

Hitched 731

Chapter 731

The room fell into a stunned silence.

This included the Bradfords, the big shots, and even Tarquin.

Everyone's eyes were on Elysia, scanning her from head to toe, each with a different expression.

No one spoke; clearly, they didn't believe her words!

Even Tarquin thought she was just saying this to get him out of a tight spot.

He quickly got up and made his way to her, his face unable to hide his adoration.

Seeing her seemed to melt away the icy demeanor he had just moments ago, transforming him into a completely different person.

He took a few steps to reach her, took her hand gently in front of everyone, and asked with a soft tone, "What brings you here all of a sudden, worried about me?"

Elysia: I'm worried about the money!

She scanned the room, recognizing only a few Bradfords. The rest were strangers to her.

She thought they were all Bradfords, all Tarquin's rivals. Without greeting anyone and looking displeased, she pulled Tarquin aside, lowered her voice, and asked, "Did you give them money?"

"Uh?"

Elysia frowned, "I heard from Elijah that you wanted to include Elliot, Evan, Emmett in the family tree, and they opposed. So you decided to use money to persuade them!"

"Uh... kind of."

He had offered Gideon a 10% share, essentially paying for their acceptance.

Elysia was anxious, "Why are you being so naïve? Instead of spending money on a family tree that I don't care about, you might as well give the money to me! I never said I disliked Elliot, Evan, Emmett. What were you thinking with such a half-baked plan!"

"... It was Gideon's idea. I refused at first, then Elijah....."

"Enough, has the money been paid out yet?"

"Negotiated, but not yet paid."

"You can't give them a dime! Elliot and Evan are your sons; they naturally belong in your family tree. No one has the right to object!"

Elysia had known this secret for a while, so she could discuss it casually without any surprise or curiosity.

But Tarquin was different!

He was shocked! Curious! Baffled!

"...Elysia, do you even understand what you're saying?"

"Of course, I do! Elliot, Evan... Ah, forget it, I won't explain now. Just don't give them any money. If you do, you'll have me to deal with!"

They were his family; why should they pay?!

"Just let me do the talking," Elysia concluded, dragging Tarquin back.

She looked at Gideon with displeasure, "You really make it interesting. It was your family who proposed the idea, and he agreed to pay. Yet, you're all making obstacles. Are you playing games with us?"

Elysia didn't know Gideon was a self-serving schemer, not truly aligned with the Bradfords.

To her, it was infuriating how the proposal came from them, yet they were the ones creating barriers.

Her words immediately set Gideon off!

The Bradfords turned to Gideon, outraged, "You were the one who suggested this? You told us it was Tarquin who insisted!"

"So, you were using our interests for your own gains! Watching from afar and profiting from our conflict!"

"You sure had it all figured out, not caring about the rest of us one bit!"

Everyone chimed in, turning Gideon's face beet red with embarrassment.

But he couldn't refute; the accusations were too accurate.

Gideon glared at Elysia, intending to take his frustration out on her.

But before he could speak, the cold stares from Tarquin and Elijah came first, a clear warning!

Not to mention Evan, standing protectively by Elysia, ready to defend his mom with a look that said, 'Say a word against my mom, and your dentures are history.'

Gideon, boiling with rage, found himself unable to lash out at Elysia directly.

After all, she might be an ordinary woman, but the people shielding her were far from ordinary.

Gideon had no choice but to swallow his anger and try to shift the focus back to Elysia, attempting to turn the Bradfords against her.

Chapter 732

"Wait, you're saying your kid is part of our Bradford clan? I've never heard Tarin mention anything about this." Tarquin had laid down the law - anyone who spilled the beans about his identity to Elysia was in for it!

So, the moment Elysia showed up, Gideon switched to calling Tarin.

That little trick managed to shift everyone's focus back to Elysia.

Frowning, Elysia said, "Due to various reasons, I kept the truth about him and the kids from him, which is why he thought about splurging on the family tree research.

Now, I'm telling you straight up, my kids are part of your family, they share your blood. It's only right they're on your family tree, and you shouldn't be charging us!"

Despite her clear explanation, no one seemed to believe her!

