staff was frantic with worry, all feeling sorry for Keaton. One of the more quick-witted ones had already run to get Winona. "Ms. Newsom, please... please, you have to save Keaton! Mr. Huber is about to use the family discipline on him again, he's going to kill him, sniff..." Janelle and Winona both jumped up from the sofa in shock. "Why would he use the family discipline all of a sudden?" The staff member was out of breath, her eyes red. "I don't know! Mr. Huber is chasing Keaton all over the yard with the paddle, and he's shouting that he's going to beat Keaton into the next century!" Winona was stunned. Janelle frowned. "Those two were acting like a perfect father and son when they left. How did they become mortal enemies in such a short time?!" The staff member, terrified Keaton would be beaten, pleaded with Winona. "Ms. Newsom, the master adores you. He'll only listen if you intervene. Please, help Keaton. When the master uses the family discipline, he really will beat him half to death, sob..." Winona didn't have time to think and rushed outside. She was moving so quickly that Janelle hurried to follow. "Winona, slow down." Just as they stepped out of the main house, they heard Keaton and Richard's voices. Keaton was shouting at the top of his lungs, "Winona! Winona! Come out and save me! Dad, can't we just talk about this? Please stop chasing me." Richard was panting, his breathing heavy. "Don't you 'Dad' me! I'm going to beat the living daylights out of you!" Winona was speechless. She hurried forward. "Mr. Huber!" The moment Keaton saw her, it was as if he'd seen his savior. He dashed over with his long legs and hid behind her. "Emergency rescue!" Winona's breathing became ragged. "What on earth is going on?" Keaton sighed. "It's a long story. Just calm my dad down first. I'll explain everything later." Richard saw Winona and calmed down considerably. "Winona, step aside. He doesn't deserve your protection. Let me teach him a lesson and see if he dares to have such wicked thoughts again!"

Chapter 1559

Janelle grabbed Richard and scolded him in a low voice, "What do you think you're doing? On such a happy day, why are you causing such a scene?!" Keaton immediately pleaded for help. "Mom, save me! Dad's trying to kill me again, and in front of Winona! Don't I get to have any dignity?" Janelle's heart ached for her son, and she chided Richard, "What is wrong with you?! Put that paddle back!" Keaton said to Winona, "See that? There's a difference between a wife and your own mother. The one who actually gave birth to you knows how to care." However, the next second... Richard leaned into Janelle's ear and whispered, "He's already thinking about breaking up with Winona at a time like this! He doesn't want our grandchild!" Janelle's expression changed in a flash. She shot a cold, piercing glare at Keaton, then said to Winona, "Winona, step aside! It's about time Richard taught this boy a lesson in accountability!" Keaton's eyes widened. "Mom! I'm your son!" "Shut up, you scoundrel! Winona, move. Let Richard break his legs if that's what it takes to talk some sense into him!" "...Janelle, Mr. Huber..." Winona had just started to speak when Keaton suddenly pressed up against her, wrapping his arms tightly around her from behind! The fresh scent of his cologne mixed with a hint of tobacco instantly washed over her. He stood behind her, the solid, unyielding lines of his chest pressed firm against her back. Even through the layers of their clothes, she could feel the heavy, erratic thrum of his heart against her back. His hands circled her waist, pulling her into his embrace, holding her so tightly it was as if he was afraid she'd run away! Winona's breath caught in her throat. She was frozen. Keaton's voice

was right next to her ear. "Play along. It's an emergency!" The warm, moist air on her earlobe sent her mind into a panic. Even a free spirit like her couldn't handle being held like this, especially in front of his parents and the entire household staff! The way they were pressed together was ridiculously intimate. Winona's heart raced, and her ears burned. If this were any other situation, she would have absolutely decked him. Even friends couldn't be this clueless about personal space! But in front of Richard and Janelle, she couldn't get rough. She could only try to pry his hands off, hissing in a low voice, "Let go!" The more she struggled, the tighter Keaton held on. He clung to her like a drowning man to a lifeboat. "Mayday! Save me tonight, and I'm your humble servant for life. I'll be at your beck and call!" Winona, her face beet red, snapped, "Who wants you to worship them? Let go!" Keaton was shameless. "Nope!" "Keaton!" "Are we friends or not? Huh? I'm asking you, are we friends?! You told me yourself at the bar last time you'd take a bullet for me!" Winona gritted her teeth. "Even if we are, you can't... Just let me go first!" "No way! If I let go, my parents will kill me! I'm just holding you for a second to de-escalate. C'mon, do me a solid. Please, please." Keaton knew his parents well. As long as he was clinging to Winona, they wouldn't dare make a move. The risk of accidentally hurting her was too high, and they would never allow that. Winona was fuming. "Keaton!" Fearing she'd escape, Keaton hugged her even tighter. "Stop wiggling. Keep squirming like that, and I might start to think you're actually enjoying this. Don't flatter yourself, Winona. Everyone's watching!" He had the nerve to turn it back on her. Winona was speechless. She stopped moving, her brows knitted in a warning glare. "If you don't let go, I'm going to get really angry!" Keaton's voice dropped to a low, velvety rasp that sent a shiver down her spine. "Don't move. Just let me hold you for a second."

