

Hitched 1641

Chapter 1641

My heart jumped into my throat!

Tarquin noticed her expression. "What's wrong?"

Elysia's breathing quickened. She ignored Tarquin, tucked Winona's hand back under the covers, and discreetly checked her pulse again just to be sure.

Once she confirmed it, Elysia was stunned.

Good Lord, no wonder her appetite's been through the roof lately!

It turns out... she... she's pregnant!

What... what was she going to do?!

A pregnancy should be a happy occasion, but Winona was single, fresh off a painful breakup, and had no plans to get married or have kids...

"Elysia, what is it?" Tarquin asked again, worried about her.

Elysia glanced at him, then at Keaton, her brow furrowed.

She took off her coat and shoved it into Tarquin's hands.

"I'm staying here. You'll have to handle the kids, or just call Lowell."

Elysia sat down on the edge of the sofa, watching over Winona. Winona was pregnant and didn't even know it. What if she accidentally hurt herself or the baby?

The thought of them drinking coffee that morning made Elysia's heart pound. Then she looked at Winona's stiletto heels and pictured her rushing around in them, and her heart beat even faster.

Beyond the physical safety issues, there were the psychological ones. Winona was a firm believer in not getting married. A woman who didn't even want to tie the knot, at the peak of her career, was suddenly pregnant! Should she keep the baby or not?

And whose baby was it? Was it Keaton's? If it really was Keaton's, what then? Keaton was also against marriage, a total playboy who was all about the physical and not the emotional. Would he want a child? Would he forbid Winona from having it?

If she had an abortion, it would cause serious physical and psychological damage to Winona.

"Sigh..." Elysia sighed, looking at Winona.

Tarquin and Keaton just stared, completely baffled. What was going on?!

Before Targuin could ask, Elysia said, "While you're at it, tell the kids I'm staying with their Aunt Winona tonight and won't be back. Tell them to be good eat their dinner and go to bed early."

No matter what, when Winona found out she was pregnant, she would be shocked and emotionally burdened. This was a huge deal, and Elysia had to stay with her.

Tarquin didn't get it. "Why the sudden change of plans?"

Elysia made up an excuse. "There's a good chance Winona is going to throw down with Beatrix today. I need to be here for her."

Tarquin was still confused and was

about to ask another question, but "If you're going to

Elysia hurried h

get the kids, go now. If not, call

Lowell right away." fo FindNovel.net

Tarquin sighed. "...I'll have Lowell go."

He pulled out his phone to call

Lowell. As soon as he hung up,

Keaton started making faces at him.

"Hey Tarquin, I'm feeling a little

weak Can you help me to

restroom

Tarquin got the hint. "Sure."

He re-hung Elysia's coat, took off his own, and led Keaton to the bathroom. The moment they were inside, Keaton whispered, "What's up with Elysia?"

Tarquin shook his head. "I don't know, but it's got something to do with Winona."

"I can see it has to do with Winona. The point is, what's wrong with her?"

"I don't know that either."

Keaton's mind raced. "You don't think Winona has some kind of... disease, do you? Elysia looks so worried. Maybe you should ask her?"

Tarquin wasn't about to do that. "What if Winona's fine? If I ask, Elysia will think I'm cursing her best friend. She'll flip out."

Keaton grew anxious. "Well, I definitely can't ask. And even if I did, she probably wouldn't tell me."

"She wouldn't tell me either," Tarquin said. "If she wanted us to know, she would have just said so." Elysia was obviously keeping a secret.

Chapter 1642

Keaton was restless and uneasy. "I think it sounds like Winona is sick, maybe she's dealing with some private lady issues, don't you think?"

Tarquin said, "I don't get that feeling."

Elysia's sudden decision to stay was definitely because of Winona, but he couldn't guess the specific reason.

Keaton scratched his head. "If she's really sick, she needs to get treated right away! "We can't delay!"

"But how could she be sick? Look how healthy she looks. She can eat and sleep just fine."

"You don't think she actually went out and found some random boy toy and picked something up?"

"No way. She's not an idiot. She wouldn't just sleep with anyone. He'd have to be healthy, at least!"

"And if she really had some major illness, Elysia would have woken her up and taken her for a check-up immediately!"

"Then what the hell is wrong with her?"

Keaton was clucking like an old biddy.

Tarquin narrowed his eyes, watching him suspiciously. When Keaton finally finished,

he asked, "Are you falling for Winona?"

Keaton froze. "No! Don't be ridiculous!"