Allegra scoffed mockingly, "Seems like someone's desperate to climb the social ladder! You'll say anything, won't you? The Bradford lineage has always been a single-child tradition, and Tarin already has Elijah. There's no way he could have another son! Besides, your son doesn't even resemble Tarin."

Everyone turned their gaze towards Evan, whispering amongst themselves, "Yeah, they look nothing alike."

Evan had been to the hospital today and had purposely put on makeup, still sporting Emmett's face.

He was too rushed earlier to remove it.

"Mommy, should I go wash my face? Emmett gave me this makeup remover," Evan said, showing Elysia a white bottle Emmett had prepared for him. Elysia nodded immediately, "Yes, go wash up!"

Elijah said, "I'll take Evan."

As the two children headed to the bathroom under everyone's watchful eyes, the Bradford folks resumed their mocking, this time addressing the room at large, "Look at this, if you weren't all here to see it, you'd never believe us. One's overly eager to claim another man's child for our family tree, dying to play daddy! And the other? Boldly claims her son is part of the Bradford clan! They say birds of a feather flock together."

The roomful of influential figures furrowed their brows.

They all knew about the Bradford's tradition of having just one child per generation and were confusedly looking at Tarquin, wondering what was actually going on.

Tarquin himself was baffled, staring at Elysia in confusion...

Elysia, too impatient to explain, waited for Evan to return and retorted to the Bradford's earlier comment, "You're the ones who are not normal! Your whole family is not normal! How dare you say he's playing daddy when he is my child's biological father!"

The other party sneered, "Talk is cheap. It's not like you saying it makes it true!"

"And what if it is true? What will the Bradford clan do then?"

"We'll livestream ourselves eating a humble pie!"

Someone blurted out the challenge, and despite a moment of hesitation from the others, they quickly agreed, "Yeah, we'll all do it!"

Elysia smirked, "Alright, everyone heard that. Don't back out and embarrass yourselves!"

The Bradfords dismissively replied, "And what if your son isn't part of our family?"

Elysia countered, "What do you propose?"

The Bradfords glared fiercely, "Then you and your son can take a hike, leave Jindale City for good!"

That way, she wouldn't dream of claiming their inheritance, plus it would be a slap in Tarquin's face!

Tarquin was livid at the thought of them asking Elysia, someone he'd want by his side every day, to leave Jindale City!

Just as Tarquin was about to snap back, Elysia beat him to it, "Fine by me!"

Tarquin's expression darkened, "Elysia!"

Elysia looked at him confidently, "What are you worried about? They're your sons, no doubt about it. Just wait and see them eating their words!" Seeing Elysia so sure of herself made Tarquin realize something was off.

Could it be...

With a "click", the bathroom door opened.

Elijah and Evan stepped out together...

Seeing the striking resemblance between the two children, everyone was utterly stunned, "!!!"

Chapter 733

The Bradford family elders rose from their seats in unison!

All the big shots got up at once!

Gideon tried and tried again, wishing he could rise from his wheelchair!

The rest of the Bradford family looked on, their eyes nearly popping out of their sockets!

"How, how is this possible?!"

Elysia snorted coldly, "How is it not possible? The truth is right before your eyes!"

Allegra's breathing became erratic,

"Impossible! This is absolutely impossible! You must have done something to the child's face, it didn't look like this just a moment ago! Is this kid wearing a fake mask or something? Let me see!"

Allegra rudely reached out for Evan, but Tarquin pushed her away with a quick move!

Allegra stumbled and fell to the ground, Tarquin didn't even glance at her.

He walked over to Evan, knelt down, and looked at him up close...

His heart pounded!

His breathing was rapid and uneasy!

He looked at Evan in disbelief, his chest heaving!

Even Verity Bradford, who had been silent, completely lost her composure, her eyebrows knitted together in shock!

The room fell silent for a long time, until someone suddenly spoke up,

"There are plenty of look-alikes in the world without any blood relation! Just because they look similar doesn't mean they're father and son! Who knows if they've used some high-tech trickery!"

"Right! Everyone has a nose, a mouth, two eyes; looking alike doesn't prove anything!"

Verity let out a sigh of relief, she too thought it impossible for Tarquin and Evan to be father and son!

After all, the Bradford family had a tradition of single heirs, how could it all fall apart at Elijah's generation?

