

Once Cast 144

Chapter 144 Her Plan

Zera's face drained of color, and there was fear in her eyes.

She looked helplessly at Tyrone. "Tyrone, I'm scared."

Tyrone glanced at Aella, paused for a moment, then released her hand.

He walked over to Zera, took her wrist, and led her into the elevator right before Aella's eyes.

At a single signal from the butler, the bodyguards formed a line to block the elevator entrance.

The butler said with deference, "Mr. Winter, Mr. Edwin's instructions are clear. Ms. Caldwell must come along."

Ten minutes later, outside the hotel, the rain had stopped but the tension hadn't.

Zera stared at the row of sleek black cars and uniformed guards. She held Tyrone's sleeve anxiously. "Tyrone, can I ride with you?"

Aella watched them cling to each other for comfort, then silently turned and walked away.

Raine looped her arm through Aella's and headed toward a car parked behind them. "Aella, you're coming with me."

Tyrone pushed Zera aside gently, stepped forward, and caught Aella's wrist.

Seeing this, Zera's panic deepened.

She approached cautiously. "Tyrone, I need to speak to you alone. Just a few minutes."

Edwin was cruel and merciless; being summoned by him never meant anything good.

Still, after everything had blown up, maybe this was her chance.

Everyone knew about her and Tyrone now. With him backing her, she wanted to see how far those old men dared to push her.

Tyrone gave Aella a look before saying to Zera, "As long as I'm here, you'll be fine."

The butler opened the door to the rear vehicle. "Ms. Caldwell, please get in."

Zera bit her lip and climbed in despite her fear.

Raine said, "Bitch, wait till Edwin gets through with you."

She cursed at Zera, then threw Tyrone a defiant glare. "Don't look at me like that. My mom told me to slap her, and I'm keeping count."

Then, she dragged Aella along with her.

Tyrone grabbed Aella's wrist and warned Raine, "Go ride in your own car. I need to talk to her."

Raine, startled by his tone, backed off and hid behind Brad.

Brad rested a hand on her shoulder. "Ignore him. You're with me."

Tyrone snapped, "This doesn't concern you."

Brad scoffed. "Aella's my sister. Her problems are my business. I can't wait to see you get what's coming."

He pulled Raine into the car without another word.

When everyone else was gone, only Tyrone and Aella remained.

Both looked tense as they climbed into the vehicle, one after the other.

Once the car started moving, Tyrone lowered the partition between them and the driver.

He turned to Aella. His expression was dark. "Satisfied now?"

Aella met his gaze calmly and seriously.

She said, "I'm actually trying to help you."

Tyrone's expression grew darker by the second.

He tightened his grip on her hand.

He said, "Zera only called you that out of habit. She didn't mean to insult you."

Aella pulled her hand away sharply. "If she's that used to it, let her be. You don't have to defend her. I know my place; I'm just your cover."

Tyrone looked grim.

His eyes locked on her to study her every move.

He said coldly, "If that's how you want to see things, then fine."

Aella stayed composed, ignoring his tone.

She looked at him directly and said evenly, "Your great love with Zera is touching. I honestly want to help you two end up together."

They stared at each other in silence, the air inside the luxury car heavy and suffocating.

Tyrone felt his chest tighten, and he was struggling to breathe.

His jaw clenched, and his body was tense.

He warned, "Aella, I'm running out of patience."

Aella exhaled softly. "I was only trying to help but messed up. I'll be more careful next time."

Tyrone's temper flared as he fought to stay composed.

He said angrily, "If anything happens to Zera or the child, I'll hold you responsible."

Aella tapped her chest lightly. "Relax. If Edwin blames anyone, I'll take it. I won't let your precious woman get hurt."

Their gazes locked again, charged with unspoken tension.

Tyrone clenched his jaw, each word sharp. "You'd better mean that."

Aella's tone was steady. "I always keep my word."

Tyrone still had leverage over her, so she couldn't openly defy him.

But now that his relationship with Zera was halfway public, she could finally play her next move.

Zera was desperate to climb higher, and Aella intended to help her do just that.

Once Zera and her child were officially acknowledged, Aella could finally walk away from this marriage for good.