

Marrying 671

Chapter 671 Future Plans

Damien was at a loss for words.

Zachary remained the same as he was five years ago, always prone to uttering nonsensical

words.

“Since she’s asleep, take good care of her,” Zachary sighed and continued casually. “I initially called to console her, but it seems that’s unnecessary now.”

“Anyway, I’ll give you two some privacy.”

“I’m currently at the kindergarten. I’ll pick up the children and bring them to my place tonight. You should take good care of her and help her calm down so the children don’t worry about her.”

Damien fell silent for a moment before finally agreeing, “Sure.”

As Damien was about to hang up, Zachary sighed again on the other end. “What are your plans for the future?”

“I’ll bring her back to Adania,” Damien answered without hesitation. “I can provide for her. whether it’s a job or her future.”

“Hmm.” Zachary chuckled. “Then, I’ll consider returning to Ziphon and resuming my role as the head of the Miles family. I’ve been with her for three years here. To be honest, it’s quite exhausting.”

“You’ve done well.”

“It’s not difficult. But if you don’t take good care of her in the future, I’ll be in a difficult situation.

“That will never happen.”

Thope so

In the end, both men shared a laugh before ending the call.

Cherise slept soundly until the following morning

She groggily rose from the bed and glanced at the dun sky outside. Then, she turned b Damien, who was for used un om de uments beside her What tine ivit

With that, she got out of bed, mumbling. “The children must be worried?

Damien gently pulled her back onto the bed. “The children are with Zacraf

After saying that, he glanced at her teasingly. “Aren’t you going to check the time? Still thinking about picking up the children?”

Cherise frowned and checked the time.

It’s only a little past six.

Wait, is it now six in the morning of the next day?

She smacked her forehead. I slept that long?”

“Yes.”

Damien shrugged nonchalantly and handed her something, “What you should be doing now isn’t picking up the children, but freshening up and heading to the hospital”

Cherise frowned and looked down at the thing he gave her. It was the letter of resignation

“I typed it for you. You only have to sign it. Damien smiled and continued, “No need to thank me.”

Cherise pursed her lips and silently rolled her eyes.

However, she couldn’t deny that he had been helpful.

If he hadn’t prepared the letter for her, she would have had to draft it as soon as she woke up

Cherise took a deep breath. She picked up a pen from the table and signed her name Jetter

“What are your plans for the future? Damien asked softly after she signed the letter

“I haven’t thought about it.”

Cherise pursed her lips and sighed helplessly “Anyway, I’ll resign from the hospital. Then I consider what I’m suited for

After saying that she tried to reassure him and smiled. Did you mention that I make a good teacher? Tian look into that and consider becoming a teacher. After studying has always been my strong suit?

Damien leaned against the head of the bed ha anna fucruno hac bicar

option. But all of this will have to wait until you return to Audienta

the

Cherise put down the ballpoint pen and was stunned.

Then, she looked at Damien, appearing confused. "When did I agree to return to Adania with you?"

Chapter 672 Give Him A Raise

Damien smiled subtly and played a voice recording on his phone. His deep and captivating voice resonated from the recording.

"Cherise, if you're concerned about the children traveling long distances, why don't you come to Adania with us? You can join in the fun and keep an eye on us. How does that sound?"

Then, Cherise responded in a slightly intoxicated voice, "Okay."

"Damien... you're a good man."

Once the recording ended, Damien turned to Cherise with a hint of disappointment. "Are you going to deny it, Dr. Shaw?"

Cherise was left speechless. She did not want to admit to the recording.

Nevertheless, she sighed in resignation and glared resentfully at Damien. "You're too cunning."

When he invited her for a drink, she assumed he only wanted to console her and help her relieve stress. Little did she know he had schemed this.

“I’ve always been like this.”

Damien smiled. His eyes crinkled with amusement as he looked at Cherise. “You can try to deny it, but I believe you wouldn’t want the children to discover that their mother doesn’t honor her promises.”