Chapter 1560

Winona's heart sped up. Before she could speak, Keaton added, "Just for a little while. Trust me, my parents will leave in a second." Winona had clearly become Keaton's 'hostage,' but in Richard and Janelle's eyes, it just looked like a young couple being affectionate. The two of them were embarrassed. As elders, it was awkward to watch the young couple getting all lovey-dovey. Janelle could only throw one last threat at Keaton. "Keaton, you remember this, you little punk. If you dare do anything reckless on your own, you can get ready to plan my funeral! I'm not kidding!" When she looked at Winona, her tone instantly became incredibly gentle. "Winona, honey, don't you worry. You've got me and your Mr. Huber behind you!" Richard also chimed in. "We mean every word. If he dares to bully you or make you sad, you just tell us. You won't have to lift a finger; we'll take care of him for you! I'll disown the little monster!" After they finished, they quickly left the scene before Winona could even reply. The crowd of Huber staff also felt it was too awkward to keep watching and quickly dispersed. The tense atmosphere, which Keaton had created with his hug, had been defused. As the staff walked away, they were chuckling and gossiping. "Keaton and Ms. Newsom are so in love!" "Keaton is so shameless, hugging Ms. Newsom like that right in front of the master and madam. He made Ms. Newsom blush! Her face turned completely red." "It was either be shameless or get a beating. Keaton is a smart one!" "And Ms. Newsom is so sweet to him. Even though she was embarrassed, she didn't have the heart to hit him. Hehe, the young couple is so adorable." Winona was speechless. As soon as everyone was gone, she gritted her teeth, lifted her foot, and stomped hard on Keaton's instep. Keaton sucked in a sharp breath as he released her. Winona immediately put several feet of distance between them, her face flushed with fury. "Do you have a death wish?!" Keaton took a deep breath. "Oh my God, that was terrifying! Seriously, do they need a hobby, or are they just collectively losing their minds?" Winona just glared at

him, fuming. Keaton let out a long sigh. "Thanks for the rescue back there. I am a man of my word. From now on, you're the queen. I'll worship you." Winona was at a loss for words. He was acting so nonchalant about it, which made her feel like she was the one with the guilty conscience! So annoying! Winona took a moment to compose her cold expression, deciding not to bring up the hug again. She asked irritably, "What did you do this time?" Keaton sighed. "It's a long story. Come on, let's get out of this war zone first. I'll tell you the details later." Afraid Richard would come back for another round, Keaton didn't even grab his wine. He just hurriedly pulled Winona out of the house. He gunned the engine, the Rolls-Royce Cullinan roaring to life as they tore away from the Huber estate. Winona asked, "Where are we going?" Keaton said, "To find a place for a drink. Don't worry, with Elysia and my parents backing you, I wouldn't dare sell you off, much less try anything funny." After what had just happened, Winona felt a knot in her chest. She didn't want to drink with him anymore; she wanted to go home. She turned to look at him, about to say so, but caught the melancholy in his eyes first. Puzzled, Winona frowned and asked, "Bad mood?" Keaton let out a long sigh. "You've probably figured it out by now. My parents really want a daughter-in-law and a grandchild. It's their biggest wish." "But I don't want to get married, so I can't make that wish come true for them." "I actually feel pretty guilty about it." Keaton had suddenly turned serious, and it threw Winona off. She paused, choosing her words carefully. "You've still got time. Who's to say you won't have a change of heart in a few years?" "Not a chance." Keaton looked at her. "Do you know why I don't want to get married?" Winona, of course, had no idea. "I haven't known you that long. How would I know that!" Keaton said, "The reason is the same as yours." Winona was taken aback. "?!"