Absolutely impossible!

So, with a steady demeanor, Verity spoke,

"I have here a paternity test between him and Ms. Thorne's son."

Everyone immediately turned to look at her, "?!?"

Ever since she knew Tarquin was planning to add a few children to the Bradford family tree, Verity had found ways to bribe the hospital staff for the children's samples.

Then, she managed to get a sample from Tarquin and secretly conducted the paternity test.

She was prepared for today, in case Tarquin insisted these children were his biological sons.

But since Tarquin didn't use that argument, she hadn't brought out the test results.

Unexpectedly, although Tarquin kept silent, Elysia suddenly brought it up, making the test results useful after all!

A paternity test is the most authoritative proof!

If the test results show they're not father and son, Elysia's arguments would be useless!

Verity explained to Tarquin,

"Sorry, when I heard your grandfather say you wanted to add a few kids to the family tree, I thought, being as smart as you are, you wouldn't do such a thing unless these kids were really related to you by blood. So, out of curiosity, I went behind your backs and did the paternity test.

I just got the results this morning, look, the seal isn't even broken, I haven't seen the results myself. I did it out of curiosity, with no other intentions. If Ms. Thorne hadn't suddenly come over to talk about this, I wouldn't have brought it out.

A paternity test is the best way to prove the truth. Do you want to open it in front of everyone?"

Verity, usually low-key and gentle to everyone, actually had many tricks up her sleeve!

Before Tarquin could speak, Elysia suddenly praised Verity sincerely,

"You actually did the paternity test in advance, that's great! I didn't have time to arrange this with the sudden developments, you're really a good person."

Verity: "....."

Elysia reached for the paternity test, but Verity didn't hand it over.

Verity was worried Tarquin wouldn't agree to check the results in public.

What if he destroyed the results, and later produced a fake?

After all, it would be easy for Tarquin to forge it later.

But this test was arranged by her personally; it couldn't be faked!

Verity directly handed the paternity test to Keaton Huber's father,

"For fairness, let's have a third party open it."

Richard Huber, of course, sided with Tarquin. He took the test results, his expression complex as he looked at Tarquin.

If it turned out they weren't related, it would be hard to deal with the aftermath!

Tarquin was anxious, looking at Elysia.

Elysia stood firm, "Open it!"

Tarquin then nodded to Richard.

Keaton's father took a deep breath and opened the envelope in front of everyone, pulling out the test report...

Everyone focused intently on him, their hearts in their throats!

Only Elysia and Evan remained calm, even little Elijah furrowed his brow, worried the test might have been tampered with!

"Good Lord!" Richard suddenly exclaimed, his eyes wide in shock.

Everyone's heart jumped, "What does it say?"

Richard didn't look at anyone else but stared, his hands trembling with excitement, at Tarquin,

"You, you, you rascal! You've made it big! He's really your son! The test results show a DNA match of 99.9999%, confirming a father-son relationship!"

Chapter 734

Everyone's jaws hit the floor, eyes bulging out in sheer disbelief!

The Bradfords gasped, "How is that even possible?!"

The big shots were all over it, "Let me see that! Good Lord, this kid did good, twins, no less!"

A military honcho chimed in, confused, "Hold up, did you say twins?"

Tarquin was too stunned to speak, eyes glued to Elysia, oblivious to everything else around him.

He was dumbfounded, shell-shocked by the unexpected joy that hit him like a truck!

Elijah, speaking up for his dad, corrected, "Grandpa, it's not two; Dad's got four boys!"

"Hot damn!" The military big shot nearly jumped through the roof in excitement.

He gave Tarquin a hearty punch in the chest, "You little rascal, you've outdone yourself! Four sons! I need to spread the good news, your old man will be over the moon! Wait till your mom hears she's got four grandsons to spoil. She'll be ecstatic!"

With that, he bolted out, making a beeline for the Bradford family hall to share the joyous news with Kendrick.

Richard, too, was visibly moved, tears welling up as he looked at Elijah and Evan, and thought of the two he hadn't met... He couldn't hide his envy! Flushed with emotion, Richard rushed out to find his underachieving son, Keaton!

The other big shots looked at Tarquin with respect and a hint of jealousy, each muttering, "You've really made something of yourself, kid!"