“Furthermore, I suggest you go to Adania to look after the children. If you refuse, they might think don’t want to go with them and heartlessly leave them in my care. Wouldn’t they be upset?”

you

Cherise had no response.

This man is more cunning than a fox!

He knows exactly what I care about and deliberately uses the children to manipulate me!

Her children were only five years old and were too young to understand whether she was drunk. They would not comprehend the concept of being drunk. However, they would know she broke her promise.

Observing the resentment on Cherise’s face, Damien sighed helplessly “If you truly don’t want to fulfill what you promised, then I have no choice but to

“Forget it.” Cherise rolled her eyes. “Fine, I’ll go.”

After all, she had promised him earlier that if he helped her resolve this matter, she would let the children spend a day out with him.

Her children had rarely been away from her since they were babies. They might find it unsettling to suddenly go out with Damien without her presence.

She did not find it objectionable since she would be taking care of the children with him.

"Sure."

Damien smiled and dialed a number. "Book the flight tickets."

Cherise glared at him before heading to the bathroom to freshen up.

"Cherise, have you truly made up your mind?"

Dr. Keeples, the hospital director, looked at Cherise regretfully when she met him in his office. "You've accomplished so much for the hospital in the past. I can overlook what others think and allow you to stay."

Cherise shook her head. "Forget it, Dr. Keeples. You've always been fair and upright. It's bad enough that Dr. Lane is corrupt. I don't want you to fall into the same trap."

Dr. Keeples fell silent. He looked at Cherise sadly. "I suppose if you leave, Dr. Staber will leave as well."

Cherise smiled. "That's why I recommend you to rehire Isaac. He's an exceptional doctor. After Lucy and I leave, you can focus on training him."

Her smile was genuine. "I hope you won't judge him based on Dr. Lane's actions. He has nothing to do with all of that."

Then, she tapped her forehead and continued, "I almost forgot, he owes me quite a bit of money. After you rehire him, remember to give him a raise so he can repay me sooner."

Chapter 673 If Destiny Permits.

Dr. Keeples was left speechless.

He smiled resignedly and approved Cherise's resignation letter. "Dr. Shaw, you're still as optimistic as ever."

"However, after this incident, I'm afraid other hospitals may not be as welcoming if you resign from Lermille Hospital." After all, the consequences of this incident were severe.

Cherise responded with a smile. "Then perhaps I could consider a different career path. I'm not bound to being a doctor."

"Very well." Dr. Keeples took a deep breath and picked up his pen to write a letter of recommendation. "I have a friend involved in medical research. His team is purely academic and doesn't engage in clinical work. They probably won't mind your past."

He took out an envelope and wrote down the contact information. "You should reach out to him. I believe he would appreciate your talents."

Cherise was momentarily stunned. She accepted the envelope and bowed in gratitude. "Thank you."

Dr. Keeples smiled sadly. "Honestly, it pains me to see you leave. Remember to reach out to my friend so that I might see you again in the future."

Cherise nodded. "I will."

After some casual conversation with Dr. Keeples in his office, Cherise finally took her leave.

"Dr. Shaw."

Isaac stood in a corner outside the office, dressed in a white coat. He seemed to have been waiting for quite some time.

Cherise frowned and glanced at his white coat. "You've returned to work already?"

Isaac blushed and smiled shyly. "Dr. Keeples told me to come back quickly to adapt

Seeing Isaac's bashful expression, Cherise smiled at him. "All the best"

Dr. Shaw, I would like to talk to you"

Isaac bit his lip and looked at Cherise because your right hand was agored

Tknow you didnt perform the surgery yourschi

secretly read your diagnosis before

He frowned at Cherise. "Dr. Shaw, why didn't you reveal the burn you suffered three years ago? Why would you rather be misunderstood than speak about it?"

Cherise turned to Isaac and smiled slightly. "It's the same as how you were willing to shoulder the blame for me and stop Dr. Lane from bringing up the past. I, too, have someone very important to protect."