Tarquin stared at him, skeptical. "..."

"We were drunk that night, and yeah, we slept together, but it was an accident," Keaton said.

"You seem pretty concerned about her," Tarquin observed.

"She's Elysia's best friend, and my parents absolutely adore her. I slept with her, you think I'm not terrified?"

Tarquin clarified, "I'm not talking about being scared. I'm talking about being concerned."

Being scared

was

normal. After all, Winona had a powerful support system. Janelle and Richard alone would have his head on a platter. But being concerned about her?. that had nothing to do with sleeping with her. Why would he be concerned What could be besides romantic feelings?

Keaton explained, "I do like her, but I'm not talking about love. Winona and I are on the same wavelength we've both been burned by love We're good friends who've been through it all. Add the fact that we slept together, and of course I'm concerned."

Tarquin narrowed his eyes. "So you're sure you haven't fallen for her?"

Keaton was definite. "Of course not. If I was falling for her, don't you think I'd know?!"

Tarquin let out a breath. "Winona's a special case. You really can't mess with her. If you did, your parents

would never forgive you, and nimet

would Elysia. and I'll always choose Elysia. If she says you're dead to us, you're dead. I'll even help her bury the body. So if you mess with Winona, you're messing with the four of us. Plus Elliot, Evan, Emmett, Elijah, Baby, and Old Mr. White. You might not care about her fans, but you'd definitely care about us. Go after her, and you'll lose everyone."

Keaton sighed. "...I know. That's why I told Elysia earlier. I know she's not like the other girls I've been with. I would never mess with her."

Tarquin's tone shifted. "Of course, if you really have fallen for her, and if you can commit to pursuing her with your whole heart and never letting her down for the rest of your life, then I'll support you. I'll even put in a good word for you."

Without a second thought, Keaton shook his head. "I don't have feelings for her, and she doesn't have feelings for me."

Tarquin said, "...If there's nothing there at all, then keep your distance. Don't do anything to hurt her, or the consequences will be severe."

"I know."

Tarquin considered asking about Beatrix but figured Keaton was just as lost as he was, so he dropped it. They could talk after the paternity test results came in.

When they came out of the bathroom, Elysia was sitting on the sofa, watching Winona. Her brow was knitted in worry.

Keaton couldn't help but frown, his heart sinking. He was truly starting to believe Winona was sick.

Elysia suddenly turned her head. "Tarquin, Those heels are going to kill Winona's feet. Can you go buy her a comfortable pair of sneakers? Size 7.5. Don't get heels, get something comfortable, like sneakers."

Tarquin just looked at her. "..."

...

Winona slept for a long time, not waking up until early evening. She yawned and stretched, her eyes fluttering open to see Elysia.

"Elysia? Did I fall asleep?"

Chapter 1643

Elysia nodded. "For three hours."

"What? That long?"

"Yep. It's after six now."

Winona checked the time. "You're right. I can't believe I slept for so long. I'm starving."

Elysia said, "...Why don't you go to the bathroom, wash your face to wake up a bit, and then we can go for a walk? I'll go with you to grab a bite to eat."

Winona immediately grinned. "Okay!"

She sat up, gave Elysia a hug, and threw off the covers to head to the bathroom. "Hey, where are my heels?"

"I scuffed them," Elysia said. "Wear these instead. They're new, and they match your outfit."

Winona didn't think much of it, slipping on the new white sneakers and heading into the bathroom.

Keaton stared at Winona, a suspicious look on his face. "?"

She wakes up and immediately wants to eat. She's sleeping like a baby and eating like a horse, and her complexion is rosy. She doesn't look sick at all. And Elysia wants to take her for a walk to buy food, obviously so he and Tarquin can't hear. What is going on with Winona? What secret could be so important that he and Tarquin couldn't know?!

Just as Winona came out of the bathroom, Janelle and Richard arrived with dinner.

Winona was overjoyed. "Janelle, you're a lifesaver! I'm so hungry right now, I could die!"

Janelle smiled. "Come on, come on, it's all still hot. I made a bunch of your favorites."

Elysia thought, "...". So much for telling Winona about the pregnancy anytime soon. It was Winona's private matter; she couldn't just blurt it out, which is why she'd kept

it from ev Tarquin. Besides, this was a huge deal. She needed to find a good chunk of time to talk to Winona properly.

The hospital room was lively, but Elysia was preoccupied with her thoughts. Tarquin kept watching her carefully, not daring to ask any questions.