The Bradfords were beside themselves, utterly bamboozled!

Especially Verity, who was in shock. What in the world was happening? Was this some kind of joke on her?

Her mind was racing, trying to process how Tarquin suddenly had three more sons, meaning the Bradfords now had three more heirs. What about her own son?

She couldn't handle the pressure and fainted on the spot!

The room erupted into chaos, a cacophony of gasps, screams, and utter confusion.

Tarquin, unfazed by the drama, took Elysia's hand and, with Evan and Elijah in tow, made his way out of the madness.

Soon, the entire elite social circle was abuzz with the news.

Tarquin's quadruple blessing broke the Bradford family's generational curse, leaving many green with envy.

The news stirred up a frenzy among peers and elders alike.

Richard, upon leaving the Bradford estate, headed straight for the Blissful Uncle's Bar, where he gave Keaton a piece of his mind for not giving him grandkids yet. Poor Keaton could barely stand afterwards!

Booker had it tough, too. His dad, not one for violence, turned out to be even harder to please with his tearful disappointment.

"Look at Tarquin, making us all proud with four boys at once! I'm not asking for four, just one would do... Can't you at least try, for your old man's sake?"

Even Benjamin, the workaholic, couldn't escape the pressure. Fresh out of surgery, he was summoned by Braxton Lawson, who lectured him on the importance of settling down and starting a family, all because Tarquin had set a new benchmark.

Braxton, after a stern talk, laid down the law, "From now on, you're going on dates, aiming to marry within the year, and expecting two kids within three!"

Benjamin, exasperated, muttered, "Thanks a lot, Tarquin. My dad's lost it!"

Booker and Keaton echoed the sentiment, overwhelmed by their own familial pressures, all thanks to Tarquin's sudden windfall of fatherhood.

Tarquin's phone was blowing up with messages and calls, but he ignored them all, his focus solely on his wife and kids.

Brothers? Forget them! At that moment, nothing else mattered to him.

Chapter 735

The Bradford estate boasted a man-made lake, its surface dotted with water lilies that hadn't yet bloomed this season. Despite their flowers remaining closed, the green stems stood tall and proud, and the overlapping leaves painted a picturesque scene. A quaint, vintage gazebo had been constructed at the heart of the lake, adding to the charm.

Tarquin, having pulled Elysia away from the noisy crowd, sprinted with her all the way to this secluded spot. Now, they stood alone under the gazebo, the only two souls in this tranquil haven.

Elijah, ever the observant one, had wrapped up his duties with a flourish and instructed the driver to return them to the hospital to find Elliot and Emmett, leaving his parents some much-needed alone time. He understood that they had a lot to discuss, some issues that needed to be conclusively addressed today.

A gentle breeze stirred the water lilies, their leaves rustling in the wind, a soft background to Tarquin and Elysia's heavy breathing.

Elysia's breaths came in short gasps, not from any emotional turmoil but simply because Tarquin had grabbed her hand and dashed from the house, running so fast and for such a distance that she was nearly spent!

And Tarquin? His breathlessness was not from the physical exertion but from the overwhelming shock of the day's revelations. His heart raced with excitement, his blood boiled with anticipation, and every nerve in his body was alive with an electrifying energy. He was so thrilled he could barely contain himself, yet also terrified it was all an illusion.

The surprise of finding out the three little ones were his own made him ecstatic yet fearful that it might all be a dream. The reality had struck him so unexpectedly that he struggled to believe it.

"Elysia, hit me!" Tarquin looked at her, his body tense with anticipation.

Elysia, puzzled by his request, couldn't understand his excitement nor his bizarre demand. "Why on earth should I hit you?"

"I need to know if it hurts, to see if I'm dreaming!" he explained.

With a roll of her eyes and a slight pout, Elysia pinched him, asking, "Does it hurt?"

"Yes!"

"So, do you now realize you're not dreaming?"

Tarquin couldn't help but burst into laughter, looking as giddy as a schoolboy.

Just as Elysia was about to scold him for being silly, he suddenly scooped her up in his arms!

"Elysia!" he exclaimed, holding her aloft.

Feeling a lack of solid ground beneath her feet, Elysia clung to him, "Hey, put me down."