The morning sun illuminated her face, casting her smile in a golden light. "I trust you to keep my secret."

Isaac bit his lip. In truth, he did not want to keep Cherise's secret. He wanted to proclaim to everyone that they were mistaken about her. He wanted everyone to know she could not perform surgery because she was genuinely injured.

However, he looked into Cherise's earnest gaze and sighed deeply. "I will."

He could not go against Cherise's wishes even if he knew the truth. After all, it was her matter.

Although he admired her and felt it was a shame, he could not reveal her secrets without her permission.

He took a deep breath and looked at Cherise again. "So, Dr. Shaw, what are your plans for the future?"

"Dr. Keeples suggested I pursue academic research, and I believe it's a good fit. However, before finding a new job, I want to take my children on a much-needed vacation to unwind."

"Okay."

Isaac kept looking at Cherise and seemed reluctant to part with her. "Dr. Shaw, will we meet again?"

"We probably will."

Cherise looked at him, her eyes crinkled as she smiled. "If destiny permits, we will inevitably meet again."

Chapter 674 All Is Yours

She waved at him, saying, "I'm leaving!"

The woman turned on her heels and walked

away.

Isaac stood in the corridor, his gaze fixed on Cherise as she left. A fleeting sadness passed through his eyes.

Since arriving at the hospital, Dr. Shaw had been his mentor, and Ms. Lane had been his source of support.

Now, both of them were gone.

He would have to move forward alone from now on....

“Zac, are you starting your shift?”

Just as Isaac was feeling melancholy, a clear female voice echoed in his ear.

He looked up in surprise. “Dr. Staber!”

He almost forgot!

There was still Dr. Staber!

When he was in a difficult situation in the operating room, Dr. Staber had come to his aid!

Even though Ms. Lane and Dr. Shaw were no longer by his side, he still had the experienced Dr. Staber!

Isaac looked at Lucy with visible excitement, “Dr. Staber, I’m so glad you’re here!”

“Hmm.”

Lucy nodded lightly, confused as to why Isaac was looking at her as if she was his lifeline.

The woman coughed awkwardly, glancing at the director’s office. “Is the director in?”

“Yes!”

Isaac nodded hastily.

Dr. Shaw had just left the office. The director had to be around

“That’s great.”

111

13

Lucy yawned and strolled towards the director’s office.

Isaac noticed that Lucy was holding an envelope in her hand.

A sense of foreboding washed over him.

He asked cautiously with a trembling voice, “Dr. Staber, what do you need from the director?”

Lucy paused, looked back, and waved the envelope in her hand.

“I’m resigning! I came here for Cherise, but now that she’s gone, there’s no point in me staying in Lermille. I might as well return to Adania and be with my Dad.”

Isaac: “...”

Despair overwhelmed his short-lived joy.

After submitting her resignation at the hospital, Cherise received a call from Beckham.

“Cherise.”

His voice on the other end of the call sounded serious.

“I saw the news about the press conference. Are you... having a hard time?”

Cherise pursed her lips. Her gaze drifted towards the sky.

The sunlight was particularly bright today.

Raising a hand, she shielded her eyes while heading towards the parking lot.

“Dad, don’t worry about me. You were always there for me when Mom passed away five years ago. You would understand the immense psychological pressure I was under. I’m sorry I don’t have your and Mom’s resilience. I’m thinking of taking a break from this work. As for what’s next... we’ll discuss it later.”

Beckham sighed.

“I had a talk with Gwenn earlier. I knew she was a journalist, but I never knew she was plotting against you...”

“Dad, I’m just relieved you’re not angry at me for discussing our inheritance dispute in front of so many people.”

“You don’t need to fight for it.”

Beckham sighed softly.

“Everything in the Tanner family will be yours in the future. In any case, she... is still an outsider.”

The voice of the man in his fifties was somewhat hoarse.

“But Cherise, our company’s shareholders saw Damien at the press conference. They’re pressuring me, asking if you’re back together with him. The animosity between Lenoir’s company and ours runs deep...”