Elysia had planned to talk to Winona alone after dinner, once Janelle and Richard left. But after dinner, they didn't leave. In fact, Janelle kept Winona engaged in conversation...

By nine o'clock that night, Elysia still hadn't found a chance to tell Winona she was pregnant.

But the results of the paternity test were in!

Benjamin rushed into the room holding four copies of the report. "The results are in! The baby Beatrix is carrying is not Keaton's!"

Everyone was stunned. "!!!"

Lying on the hospital bed, Keaton let out a huge sigh of relief.

Elysia and Tarquin also breathed a sigh of relief, the weight lifting from their shoulders. If the baby wasn't Keaton's, Beatrix had no leverage over him or the Huber family.

Richard and Janelle were emotional, their breathing heavy. The couple took the report and read it carefully word for word, before sinking onto the sofa. Their expressions were hard to read but there was a definite sense of disappointment. After all," they desperately wanted a

grandchild!

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After a long moment, Richard finally said, "It's better this way. She can't use it

against Keaton! He won't have to marry her!"

Janelle nodded. "Right. Now our son can be with Winona properly."

Winona stared at the report, her face scrunching up.".." If she hadn't made that grand promise, she would have been thrilled with this result! With the baby not being Keaton's, she could go after Beatrix with no holds barred! But now... she almost his Because if

wished the baby washow

it wasn't she had to

procure a grandchild for Janelle and Richard. Where was she supposed to get one?!

Suddenly, her phone rang...

Winona glanced at the caller ID; it was the young man from the afternoon.

She put her thoughts aside and stepped out of the room with her phone. "Did you get the results?"

"Yeah, we got them. It's a paternal match!"

Winona clenched her fist. "Perfect!"

"Should I bring the report to you now?" the young man asked.

"No need. Just send me the digital copy."

"Got it!"

Hanging up, Winona quickly received a photo on her phone. She looked at the test results and a smirk played on her lips.

"Beatrix, congratulations. You're finished."

She'd figure out where to get a baby later. First, she was going to deal with Beatrix.

Chapter 1644

When Elysia came out of the hospital room, Winona was on the phone. "...Alright, just do as I said. Be smart about it, and I'll give you all a big bonus later!"

Elysia was puzzled. What was she so happy about?

Seeing her hang up, Elysia walked over. "Winona."

Winona turned around, in an excellent mood. "Elysia, want to see a show?"

"Hmm?"

Winona winked at her. "Just you wait. I'm putting on a big performance for you tonight! By the way, when is Beatrix supposed to wake up?"

Elysia glanced at the time. "If nothing unexpected happens, in about an hour. But I can use my needles to wake her up anytime."

"No need," Winona said immediately. "An hour from now is fine."

Before Elysia could reply, Winona pulled her back into the room. She looked at everyone with infectious excitement. "Tonight, I'm arranging a little show for all of you, but I'm going to need everyone to play along, okay?"

"When people show up later, no matter who they are or what they say, and even if you don't understand, I just need you to smile and act like you're congratulating them."

Keaton was curious. "What kind of show?"

Winona was mysterious. "No spoilers."

"No spoilers? Then don't count on me to help."

Winona pursed her lips, but before she could snap back at him, Janelle reached out and smacked Keaton's arm. "You'll cooperate or I'll ground you!"

Keaton fell silent. "..."

Janelle shot him a fierce glare, then turned back to Winona with a sweet smile. "Winona, honey, how do we cooperate? Be specific so we don't mess it up."

Winona smiled. "Oh, you can't mess it up, Janelle. When people arrive, just remember two things: smile, and congratulate."

Janelle repeated, "Just keep smiling and offer congratulations, right?"

Winona nodded. "Exactly!"

Janelle then turned to Richard. "You heard her. Keep smiling, offer congratulations."

Richard nodded seriously, then

turned to Keaton with a stern voice.

"You hear that smile and congratulate. You better be on your best behavior. If you ruin Winona's plan, I'll skin you alive!"

Keaton was speechless. "..."

Winona hugged Janelle, acting cute. "Janelle and Richard, you're the best!"

The older couple beamed, their eyes crinkling with pure joy. "Whatever you have planned, just tell us. We'll give you our full support."

Winona smiled. "Perfect. Just help me keep an eye on Keaton. I'm afraid he won't cooperate."

The two immediately pledged, "Don't you worry about him. If he dares to misbehave, we'll handle him!"

Keaton was once again at a loss for words. "..."

Winona laughed happily. Her phone rang again, and she let go of Janelle to take the call outside.