But he seemed not to hear her, repeating her name with a laugh, "Elysia! Ha, Elysia!" His joy scared the fish hiding under the lily pads, scattering them in all directions.

He held her tight, spinning around in circles, laughing and shouting her name as if trying to release all the pent-up happiness inside him onto her. Finally, Tarquin sat down on a bench, with Elysia in his lap, her arms around his neck as she slumped against him, both physically and emotionally spent.

"Elysia, I'm your son's real dad!" Tarquin announced, a mix of pride and joy in his voice.

Elysia, her breath still uneven, her cheeks flushed, weakly responded, "I know."

His excitement bubbling over, Tarquin shook her gently, "Elysia, focus, listen to me, I've magically gained three big sons out of nowhere! Three!"

In this quaint English setting, by the serene lake and the charming gazebo, amidst the rustling of the water lilies and the backdrop of the grand Bradford estate, Tarquin and Elysia shared a moment that was as surreal as it was joyous, marking a new chapter in their lives.

Chapter 736

"Elysia, can you believe it? You've only ever had my child. No one else's!" Tarquin couldn't contain his laughter. "I mean, wow!"

Elysia blinked, staring at him as if he had lost his mind. "And that's news...how?"

Had the guy gone completely bonkers with joy?

"Hey, hey, just take a breath, will you?"

Tarquin couldn't help but spill his excitement, "I am calm! Totally calm! It's just...I can't stop laughing. I'm over the moon, Elysia! How did I get so lucky? Tell me, am I not the luckiest guy alive?"

After his rant, his stomping around, and calling out her name until his eyes welled up, Elysia couldn't stand it anymore. She wrapped her arms around his neck and kissed him, pouring all her love into that one gesture, hoping to calm the storm in his heart.

Tarquin quickly took over, kissing her back passionately, channeling all his excitement into their embrace.

When the kiss ended, his tense nerves finally relaxed, his voice hoarse, "Elysia, thank you. Thank you for such an incredible surprise."

Elysia, catching her breath, tried to steady her emotions. She had planned to wait until his birthday to tell him, but she couldn't hold back any longer. She couldn't bear the thought of the Bradfords squeezing him for money or letting them badmouth him without doing anything about it.

"I wanted it to be a birthday gift, but I guess the surprise came early. Now I've got nothing left for your birthday."

Tarquin, affectionately kissing her forehead, whispered, "This surprise... it's enough to last me a lifetime."

But following the joy came a wave of guilt and remorse as he thought back to six years ago...

"Elysia, about six years ago, I..."

Elysia cut him off, "I know it wasn't on purpose. I've forgiven you."

Tarquin felt choked up, "Elysia..."

Elysia continued, "I was angry at you, but now, I'm just glad it was you. Despite everything, I'm glad it's you I love."

Tarquin's heart shook, his voice even huskier, "Elysia..."

"And after having our child, I stopped being angry. I just hoped I'd never have to see you again. But who could have imagined? On my first day back in Jindale City with our child, I'd run into you. Not only did we

meet, but we also fell for each other again. It must be fate, right? It feels like it was all prearranged, that we're meant to be together."

Tarquin held her tighter, filled with a mix of relief, guilt, and tenderness.

"They say giving birth is like walking through the valley of the shadow of death. For some, even one child is a miracle. But you... you gave birth to our children. Was it painful?"

Elysia shrugged, "The pregnancy was tough, and it's not like jobs are lining up for pregnant women... But giving birth? I didn't even know it was happening until I woke up and our child was already born."

Her nonchalance contrasted sharply with Tarquin's aching heart.

"Elysia, I'm so sorry."

He was sorry for the hurt at the airport six years ago, for the life she had to rebuild alone, for the pain of childbirth she endured without him by her side, and for all the years she and their child spent without him. He was sorry for being cold when she returned to him, bearing their child.

"I'm sorry," he repeated, his apology a whisper of regret for all the years lost and the hardships she faced alone.

Chapter 737

Tarquin's eyes burned, and his mind was flooded with images...

The image of Elysia, looking lost and defeated at the airport after he had mocked her, and later, when her husband kicked her out.

The image of her curled up in a corner, crying alone after being slandered, insulted, and cursed.