He sighed, “The shareholders still insist that if you and Damien cannot end your relationship cleanly... then you’re not qualified to be the heir of Tanner Group.”

Chapter 675 Visiting My Dear Sister

Cherise’s hand trembled as she tightly held her phone.

She wanted to express that she had no desire to become the successor of the family’s company.

But...

She couldn’t say it. It was impossible for her.

Before her mother passed away, she repeatedly told Cherise to never give up her position as the family’s heir.

Her grandfather had only one son, who was her father.

And her father had only one daughter, Cherise.

If she renounced the family’s inheritance, everything would fall into the hands of Gwenn.

Five years ago, Gwenn had started getting close to the group's second-largest shareholder, a grandson of a Tanner from a branch family.

If Cherise gave up her inheritance, Gwenn would quickly marry the grandson of the Tanner family branch. She would become the rightful heir as Beckham's adopted daughter and a legitimate daughter-in-law of the family.

"Cherry, you must remember that the empire your father built, he built it with me. It cannot fall into the hands of outsiders. If you truly don't want to inherit it... then find a husband who has a good sense for business."

Charisa's last words echoed incessantly in Cherise's ears.

"Actually, Damien would be the most suitable person, it's just a shame..."

Taking a deep breath, Cherise held her phone tightly and gazed into the distance. Her voice was resolute and somber.

"Dad, don't worry. I know what I should and shouldn't do."

"Hmm."

The man on the other end sighed helplessly once again. If only Damien weren't Hansen's son..."

When she returned from the hospital, Cherise began packing her bags

Although Damien had said he would take the children out for a day, considering his unpredictable nature, Cherise thought it would be better to prepare more clothes.

By the time she finished packing for herself and the two children, it was already half in the afternoon.

She took a deep breath and was about to lie down for a rest when there was a frantic knocking on the door.

Thinking it was Damien, she frowned and opened the door, annoyed.

past one

After all, only a few people close to her knew her address. Zachary rarely visited, and Lucy always called her out for shopping and meals. The only person who would come knocking without notice would be Damien.

“Hi.”

The door opened to reveal Gwenn, wearing a red dress, and a tall man.

Seeing them outside the door, Cherise furrowed her brow. “Why are you here?”

“I’m here to visit my

dear sister.”

Gwenn smiled faintly, sidestepped Cherise, and confidently walked into the room.

The two suitcases that Cherise had just packed were sitting in the center of the living room.

“So you’re really giving up on being a doctor?”

Gwenn raised an eyebrow and sat haughtily on the sofa. Her arms were stretched open, her hands resting on the back of the couch. A mocking smile hung on her lips.

“It seems you’re truly infatuated with Damien Lenoir. You’d rather abandon your lifelong dream to protect him.”

Cherise frowned as her hands clenched into fists at her sides. “Gwenn, you’re not welcome here!”

“Well, I’m here, regardless of whether you welcome me or not.

Crossing her legs, Gwenn smiled and looked at the man at the door

“Evan, come in. You said you’ve always wanted to see what life is like for the less fortunate right? Look, my sister’s home is a perfect example of a poor person’s home

Gwenn’s words made Cherise furrow her brow again. Are you Evan Lanner

Chapter 676 Thank You For Your Hard Work

As the man stood at the entrance, his striking handsomeness was overshadowed by an air of malice. He bore a resemblance to Tristan from five years ago, but lacked Tristan’s crassness. It was evident that he was a sharp and critical individual.

Cherise didn’t recognize this man, but the name Evan rang a bell.

He was the eldest son of a branch family of the Tanner family, whom Gwenn had sought out five years ago in her desperation to inherit the Tanner family fortune.

Evan's grandfather and Cherise's grandfather were brothers. After her grandfather accumulated wealth, he frequently aided and supported Evan's grandfather, leading to the gradual prosperity of this branch of the Tanner family.

After all, with the bloodline of the Tanner family, if Gwenn married Evan, she would become a legitimate member of the Tanner family.

