

## Once Cast 145

### Chapter 145 Past Promises

Late at night, a black luxury car slowly drove into the Winter Estate.

Justin quickly opened the car door with a respectful bow. "Mr. Tyrone, Mrs. Winter, please step out."

As Tyrone and Aella stepped out of the car, Zera rushed forward in panic. "Tyrone, I'm so scared. What should I do?"

Justin immediately stepped between them, blocking her path. "Ms. Caldwell, Mrs. Winter is here. Please mind your manners."

Zera glanced at Aella, then quickly stepped back.

Tyrone looked at Zera's frightened face and tried to comfort her. "Don't be afraid. No matter what happens, I've got your back."

Zera nodded gratefully.

Standing not far away, Brad couldn't help but sneer.

Raine, on the other hand, stomped her foot in anger.

After comforting Zera, Tyrone turned to Aella.

Seeing that she wasn't moving, he took the initiative to hold her hand.

Aella didn't refuse. She couldn't.

Tyrone was good at putting on a show.

By holding her hand as they walked in, he wanted the Winter elders to see that even with Zera causing trouble, he had his wife under control and their marriage was fine.

He wanted Edwin to see that keeping Zera around wouldn't bring him any trouble.

At the villa entrance, the maids and bodyguards stood respectfully in two neat rows.

Following behind Justin, Zera walked in nervously.

Seeing Tyrone holding Aella's hand as they walked side-by-side made Zera's eyes fill with jealousy.

If it weren't for that awful Aella, she would be the one entering this house hand-in-hand with Tyrone.

In the main hall of the Winter Estate, Edwin sat in the main seat.

Tyrone's parents sat next to him.

The head of the Winter Estate's security team stood by the door.

The large room was so silent that even breathing felt oppressive.

Brad stopped a few steps away, not daring to go forward.

Raine hesitated as well, staying where she was.

When Justin halted, so did Zera.

Tyrone led Aella toward the elders.

Edwin shot Justin a look.

Justin said in a low voice, "Ms. Caldwell, please step forward."

Zera nervously walked over to Tyrone but didn't dare to move any further.

Tyrone glanced at Aella for a few seconds, then released her hand and stood beside Zera instead.

He said firmly, "Grandpa, if you have something to say, take it out on me."

Before Edwin could speak, Tyrone had already made his stance clear.

Ralph pointed at his son and said angrily, "You've thrown away your reputation for a woman! You disgrace!"

Tyrone's expression didn't change. "Dad, you can take it out on me if you're angry, but Zera is innocent."

Zera stood next to Tyrone, her eyes flickering.

Since things had come this far, she had to take this chance to get these old people in the Winters to accept her and Tyrone's relationship publicly.

Thinking this, Zera bravely walked up to Edwin. She tried to explain, "Mr. Edwin, even if you decide to punish me, please just let me explain."

Before anyone could stop her, Zera rushed to defend herself. "I'm Ms. Townsend's friend. She invited me to Leadverse's annual gala tonight. I didn't know Tyrone and his wife would be there."

Raine couldn't take it anymore. "You shameless woman! You went into my brother's room wearing my sister-in-law's clothes, and you're still denying it?"

Humiliated, Zera's face flushed bright red, but she didn't dare talk back. "I'm not denying anything. My dress got dirty, and Tyrone didn't want me to feel embarrassed, so he let me change in the lounge. I didn't mean to wear Mrs. Winter's clothes."

Before Zera even finished, Virginia walked up to Tyrone. "Do you even remember you have a wife?"

Tyrone's gaze flicked toward Aella. His tone was firm. "Of course I remember."

Aella lowered her head, the corner of her lips curling into a cold, ironic smile.

Even now, he could say something like that.

Smack!

Virginia raised her hand and struck Tyrone hard across the face.

Zera gasped in fear. She was about to step forward but stopped when Virginia looked at her.

Virginia said, "You know you're married, but you still brought some random woman into the room and let her wear your wife's clothes. What does Aella mean to you?"

Tyrone watched Aella's reaction closely.

He said, "It's just a piece of clothing, Mom. You don't have to overthink it."

Zera quickly jumped in. "Mrs. Winter, I'm really sorry for the misunderstanding you and Mr. Winter have about me. If you need to hit someone, hit me."

Smack!

Virginia slapped Zera with her other hand.

Zera covered her face and stumbled backward. The room fell silent instantly.

Finally, Edwin spoke. "Ms. Caldwell, six years ago, when you took the 60 million dollar check, do you still remember what you promised me?"

At those words, Zera froze. Panic filled her eyes.

She stood there, wringing her hands and shaking her head wildly. "You forced me to take that 60 million! I was robbed of the check as soon as I got to Tuspuyria!"