The image of her, pregnant and heartbroken, leaving Jindale City.

The image of her working hard, close to giving birth, trying to provide for herself and her child.

The image of her sick, feverish, and utterly alone during her pregnancy.

And the image of her returning, only for him to shame her...

So many images flashed through Tarquin's mind, each one a sharp knife stabbing straight into his heart!

"Elysia, I'm so sorry, I'm truly sorry..."

Tears streamed down Tarquin's cheeks!

He was in agony, a pain so deep it was unbearable!

He had so much he wanted to say to Elysia, but nothing came out except apologies.

What else could he say?

What right did he have to say anything?

He had hurt her too deeply!

Elysia noticed his emotional turmoil. She knew he was remorseful, his apologies were for the events of six years ago!

Once, she had thought that if she ever encountered that man again and he apologized, she would slap him across the face!

Was his apology supposed to be valuable?

Who would care?!

But now, she gently lifted her hand to wipe his tears.

She liked him, seeing him cry even made her heart ache...

"It's all in the past now, what matters is our happiness. You did hurt me before, but you also gave me angels in return, we're even. I decided to let bygones be bygones when I chose to forgive you, I truly don't dwell on the past anymore."

Tarquin shook his head with teary eyes, "It's not even..."

How could it ever be even? He owed her too much, a lifetime of love wouldn't be enough to make up for it!

It would take an eternity, countless lifetimes...

Elysia frowned slightly, holding his face, looking into his eyes seriously,

"I kept the children a secret before because I was afraid you'd fight me for them, including when I didn't let you move to Future Community, it was all because of the kids. I wasn't sure if we could last.

But now, I've told you everything about the kids, which means I've made up my mind to grow old with you!

I hope every day we spend together is a happy one, that the kids and I are happy, and so are you!

I don't want you living in guilt and self-blame. I want my man, the father of my children, to be optimistic and joyful, to be happy!"

Elysia said, kissing away his tears,

"We need to forget the past and live well now. Even if we can't forget, we shouldn't let it sadden us anymore.

We need to live our lives positively and happily, striving to provide a better life for our children! So, I don't want you to dwell on the past anymore, I want you to look ahead, I want us to be happy."

Tarquin sniffed hard, pulling her into a tight embrace, as if he wanted to merge her into his very being.

His Elysia, gentle, kind, and optimistic Elysia!

His Elysia, the best in the world!

"Elysia, I love you."

Tarquin's voice was hoarse beyond recognition!

But to Elysia, it was the sweetest sound, him saying he loved her!

Elysia's heart raced, fluttering like that of a young girl experiencing her first crush.

"I, I love you too."

It had nothing to do with the kids, she just loved him purely.

Tarquin's body trembled, "Elysia, I love you so much." Elysia's voice quivered, "I, I love you so much too."

For a long time after, they kept repeating these words.

He said he loved her, and she replied with her love for him!

He said he loved her so much, and she replied with the same!

He said he was madly in love with her, and she replied, "I'm madly in love with you too..."

Eventually, these declarations of love were lost in a passionate and deep kiss...

Chapter 738

After a long kiss, Elysia was still wrapped around his neck, sitting on his lap. They looked into each other's eyes, neither spoke.

In that silence, Elysia suddenly buried her face in his chest, overwhelmed with embarrassment.

The next second, realizing something was off, she quickly jumped out of his embrace, staring at him with wide eyes and a flushed face.

He was aroused, and she felt it!

Embarrassed and flustered...

Clearing his throat awkwardly, Tarquin pulled her back into his arms, making sure she sat on just one of his legs this time.

"Just a hug."

"You..."

"Just a hug."

Elysia swallowed hard several times before finally relenting.

She tried to change the subject, suddenly remembering something important.

"Right, I need to talk to you about Emmett."

"Hmm? What about Emmett?"

"Emmett... he's not your son."

Tarquin's expression changed dramatically, shocked, "Emmett isn't mine?!"

"Yeah!"

Tarquin frowned, his expression complex as he looked at Elysia, "Then whose is he?"