Furthermore, in the eyes of outsiders, she would be the rightful heiress of the Tanner family.

"I am Evan Tanner."

The man at the door squinted and smiled at Cherise. "Gwenn always spoke highly of her sister's beauty. Indeed, nothing compares to seeing it in person."

He walked past Cherise into the room, scrutinizing the decor while shaking his head in disdain.

"I never expected that the biological daughter of Uncle Beckham would have such taste. Everything in this room reeks of cheapness."

He turned to Cherise. "Gwenn mentioned that you're accustomed to a modest lifestyle and don't appreciate a life of wealth. Don't you think that's a crude habit?"

Cherise took a deep breath and swung the door wide open.

"If all you two came here for is to insult me, I kindly ask you to leave. The life I lead and my choices are my own business, none of yours."

She smiled coldly. "Or are you two desperate to have me return to the Tanner family and fight for the inheritance?"

Gwenn laughed

“Cherise, listen to yourself. So if we hadn’t come, you would have renounced the inheritance Don’t be ridiculous Why did you conceal the truth at yesterday’s press

erence il vou

12

Cherise retorted with a laugh.

“Since you know I won’t renounce it, why bother with these futile tricks? Or do you believe I will renounce the inheritance if you threaten me with my career and dreams?”

“Not exactly.”

Gwenn picked up the teapot on the coffee table and leisurely poured herself a cup. “I know you can distinguish between what’s important and what’s not, and I know you won’t easily renounce the inheritance and admit to the past.”

She took a sip from her teacup.

“I just want to make you uncomfortable. Cherise, if you won’t let me have my way, I won’t let you have yours either!”

“Thank you for your hard work.”

Just as Gwenn finished speaking, a cold male voice echoed from the direction of the door.

The man’s voice was calm, but the chilling air emanating from him was so intense that the man standing behind Gwenn began to tremble slightly.

Evan had seen Damien before. He had also been present at the press conference yesterday.

However, Damien had been far away from him at that time. All he remembered was Damien's cold voice and piercing gaze.

But it was not until Damien appeared up close that he realized... The man was so overbearing that it made one's heart shudder!

Compared to the inexperienced Evan, Gwenn appeared composed. She smiled at Damien. "Mr. Lenoir, your timing is impeccable."

Chapter 677 Gwenn And Evan's Unexpected Visit To Cherise's

"What a fortunate arrival, Mr. Lenoir We've barely had a chance to secule in Gwen commented with a hint of sarcasm.

Damien's eyes narrowed, a cold mix of hostility and contempt. "I suppose I'm three minutes late, or I could have greeted you both at the door and shown you the way out"

The man walked in, his arm casually draped around Cherise's shoulder with a smile He directed Gwenn, "Ms. Tanner, I believe you're aware that your presence here is unwelcome You intrude into Cherry's place unannounced at this early hour, then I can certainly return the favor and pay you and Mr. Tanner a visit in the early hours of the night"

Gwenn's eyebrows furrowed into a tight frown. "You..."

The man flashed Gwenn a menacing smile. "You know I'm capable of it. I have ways of finding out where you're staying, sending someone over in the dead of night, perhaps even taking a few intriguing photographs"

Gwenn's face paled instantly; she couldn't believe Damien dared to threaten her!

"Yes, I'm threatening you," Damien affirmed, his gaze unwavering "So, you have two options. Take your little boyfriend and disappear within a minute. Or, prepare yourself for your intimate photos to be spread far and wide across the internet. You choose?"

"Damn you, Damien!" With that, Gwenn grabbed Evan's hand and stormed off, her high heels clicking angrily against the floor.

Watching Gwenn storm off, Cherise felt a wave of satisfaction wash over her. She turned to Damien and flashed a grateful smile. "Thank you."

"No thanks necessary," the man replied nonchalantly as he strolled in and closed the door, his eyes twinkling mischievously. "I believe I mentioned that verbal gratitude isn't my preference"

Cherise bit her lip, and in a spontaneous moment, she leaned in, stood on her tiptoes, and kissed his lips.