Tarquin asked Elysia, "What is Winona up to?"

Elysia shook her head, looking just as clueless. "I have no idea, but she seems to be in a great mood."

Just then, Elysia's phone also rang. It was the kids, video-calling to say goodnight. Elysia and Tarquin stepped out to talk to them.

That left Keaton alone in the room with his parents.

Janelle glanced toward the door and

murmured, "It seems Winona really bout that baby in Beatrix's belly. Now that she knows it's not

did care

Keaton's, she's so happy."

Janelle assumed Winona's good mood was because the baby wasn't Keaton's.

Richard let out a long breath. "It's

understandable. What woman wants to be an instant mom? If

Beatrix really had Keaton's child, things would have gotten so

complicated."

longs to

"The way Winona acted so magnanimous in front of us, that was all just to make us happy."

"Winona is such a good kid," Janelle sighed.

Richard nodded in agreement. "She really is. The fact that she'd even consider a

rascal like Keaton is the luck of his lifetime!"

Chapter 1645

The old couple spoke as they both turned to look at Keaton, their tone a mix of earnest advice and warning.

"You'd better treasure Winona. Meeting her is the best thing that will ever happen to you! If you lose her, you'll lose all your good fortune for the rest of your life!"

"You dare lose her, and I'll break your legs! Don't you dare test me!"

Keaton just stood there. "...". He really couldn't catch a break. If he talked, he got chewed out. If he stayed silent, he still got chewed out.

Suddenly, something occurred to him, and he couldn't help but ask, "Mom, about this whole Beatrix situation, how did Winona manage to calm you two down?"

Mentioning this made Janelle happy, and she smiled. "Winona told us everything about you two. Even though she's not pregnant, you two are definitely together, and you're even planning to get married and have kids."

Keaton's eyes widened. Get married and have kids?! Oh my god, you have to be kidding me!

"Winona said that?"

Janelle nodded. "Yes, Winona said it. She said as soon as this business with Zane is dealt with, you two will start planning the wedding."

Richard smiled. "Winona promised. She absolutely promised we'd get to hold our grandchild in our lifetime!"

Keaton's eyes grew even wider. "She dared to say that? Who's going to have this baby?!"

The couple said in unison, "Winona!"

Keaton's mouth twitched uncontrollably. "!"

He knew Winona was also firmly against marriage. Forget having kids, she wouldn't even get married!

Seeing his disbelief, Janelle added, "Don't try to hide it. Winona really said it. She told us herself, she's going to give us a grandchild!"

Keaton was speechless. ". "...

He wouldn't believe that in a million years. Not that he didn't believe his parents, but he didn't believe Winona. Winona must have said it, otherwise his parents wouldn't be making it up. But Winona having baby for them? Hahahaha.

No wonder Winona had managed to pacify them, even throwing out a promise like

having kids. How was she going to get out of this one?

Keaton looked at his father, then at

his mother, saw their joyful faces, and felt a deep sense of pity for them. His parents' lives weren't easy, held together entirely by lies. They were either being fooled by him or by Winona... One after the other!

Sigh...

"Mom, Dad, when you two get old, I'll definitely take good care of you."

Keaton's sudden burst of sentimentality startled Richard and Janelle for a moment, then their faces broke into wide smiles.

"You are the company you keep. After spending time with Winona, this brat is getting more thoughtful."

"He should be stuck to Winona's side every day. She'll make him a better person!" Keaton was dumbfounded. "...". His parents had been completely brainwashed by Winona! It really was true: when you like someone, everything they do is perfect.

After some time, a sudden commotion came from outside the door.

Curious, Janelle and Richard went out to see what was happening. Keaton couldn't resist either, getting out of bed and walking out of the room.

A few young people, both men and women, had arrived outside, carrying large bags. "Ms. Newsom."

Winona smiled. "Thank you all for coming. It's this room. Ms. Sutton is still resting, so please try to be as quiet as you can."

"Okay." The group entered Beatrix's room, opened their bags, and started pulling out streamers and balloons to decorate.

Winona went in to help, calling for Elysia and Tarquin to join in.

Janelle and Richard had no idea what Winona was planning, but seeing everyone else busy, they went over to help too.

Curious, Keaton followed them into

the room. He glanced at the unconscious Beatrix on the bed and frowned. He walked over to

Winona's side and asked, "What are you doing?"

Chapter 1646

Stretching on her tiptoes, Winona was trying to stick a streamer to the wall, not even looking at him. "No spoilers. If you're going to help, then lend a hand. If not, go back and rest."

