

The Scorned Heiress: No More Mercy

Chapter 2

“How she’s doing is none of my business,” Tara interrupts, her voice so icy the temperature in the banquet hall seems to plummet.

Her eldest brother, Jake, glares at her. “Are you out of your mind, Tara? She’s your sister.”

“I don’t have a sister. If she’s part of this family, I’m out,” Tara fires back, refusing to back down.

Her second brother, Nikolai, scoffs. “Why are you so vicious? Jade treats you so well, and you just constantly target her.”

Evan reaches out to pat Tara’s head. “Be good. Now isn’t the time to be jealous. I just need to check on her to make sure she’s safe.”

For some reason, Evan feels a strange flicker of panic. Usually, the mere mention of Jade sets Tara off like a firecracker, but tonight, she is unnervingly calm. Still, he tells himself he is just going to check on Jade. He absolutely has to marry Tara—there are vital, unspoken reasons for it.

Alec, the impulsive third brother, groans in frustration. “Look, the engagement is practically set in stone anyway. Delaying the ceremony tonight isn’t going to change anything.”

“Exactly. It’s just a party. Is it really more important than someone’s life?” a harsh whisper echoes from the crowd.

Tara remains completely unfazed, her striking gaze locked onto Evan.

Suddenly, a furious female voice shatters the tension. “I can’t listen to this garbage anymore! Evan, are you a doctor? Or are you sleeping with Jade? Why the hell does she call you every time she stubs a toe? What a coincidence that she ends up in the hospital exactly when you’re with Tara. What, are you cursing her?”

Bianca, Tara’s fiercely loyal best friend, steps up. She knows how much this night meant to Tara, and once again, that manipulative little hypocrite has ruined it.

“Bianca!” Evan’s voice drops to a deadly warning. “Watch your mouth!”

Bianca is practically vibrating with rage. “Did I hit a nerve? You’re ditching your fiancée for a manipulative bitch faking an injury?”

Deanna steps in, her expression dark. “This is our family business. Keep your nose out of it.”

Evan looks utterly humiliated, his face stormy as if Bianca has struck a little too close to the truth.

Tara gently pats Bianca’s arm to calm her down, then turns her cold gaze back to Evan. “If you walk out those doors tonight, we are over.”

Time is ticking, and Evan is burning with anxiety. “Tara, stop saying things you don’t mean. The party is just postponed. Let me go check on her, and we’ll talk when I get back.”

Without looking back, he storms out of the hall. All he can think about is how badly Jade might be hurt. He figures he can just coax Tara into a good mood later.

The Dennis family scrambles after him, rushing out the doors in a panic, looking as if the girl lying in the hospital is their actual flesh and blood.

Tara stands perfectly still, watching their retreating backs until they disappear. She keeps her spine straight, her gaze heavy. She used to try so hard to fit in, to make them love her again, but she finally realizes it is completely pointless. They don’t give a damn about their real daughter; they only orbit around Jade’s pathetic act.

There is no place for her in this family anymore. So, she is done.