The moment their lips touched, an electric jolt surged through their bodies, causing them to freeze in place. Their hearts pounded in unison, their cheeks flushed with sudden heat

Caught up in the moment, Chense realized she might have crossed a line Instinctively she tried to pull away, but her wrist was firmly held by the man's grasp

Damien's eyes, filled with intensity, beld Cherie'sgan The kiss thingh brief had reminds spark within hum

Years ago, when they were still together, she had showered him with light kisses like this one. But now, five years had passed, and neither was the same person they once were. The sudden familiarity of her touch, the lingering memory of those past affections, sent a surge of heat coursing through Damien's veins.

"Cherry," he murmured, his voice husky with desire.

Already flustered by the unexpected kiss, Cherise found herself further flustered under his smoldering gaze. Biting her lip, she stammered, "That... just forget it... as if nothing. happened."

Before she could react, the man swept her onto the sofa, his hand reaching up to gently trace her glossy lips with his rough fingers. "How could I possibly pretend that nothing happened?"

Cherise's mind spun under the man's intoxicating warmth. She looked at him, her eyes clouded with desire. "You..."

"Shh," he whispered, leaning in to gently kiss her earlobe. He could feel her body tense beneath him. "All you have to do is kiss me, excite me, and the rest..."

Chapter 678 Can We Still Make It Work?

A soft chuckle escaped from his lips, his breath tickling her ear. "I'll take care of everything," he whispered.

Cherise was taken aback. This was not what she had intended when she kissed him!

Damien had made it clear that he didn't like verbal gratitude, so in a moment of impulsiveness, she tiptoed and kissed his lips.

But this sudden turn of events was beyond anything she could have expected.

Cherise struggled to express her thoughts. "I didn't mean that I didn't, I..."

"Shh," the man chuckled lightly, his tongue tracing a delicate path along her earlobe. "I understand."

Did he really understand? No, clearly he didn't!

Taking a deep breath, Cherise carefully chose her words, ready to continue her explanation, but then-

“Uh-!” A sensual moan escaped her lips.

“Once you’re in, there’s no way out,” he declared, his voice laced with a hint of playful dominance.

The curtains in the house were drawn, casting a suggestive glow in the dim room as slivers of sunlight streamed through the gaps.

The light, the moment, the man himself all of it reminded Cherise of the time five years ago at Lenoir Manor. He was always so unpredictable.

She couldn’t help but wonder how he had spent those five

years. “You...”

Wrapping her arms around Damien’s neck, Cherise whispered, “Were there any other women in your life during the last five years?”

Her sudden question caught him off guard. A faint sheen of sweat appeared on his forehead as he dismissed it, saying, “Other women? Seriously? I’ve been saving all the good stuff just for you. Can’t you feel it?”

Cherise’s initial surprise turned into a subtle blush as she realized her question hadn’t landed as expected. Closing her eyes, she felt an unexpected sweetness blossoming in her chest

It was astonishing that his desire for her remained so intense even after five years had passed.

13

it was almost unbelievable that he had managed to restrain himself for her...

If this were someone else's story, she would wholeheartedly cheer them on, urging them to pursue true love and marriage. But the relationship between her and Damien...

Taking a deep breath, she held him close, whispering, "Hey, do you think... do you think we could still make it work?"

He met her lips with a gentle kiss. "As long as you're open to it," he murmured.

"What if I'm not?" she asked, her voice tinged with doubt.

Damien's gaze held hers, unwavering. "Then I'll show you, step by step, why we're worth it."

As the sun began to set, Damien joined Cherise at the kindergarten gate, ready to pick up Serafina together.

Damien parked the car, surrounded by the excited chatter of children. He patiently waited at the gate while Cherise entered the kindergarten to pick up their children.

As she stepped inside, she was greeted by a wave of excited parents, their curiosity piqued by her arrival.