Keaton pressed his lips together, took the streamer from her, and held it up. "Is this high enough?"

Winona nodded in satisfaction. "Yep, perfect."

Keaton taped the streamer in place.

Winona gave him a thumbs-up. "See? You're not completely useless after all."

Keaton was speechless. That 'compliment' felt worse than an insult.

He couldn't help but ask, "Why are you decorating a hospital room? Are you planning to throw a party in here?"

"Even though this is a VIP suite and we probably wouldn't bother anyone, are you crazy? Throwing a party here would be insane!"

"You're the one who's crazy," Winona shot back. "Who said anything about a party? Now hurry up and stick this balloon right here!"

Keaton did as he was told, taping a balloon to the wall. "If it's not a party, then why are you doing all this?"

Winona mumbled, "I already told you, no spoilers!"

Seeing that she wouldn't budge, Keaton leaned in close to her ear and whispered, "I know you want to deal with Beatrix, but..."

Winona cut him off. "I know, I know. I can't kill her, and I can't get her thrown in jail."

Keaton's lips thinned as he looked at her, adding, "And she's pregnant, so you can't get physical with her! Not for her sake, but for yours."

Winona nodded. "Yeah, yeah, I get it. Stop nagging. Let's get a move on, we don't have much time."

The two of them chattered while they worked, with Winona directing and Keaton doing the manual labor. Whenever he messed up, Winona would give him a light smack or a playful kick.

Watching them from a distance, Janelle and Richard couldn't stop beaming. From where the old couple stood, Winona and Keaton's playful bickering looked like pure flirting. They were getting along so well.

After a while, just as they were all still busy, the Sutton family suddenly arrived!

Sophus Sutton, Sophie, and Beatrix's two older sisters-the whole family was there. And they were dressed to the nines.

Sophus was in a tailored suit with a bow tie, a fancy watch, and his hair slicked back perfectly. Sophie wore a festive red dress, her hair in an elegant bun, and a sparkling ruby necklace around her neck, Beatrix's sisters were even more exquisitely dressed, clearly having put a lot of thought into their outfits, from head to toe.

Besides the Suttons, there were a few unfamiliar faces, also dressed in their finest.

The group busy decorating was taken by surprise. They all had the same confused look on their faces.

Winona winked at them. "I invited them."

Now they were even more baffled. Why on earth would she invite the Suttons?

Winona didn't explain. She just told Keaton, "Go let them in."

Keaton gave her a suspicious look, but Winona just urged him, "Go on."

Janelle and Richard had already gotten up. Though they had no idea what Winona was planning, they were ready to play along. Seeing their son hesitate, they walked over to the door and greeted the newcomers warmly. "You're here! Please, come in."

The Suttons were delighted. Sophus eagerly shook Richard's hand. "After all the drama these two kids have been through, they're finally making it official, haha."

Richard and Janelle were lost. What did he mean, 'making it official'?

They turned to look at Winona, who was nodding enthusiastically and giving them a pointed look. The old couple's minds were filled with question marks, but they gritted their teeth and continued to play along. In their eyes, nothing was more important than keeping their future daughter-in-law happy.

So, just as Winona wanted, they smiled and offered their blessings. "It's wonderful

when soulmates finally find each other."

Sophus was overjoyed. "Yes, yes! We were destined to be family. It's just a shame we found out so late. We couldn't get all our friends and family here in time, but we'll have Beatrix's sister start a livestream later so everyone else can watch from their phones."

Chapter 1647

Richard and Janelle still didn't quite understand what he was talking about, but they just smiled and nodded along. "Yes, of course."

Sophus then turned to Richard. "Mr. Huber, let me introduce you. This is a dear friend of mine, this is my most important business partner, and this is..."

After making the rounds, Sophus added, "As soon as they heard the Suttons were having a celebration, they flew in overnight with me, hoping to toast the happy couple."

The men who had been introduced quickly bowed to shake Richard's hand and offered their business cards. "Mr. Huber, a pleasure to meet you!"

"Hello, Mr. Huber!"

Joining the celebration was just an excuse; their real goal was to meet Richard. In Jindale City, the Suttons were nowhere near the Hubers' level, which meant Sophus's social network was in a completely different league from Richard's. They had come all the way to the hospital late at night specifically for him.

Richard had no desire to get involved with them, but remembering Winona's plan, he accepted each card with a polite smile. "I'm afraid there won't be any drinks tonight, as alcohol isn't allowed in the hospital. But I'll be happy to treat you all some other time."