"I don't know. I found Emmett abandoned on a mountain. When I woke up from giving birth to the boys, only Elliot and Evan were with me. Finding Emmett alive, I quickly took him home to save him. I tried to find his biological parents but had no luck, so I decided to raise him myself. Having been adopted myself, I know what it's like to feel out of place. I didn't want Emmett to feel inferior, so I've always kept it from him. Emmett's always been curious why he doesn't look like his brothers. I told him it's because of fraternal twins, that it's normal not all multiples look alike.

Emmett's not as bright as Elliot and Evan; he believes whatever I tell him, never doubting his origins.

I know I should tell him the truth, but I'm worried it'll mess with his head. I'll tell him when he's older."

Elysia looked directly at Tarquin, her expression serious and a bit warning,

"Even though Emmett isn't your biological son, you can't treat him any differently. Emmett is our treasure, cherished by me and his brothers. If you dare treat him differently, we won't stand for it!"

Tarquin looked at her tenderly, admiring her kindness and beauty.

Meeting her was a stroke of luck for Emmett...

"Don't worry! I don't place much importance on blood ties. I'll treat Emmett just like you do, without any prejudice."

Elysia was relieved,

"Emmett is such a good boy. Once you get to know him, you'll love him. He might not be as clever as Elliot, Evan, and Elijah, but he's very well- behaved and has his own talents.

You never noticed anything off about Elliot and Evan because Emmett covered for them! Emmett has an amazing sense of style..."

Elysia beamed with pride, just like a mother boasting about her child.

She truly loved him, not by blood, but just as deeply.

As they talked about Emmett, Tarquin remembered something a mysterious person had told him, his gaze darkening. He asked Elysia, "Elysia, when you were pregnant and went for your check-ups, did they tell you how many babies you were carrying?"

He was thinking about the mysterious person's mention of a daughter...

Having only been with Elysia, if he had another daughter out there, she would have to be Elysia's as well.

Now knowing Emmett wasn't Elysia's biological child, but Elliot, Evan, and Elijah were.

If Elysia had been expecting triplets, then the mysterious person must have been lying. But if it was quadruplets, then...

Chapter 739

Elysia was lost when it came to talk of 'daughters' or the purpose behind his question. The sudden inquiry stirred a tinge of sadness within her. The past was a wound reopened...

"I don't know."

Tarquin was taken aback, "Didn't the doctor tell you?"

Elysia replied with a hint of detachment, "I only went for a check-up when I first found out I was pregnant. After that, I never returned. I didn't even know I was carrying multiples."

If she had known, perhaps she wouldn't have been unaware of Elijah being taken!

Tarquin couldn't hide his surprise, "Why wouldn't you go for check-ups?"

"I..." Elysia faltered, her voice barely above a whisper, "I was in a really tough spot back then..."

After a scandal had her kicked out by her husband, her adoptive parents, ashamed and fearing the exposure of a switched-at-birth secret, severed ties, forcing her to leave.

Her sister, Daphne Thorne, was even more sinister, plotting to sell her off to some remote area for profit.

Pregnant, and without any means to defend herself, Elysia had no choice but to flee under the cover of night.

Fearing discovery by the Thorne family and concerned about the stigma affecting her children, she chose to settle in a secluded mountain village, disconnected from the world.

Penniless, she worried about basic necessities, let alone medical expenses.

Eventually, she managed to save a bit from a job, but she still avoided hospitals, dreading that Daphne might find her...

Moreover, the journey was daunting. To reach a hospital, she would have had to walk a great distance while heavily pregnant to catch a bus down the mountain.

Carrying multiples, combined with malnutrition and exhaustive labor, she simply lacked the strength to make the trip...

A myriad of reasons led to her avoiding hospitals throughout her pregnancy.

Fortunately, her children remained healthy...

She didn't share these hardships directly with Tarquin, fearing it would add to his guilt. After all, these troubles stemmed from him.

Had it not been for that incident at the airport, none of this would have followed...

Yet, her simple admission of "life being tough back then" visibly shattered Tarquin.

His brow furrowed, his throat worked as he fought back emotions, eyes swelling, nostrils tingling sharply.

In this day and age, it was unheard of for a pregnant woman to skip prenatal care unless under dire circumstances.

It was all his fault...

"Don't blame yourself, I..."

Elysia tried to comfort him, but Tarquin pulled her into an embrace, wordless.