One young mother exclaimed, her voice filled with awe, "Wow, Ms. Shaw, is that husband? He's incredibly handsome!"

Another said, "But you always told us you were a single mother, right?"

your

"I really thought you were raising Soren on your own!" said another, her eyes wide with surprise. "But your husband... he's undeniably handsome!"

“No wonder Soren is such a charmer! He looks just like his father!” added a third.

Another mother joined in, “Indeed. And Ms. Shaw, you’ve been so secretive all this time. Your husband is not only handsome, but he looks healthy too. Why did you tell us he was gone?”

A single mother piped up, her eyes sparkling with curiosity, “Ms. Shaw, where did you find such a handsome man to be your husband? Teach me your ways!”

“Damn! He’s not just handsome, but rich too! Look at that car it must be worth at least five or six million!” exclaimed another, her voice filled with excitement

Caught off guard by the sudden barrage of questions. Cherise managed a smile. She joined the group, occasionally chuckling and offering polite, somewhat awkward responses

These mothers, whose children were the same age as Serafina, with a few exceptions of those with second-borns, were mostly around Cherise’s age. Their natural curiosity and playful inclination towards gossip couldn’t resist the intrigue of seeing Cherise and Damien together.

After picking up their two children, Cherise quickly made their escape, the two little ones in tow.

As they walked down the hallway, Soren held Cherise’s hand with one hand, his other hand tucked into his pocket, and asked, “Did he come with you?”

Cherise paused, realizing that Soren was most likely referring to Damien.

Chapter 679 Soren’s Uncomfortable Hugs

“Yes,” she confirmed, a faint blush warming her cheeks.

“I knew it!” Soren exclaimed, strutting forward with a puffed-out chest and a mischievous glint in his eyes. “My irresistible charm simply cannot be resisted.”

Cherise couldn't help but chuckle at her son's newfound confidence. However, the ladies were admiring his father's handsome features, not his own.

"When did you become so close to him?" Soren inquired, his lips pursed in playful suspicion.

Cherise mirrored his expression, her mind racing.

Could she tell him... it had been after a whirlwind afternoon today?

Of course, she had to maintain her image as a responsible parent. "We're not close," she said with a slight smile, "he just insisted on coming."

Soren snorted, clearly unconvinced.

Cherise cleared her throat. "By the way, Soren, I have something to tell you."

Soren raised an eyebrow, "What is it? Did you lose your job?"

Cherise was surprised by his question. She couldn't believe how wise he was, as if he knew everything!

Taking a deep breath, she pursed her lips and announced, "Not exactly. I'm taking us to Adania for a few days!"

Soren's expression remained indifferent. "Oh, okay. A free trip is always welcome, especially if someone else pays."

Her eyes widened with excitement, Serafina chimed in, "Does Adania have Disneyland?"

Does it have an amusement park?"

“Are there lots of little pigeons?”

Cherise smiled fondly at her daughter. “Sera dear, there’s more to life than just amusement parks and pigeons. Adania has a lot of delicious food, Cherise said gently

Her eyes sparkling with delight, Serafina jumped up and down. Yay’ Delicious food”

Soren cast her a sidelong glance and muttered You’re so easily swayed”

12

The mother and children walked out of the kindergarten, laughter filling the air.

Damien sat in the car. watching quietly through the lowered window as Cherise emerged, a child on each side. A warm feeling of happiness and pride slowly spread through him.

His Cherry had grown into such a capable woman, nurturing the hopes of their joint creation – their children.

Unable to contain his excitement, the man walked over to hug Cherise, but Soren quickly stepped between them. “Hold on,” he declared, “you can’t hug my Mommy yet, Mr. Lenoir.

I...”

Before the boy could finish his sentence, Damien knelt down and hugged him. “I know. To hug your Mommy, I have to hug you first.”

The man’s deep voice and warm embrace left Soren speechless, a blush creeping onto his cheeks.

After a moment, the little boy protested, “Let go of me! I don’t want your hug! I’m a boy, I can’t be pampered, I can’t let Daddy hug me!”