They were flattered beyond belief. "No, no, it'll be our treat! We'd be honored if you would just grace us with your presence, Mr. Huber."

Richard agreed. "I'll be there if I'm free."

"Wonderful!" The men beamed, looking at Sophus with a mixture of gratitude and envy. In the business world, not everyone got an introduction to Richard Huber.

Sophus, of course, was bursting with pride, practically preening.

For Winona's sake, Janelle also greeted them warmly. "Please, don't just stand in the doorway. Come in and have a seat."

As the group moved inside, laughing and chatting, Sophie linked her arm with Janelle's, acting as if they were old friends. "I just don't understand young people these days. Such a big celebration, and at night, of all times! When Sophus and I first heard the news, we could hardly believe it. We thought the kids were just messing with us."

"We tried calling Beatrix, but she didn't pick up. We finally got ahold of one of her classmates to confirm it was true. We were in such a panic, rushing to get dressed, afraid we'd be late and upset them..."

Sophie chattered on endlessly, and

Janelle just kept smiling and

nodding as if she understood every

word in reality,

she was screaming

internally. *What in the world are you talking about???

"Oh my, what's happened to Beatrix?!" Sophie suddenly exclaimed, seeing her daughter unconscious on the hospital bed.

Richard and Janelle didn't know how to explain, glancing at Winona for help.

Winona walked over with a smile. "Don't worry, Mr. and Mrs. Sutton It's a Sleeping Beauty theme today. We're just letting her rest for a bit, She'll wake up when the moment is right."

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When Beatrix's two sisters saw Winona, their eyes went wide. "Win... Ms. Newsom?!"

Winona greeted them warmly. "Hi, nice to meet you."

"It's so nice to meet you! We see you on TV all the time. We're huge fans! I can't believe we're meeting you in person."

Winona smiled. "I'm just here to help out. My fans don't know I'm back in Jindale City, so please keep it a secret for me, okay?"

The sisters nodded eagerly. "Of course, we won't say a word! Can... can we get a picture with you?"

"No problem." Winona stood graciously between them for a photo.

After the picture, Winona said, "I think Ms. Sutton will be waking up soon, so we need to finish decorating. Mr. and Mrs. Sutton, why don't you go have a seat over there?"

Richard and Janelle, following Winona's lead without question, immediately guided Sophus and Sophie over to the sofa.

Beatrix's sisters eagerly followed Winona. "Ms. Newsom, let us help too."

Aside from Sophie's initial gasp, no one from the Sutton family spared Beatrix another glance or asked a single question about her condition. After all, she held no status in their family, and no one particularly liked her.

Chapter 1648

Out of courtesy, Keaton went over to say a quick hello to Sophus and Sophie before immediately walking away. Tarquin, who didn't know them and had no interest in making their acquaintance, simply stayed by Elysia's side.

Everyone in their circle knew Keaton and Tarquin were close. One of the guests whispered to Sophus, "Is that Mr. Bradford over there?"

Sophus had never met Tarquin either, so he turned to Richard. "Mr. Huber, is that Mr. Bradford from the Bradford Group?"

Richard nodded. "It is."

Sophus and his companions' eyes widened in shock. They thought meeting Richard

was a huge coup, but they never imagined Tarquin would be here too!

They immediately started laying on the praise. "Mr. Bradford is so young and accomplished! To be the youngest self-made billionaire in history is truly incredible. So impressive!"

Richard said, "Tarquin is indeed brilliant. Don't let his age fool you; his business acumen is second to none."

The men nodded vigorously. "Mr. Bradford is amazing, but so is Mr. Huber! Birds of a feather flock together. The fact that you're friends with Mr. Bradford proves you're in a league of your own!"

Richard just smiled. "My son is still just finding his way; he's no match for Tarquin." Of course, this only prompted another round of flattery.

After a bit of conversation, Richard got up to take a phone call. His guests seized the opportunity to huddle around Sophus. "Mr. Sutton, your daughter sure knows how to pick them! You've really hit the jackpot. With the Huber family in your corner, you even get an in with Mr. Bradford!"

"That's right! The Sutton family is about to hit the big time. We'll all be counting on you to make us rich, Mr. Sutton."

Sophus was beaming with excitement and pride. "Of course, of course. As long as I'm eating, I won't forget about you all." His mood was so good that when he glanced over at Beatrix, his expression actually softened.

...

Though it was a hospital room, the atmosphere was now buzzing with celebratory cheer. Keaton felt more and more uneasy. The whole setup looked suspiciously like a marriage proposal.

