

Once Cast 151

Chapter 151 I'm Really Fine

Aella said, "I'm really fine."

No matter how much it stung, the whip couldn't hurt as much as hearing Tyrone say he didn't love her.

Nothing could compare to the pain she felt when she learned Tyrone had cheated, or the moment she saw him and Zera reunite on screen.

Tyrone sat on the edge of the bed. They faced each other, close enough to feel every breath.

Aella seemed way too quiet, too obedient.

It unsettled him more than he wanted to admit.

Tyrone gently reached out and took her hand. He said, "It was my fault. I shouldn't have let Zera into our lounge tonight, and I shouldn't have let her wear your clothes."

Aella pulled her hand back quietly. "If I can share you with her, then sharing a shirt doesn't matter. She can have it."

Her offhand remark pressed down on Tyrone's chest like a mountain. He could barely breathe.

He grabbed Aella's wrist, holding her in place, and stared at her in silence for a long while.

Finally, he explained, "Aella, believe it or not, things between me and Zera aren't what you think."

Aella looked down, a cold laugh echoing inside her.

She didn't need to imagine anything. The truth was obvious to everyone.

Tyrone went on, "Back in college, Zera saved my life. She pursued me for a year. Her family background was nothing special, but she was honest and kind, so I agreed to date her. After graduation, I even thought about marrying her."

When Aella didn't react, Tyrone's grip on her wrist tightened a little.

He said, "My grandfather forced us apart by threatening Zera's family, making her move overseas and marry someone else. She spent six years in an abusive marriage, suffered miscarriages, and was diagnosed with severe depression. She had no choice but to come back here with her child."

He admitted, "I lied and stayed away from home for a month for Zera's sake. I know I let you down and hurt you because I was helping her."

He added, "But I never once considered leaving you for Zera. I never betrayed our marriage. I never betrayed you."

They looked into each other's eyes.

Aella asked, "Why are you telling me all this? What do you really want to say?"

A deep crease formed between Tyrone's brows.

Aella said, "From everything you just said, all I heard was your admiration for Zera, your sympathy for her, and all your regrets."

Tyrone let go of her wrist and instead cupped the back of her neck, gently pulling her close.

He said, "Aella, all I feel for Zera and her child is a sense of duty. There's nothing more to it. Just pretend they don't exist and let's go back to how things were, okay?"

Aella looked up at him and said, "You knew you were hurting me and kept doing it anyway. This isn't just a mistake. It's the choice you wanted to make."

Tyrone pulled her into his arms, holding her so tight it almost hurt.

He said, "Aella, I'm only helping Zera and her child. You're the one I'm spending my life with."

He still couldn't bring himself to admit that Zera's son wasn't actually his.

Aella pressed her cheek to Tyrone's chest, listening to his steady heartbeat, feeling strangely calm.

She said, "Tyrone, I don't want to spend my life as a third wheel."

Tyrone didn't respond. He only hugged her tighter.

Even if she wanted out, he couldn't let her go.

And just like that, their conversation reached a dead end.

In the hospital room, Tyrone sat there holding Aella in silence.

Aella let him hold her. She didn't struggle, cry, or make a scene.

That night, Tyrone didn't file for divorce or promise to give Zera and her son a future.

This was to protect them from Edwin's schemes.

Zera's act of saving him in college always clouded Tyrone's judgment.

She'd gone abroad for six years, suffered terribly, and came back with a son.

But the fact that Tyrone didn't give everything up to be with her meant she didn't have enough sway over him.

Now, Aella realized her only path forward was to gain Zera's trust.

She'd have to work with Zera and help her and her son get what they wanted.

That was the only way she could break free from this marriage for good.

Aella curled up in Tyrone's arms, quiet and docile as ever.

But Tyrone found no comfort in it.

When Zera had first come back, Aella had gone wild, even threatening suicide.

He used to think she was too emotional and hysterical.

But now that she was calm, he didn't feel happy at all.

He just felt on edge, like something was very wrong.

When Aella asked for her phone, Tyrone got up to get it for her.

She texted her parents to let them know she'd gone to Lysoria with Tyrone and would be back in a few days.

For the next few days, she stayed in the hospital, focused on healing.

She needed to get better so she could get back to work.