Damien chuckled, tightening his embrace slightly. "So, you're admitting I'm your Daddy?"

Soren was speechless. He turned his face away, muttering. 'No, I didn't! I never said that! Don't put words in my mouth!"

But then he saw his mother laughing at him, her amusement evident. His face burned red as he buried his head in Damien's chest, unintentionally making it seem like he relished the embrace.

A playful tug-of-war ensued, with Soren demanding to be released and Damien refusing. each demanding the other's surrender.

Finally, Damien offered a challenge, "Call me Daddy, and I'll let go."

"No, I won't!" Soren retorted.

"Then be good and let me hold you."

Soren was speechless at his father's playful persistence. Turning to the online world for help. he typed, 'What should I do if Dad is an unreasonable old rogue?"

With Cherise having already packed their bags, the family of four set off for the airport early the following day, excited for their adventure in Adania

Chapter 680 The Shaw's Littles' First Time In Adania

Glued to the window, Serafina eagerly watched the world fly by. Soren, however, sat aloof with his arms crossed, still simmering over Damien's forceful hug from the previous day.

While tasked with managing the two children, Cherise gazed out of the car window with a sigh.

Three years had passed since her last visit to Adania. Although it wasn't her birthplace and only her home for two short years, Adania held a profound place in her heart.

Almost every pivotal moment of her twenty-four years had unfolded within its boundaries. Adania had irrevocably altered her destiny, for better or worse.

However, Cherise never anticipated sharing the return flight with Maeve and her family.

Upon arrival at the airport, the director of Lermille Hospital and a team of medical staff bid farewell to their departing guests.

"Dr. Shaw!" Isaac, the first to spot Cherise, rushed towards her, his gaze darting between the two children at her side and the suitcase Mr. Kolson carried behind Damien.

"Dr. Shaw, your children..." he stammered, realization dawning upon him.

The little girl was the spitting image of Cherise, and the boy... an undeniable reflection of Damien!

Isaac had always known Cherise had twins, a boy and a girl, but he had always assumed they were Cherise and Zachary's children.

He slapped his forehead, "I should have known!"

Damien's blatant affection for Cherise and her reciprocation of his feelings were clear as day. He should have deduced their relationship.

Seeing Isaac's sudden enlightenment, Cherise offered a faint smile and patted his shoulder. "Stop filling your head with unfounded speculations. You're finally back to work, so focus. And while you're at it, maybe find a way to repay that fifty thousand you owe me."

Isaac's face fell instantly. "Dr. Shaw, you're still concerned about that money?"

Cherise responded earnestly, "Of course I am. That was fifty thousand dollars of my hard-earned sweat and blood."

Isaac chuckled, "Mr. Lenoir is incredibly wealthy. Dr. Shaw. Why are you content to remain a humble doctor at Lermille? Being a single mother is no small feat."

111

12

Cherise sighed. "His money is his. I want to live my life on my own terms."

Turning her attention to Maeve, a thoughtful expression crossed her face.

Damien hadn't mentioned accompanying Maeve's family on their return trip, but Cherise understood his decision. After all, Maeve had been under her primary care, and her presence would ensure immediate medical attention should any adverse reactions occur to Maeve during the journey home.

Observing Cherise check on Maeve, Isaac took a deep breath and approached Damien. "Mr. Lenoir, please don't misunderstand Dr. Shaw's decision. Her reluctance to perform surgery doesn't indicate a lack of mental fortitude or responsibility. She's genuinely... wounded."

Damien furrowed his brow. "And how can you be so sure?"

"Because I've reviewed her medical records," Isaac explained. "Her right hand suffered a severe burn."

Damien's body involuntarily tensed. "A burn?"

“Yes, a burn,” Isaac confirmed. “I don’t know the specifics of Dr. Shaw’s experiences or why she avoids discussing them... but please don’t judge her as someone despicable or selfish. She’s an incredibly good person. A genuine and kind person.”