He cornered Winona again. "Let me give you a heads-up. I will not marry Beatrix, and I will not propose to her. If you even try to make me propose, swear blow his whole thing up I'd rather my parents kill me than go

along with you."

Winona pursed her lips. "You, propose? In your dreams! It's not like she's carrying

your kid, so what right do you have to propose?"

Keaton was confused. "Then what is all this for?"

Winona repeated firmly, "No. Spoilers."

Keaton was speechless.

The next second, Winona's phone rang. After listening for a moment, she said excitedly, "You're here already? Come on up! We're all set."

After she hung up, Keaton asked, "Who's here?"

"Go move that chair next to the bed," Winona said. "It'll be in the way."

After giving her order, she ran over to Elysia. "Elysia, can you go check on Beatrix? Any idea when she'll wake up?"

"I can wake her up whenever you're ready," Elysia replied.

Winona nodded. "Even better. Just wait for my signal." She then waved over Beatrix's two sisters. "You can get ready to start the livestream. Mind the camera angle, and try not to get us in the shot, okay?"

The sisters immediately nodded. "Don't worry. Although they were deeply jealous of Beatrix, they took out their phones to prepare. This was at Sophus's request, to ensure as many people as possible new about the union between the Sutton and Huber families, thereby boosting the Suttons' status in the business world.

Seeing the commotion Winona was causing, Elysia grabbed her wrist and whispered, "Winona, don't forget Beatrix is pregnant. Outsiders don't know what she's really like. If anything happens to her, all the blame will fall on you." Even now, she had no idea what Winona was planning, but she knew it was aimed at Beatrix. Good or bad, Beatrix was a pregnant woman, and if Winona hurt her, she'd be crucified online.

Winona whispered back with a smile, "Why do you have so little faith in me? I'm not stupid enough to attack a pregnant woman, especially not with her whole family livestreaming."

Chapter 1649

"Besides," Winona continued, "you know she has a thing with Keaton. Even if I wanted to hurt her, he wouldn't let me."

Elysia asked, "Then what are you planning to do?"

"I'm going to shatter her fantasy, once and for all," Winona said. "So she can never get her claws into Keaton again, and so she stays far, far away from Janelle and Richard for the rest of her life."

Elysia was speechless. Just as she was about to ask another question, a group of people appeared at the door. "Ms. Newsom!"

Winona glanced toward the entrance with a smile, then turned back to Elysia. "Go ahead and wake Beatrix up. Once she's awake, you can head out. I'll wait for you in the hallway."

With that, she walked over to Keaton, grabbed his arm, and pulled him toward the door. As they walked, she announced to the room, "Everyone, get ready! The main event is about to begin. Time to witness a little magic."

At her words, everyone in the room stood up. Sophus even called out to his daughters, reminding them not to forget the livestream. The Huber-Sutton union was

a monumental honor for his family, and he needed the world to know.

Elysia watched Winona's retreating back, still confused. She didn't know what was coming next, but she walked over to Beatrix and administered a treatment to wake her.

A moment later, Beatrix's eyes fluttered open.

Elysia gave Winona a nod and then walked toward the door with Tarquin.

Winona flipped off the main lights, plunging the room into darkness. But in the next second, colorful mood lighting flickered on, and soft, romantic music began to play.

Winona looked at the young man in the hallway. "Tate, are you ready?"

The young man, wearing glasses and a white suit and holding a bouquet of flowers, took a deep breath. "I'm ready!"

Winona smiled. "Then please, go on in. And good luck."

His professor and classmates in the hallway whispered their support. "You got this!"

"Right!" Holding the flowers in one hand and a microphone in the other, the young man entered the room. The colored lights obscured his face.

Sophus and Sophie, assuming it was Keaton, grinned from ear to ear. "How romantic! Beatrix is so lucky."

Beatrix sat up in bed, her brow furrowed as she tried to piece together what had happened. She had just remembered seeing Winona at City Hall when a familiar male voice suddenly began to sing "Spring flowers bloom, chasing winter's gloom away, a gentle breeze brings a romantic bouquet... Listen to me, take my hand, and walk with me... Will you marry me today?"

Beatrix's eyes flew open.

The Sutton family froze.

Janelle and Richard stared, completely baffled.

In the hallway, Elysia, Tarquin, and Keaton all turned to look at Winona, their faces a collective question mark.

Winona put a finger to her lips. "Shhh. Don't ruin the mood. Just watch."