What could he say? Apologize? Make promises?

Meaningless. Nothing could undo the hardships she'd endured.

All he could do was silently vow:

To love her! To truly cherish her! To doubly ensure her happiness, leaving no room for any further sorrow!

Tarquin held her, steadying his emotions.

He didn't want Elysia, after all her suffering, to worry or comfort him.

Elysia wanted him optimistic, not dwelling on past griefs. He resolved to heed her wishes.

He would transform his guilt into love, gradually compensating for her past in the days to come.

After a long silence, Tarquin finally spoke,

"No more hardship, only sweetness from here on out."

Hearing this, Elysia's spirits lifted,

"That's the right mindset. We can't alter the past, but we can embrace it and ensure every day ahead is joyful!"

Tarquin released her, his gaze softening into an adoring smile, "Yes!"

His Elysia had endured enough bitterness in her early years. It was time she truly knew happiness.

Every day must be filled with joy!

"Ring..."

A sharp ringtone cut through the moment, not Tarquin's phone, but Elysia's.

Glancing at the caller ID, she saw it was Keaton.

With Tarquin's phone off, Keaton had resorted to calling Elysia.

Chapter 740

Tarquin groaned, "Just ignore it, no need to pick up!"

"But what if it's something urgent?" came the retort.

Elysia slid the answer button, "Hello?"

Keaton's voice was polite but urgent, "Hey, Elysia, is Tarin with you? I need to speak to him urgently."

Elysia glanced at Tarquin.

With no choice, Tarquin, still holding Elysia close with one arm, took the phone and grumbled, "What?"

Keaton rattled off his concerns, clearly agitated.

Tarquin replied nonchalantly, "I've got four big boys!"

"Yeah, I know, but I'm talking about—"

"I've got four big boys!"

"Damn it, I know, but—"

"I've got four big boys!"

No matter what Keaton said or how passionately he argued, Tarquin stuck to his line.

Finally, Keaton cursed under his breath and hung up.

Handing the phone back to Elysia, Tarquin wore a smug grin, "He's just jealous."

Elysia was at a loss. Whether Keaton was jealous or not, she couldn't tell; all she saw was Tarquin's self-satisfaction.

Pocketing her phone, she wrapped her arms around his neck and teased, "Don't get too cocky. Suddenly having four sons means your responsibilities have quadrupled! You used to only provide for Elijah, and now there are four, which means your stress and expenses have skyrocketed!"

Four little money pits, think about the monthly costs! And they're still young. In the future, they'll need college, weddings, we'll have to save for their houses and cars..."

Tarquin listened quietly, debating whether to reveal his true identity to her.

After all, the concerns she voiced were no issue for him!

Not just four, he could support eight or more.

And those kids are talented; they don't need his financial support.

"Elysia."

"Yeah?"

He looked at her, words forming in his mind.

Mistaking his silence for worry, Elysia continued, "But don't feel too pressured. Kids will find their own way. Our job is to raise them well, create a loving home environment.

As for houses and cars, those are nice to have but not essentials. If we can afford them, great; if not, they can strive for themselves."

Elysia was an optimist, believing parental love was most crucial.

Because love shapes a child's life!

A loving environment promotes healthy growth, the greatest wealth for a child.

As for financial capabilities, it varies.

Parents should help if able, but if not, children can build their own futures.

Children raised in love tend to turn out well, leading to better lives as adults.

Tarquin sighed internally, still lacking the courage to confess.

He imagined telling her:

Elysia, my real name is Tarquin, not Tarin. I'm the CEO of the Bradford Group, the wealthiest man around, with more money than we could ever spend.

How would she react?

He couldn't bear to think about it, so he decided not to reveal everything just yet. He'd find the right moment to tell her in private.

"From now on, I'll handle making money and providing for us. You just focus on spending."

Hearing this, Elysia's lips curled into a beautiful smile.

Though she wouldn't leave all the responsibilities to him, his words were a relief.

Before, she bore the burden of raising children alone financially, physically, mentally.

Now, she had someone to share the load.

And from today, she no longer had to worry about losing her children to him, no more hiding and sneaking around, no more exhausting lies and

excuses.

What a relief...

What bliss...