The three of them fell silent.

After the short, sweet song, the room's main lights flashed on.

Tate Joubert was on one knee in front of the bed, holding the bouquet. "Beatrix," he began, "thank you for taking a chance on me when I had nothing, for seeing the man I could become and. Thank you..."

Beatrix stared at Tate Joubert, holding her breath, her eyes nearly popping out of her head.

The entire Sutton family was dumbstruck, gaping at Tate in utter disbelief.

Tate finished his heartfelt speech and then declared, "Beatrix, marry me!"

Winona, thrilled, immediately started clapping and cheering. "Say yes! Say yes! Say yes!"

Beatrix's professor and classmates joined in. "Say yes, Beatrix! Say yes!"

Richard and Janelle were still in a daze, but it was starting to click. Seeing Winona clapping and cheering, they

seemingly

in.

yes! Say yes!"

Sophus and Sophie whipped their heads around to face them. "Wait... Mr. and Mrs.

Huber, isn't Keaton supposed to be the one proposing today?"

Chapter 1650

Richard and Janelle shot back, "Who told you Keaton was proposing today?" Sophus and Sophie were floored. "...?!"

They had only heard there was going to be a proposal; no one had explicitly mentioned Keaton. But since Beatrix's romantic entanglement was with Keaton, they had naturally assumed he was the one proposing. That's why they were so overjoyed, even starting a livestream to announce it to the world.

"But Beatrix and Keaton..."

Richard cut them off. "They're ancient history. Didn't you just see that young man proposing to Beatrix?"

Sophie was frantic. "No, but our son-in-law is a Huber!"

"Don't be ridiculous," Janelle retorted. "That man over there is your son-in-law!"

Sophus and Sophie looked at Tate Joubert, gasping for air. "No! No! This is wrong! This... this is all wrong!"

Sophus started to move forward to interrupt Tate, but Richard grabbed his arm, his face darkening as he applied pressure. "There's nothing wrong with it. Don't you dare ruin this. The kids put a lot of effort into setting this up." He wasn't about to let him spoil Winona's elaborate plan.

Janelle added coldly, "Your daughter hasn't said anything yet, so why are you so worked up? It's not like he's proposing to you!"

Sophus and Sophie were furious, but they didn't dare lash out at Richard and Janelle. They could only force a strained, placating tone. "But... Mr. and Mrs. Huber, Beatrix is your daughter-in-law! She's carrying a Huber baby in her belly! You can't just..."

Janelle's brow furrowed, and she cut Sophie off. "Mrs. Sutton, you can't just say things like that! I don't know whose baby Beatrix is carrying, but I know for a fact that it is not a Huber!"

Sophie's eyes widened. "But Beatrix said it was Mr. Huber's! You can't disown your own grandchild!"

Janelle coldly tossed a document at her. "Read this. Carefully."

Sophus and Sophie snatched the paternity test report. They didn't know what to expect, but what they saw sent a jolt of shock through them. Both grew dizzy, stumbling back a step, nearly falling over.

Sophie's voice trembled. "How could this... how could this be...?"

Janelle snorted. Beatrix was certainly not their daughter-in-law. The only daughter-in-law for the Huber family was... Janelle's gaze drifted to the doorway, where Winona was standing, clapping and cheering. A smile spread across her face. She liked what she saw. The only daughter-in-law for the Hubers could only be Winona.

On the bed, Beatrix, dressed in a long red dress, was deathly pale. She was supposed to be meeting Keaton at City Hall to get their marriage license. Why was she here?

This room was decorated. Tate Joubert was on one knee before her with flowers. Her professor and classmates were here, smiling and clapping. This was clearly a well-planned proposal.

How did she end up at Tate Joubert's proposal?

No, no, this was all wrong!

Amid the chants of "Say yes!", Beatrix's eyes found Winona, who was standing behind the group of students. She was leaning against the doorframe her beautiful eyes, narrowed as she watched the scene, cheering along with everyone else.

Beatrix's fists clenched, and she gritted her teeth. It was her! It had to be her!

At City Hall, she had seen Winona, and before she could even speak, she had lost consciousness. Winona must have knocked her out and brought her here.

The nerve of her! How dare she lay a hand on a pregnant woman! Was she not afraid of being sued, of being exposed?!

Beatrix glared daggers at Winona, who met her gaze with a look full of defiance.

Enraged, Beatrix pointed a finger at Winona and screamed, "Call the police! Somebody help me, call the police! She assaulted me! She kidnapped me!"