

## Once Cast 178

### Chapter 178 Breaking Point

Tyrone turned toward his desk and pressed the intercom button. “Noel, have Mr. Motley come to my office.”

After hanging up, Tyrone sent a text to Aella.

Aella noticed the message appear on her phone.

When the doorbell rang, she put her phone aside and went to open it.

Zera stormed in, her face tight with anger. Aella stepped back and let her into the living room.

Zera’s eyes locked onto the faint marks on Aella’s neck—proof of what had happened. Her face went red with jealousy.

“You kept saying you wanted to help me,” Zera snapped bitterly. “You said you’d divorce Tyrone, but it turns out you’ve been lying to me the whole time!”

Aella frowned, confused. “Ms. Caldwell, you show up here yelling at me out of nowhere. Have you lost your mind?”

Realizing how emotional she sounded, Zera forced herself to take a deep breath.

“I just got a call from Tyrone,” she said through clenched teeth. “He told me to move out of the apartment upstairs before tonight. You must be thrilled.”

Aella rubbed her temples, already feeling a headache coming on.

What a mess.

Her plan had been to push Tyrone and Zera together, let gossip spread, and then use public pressure to make Tyrone divorce her.

But now it had completely backfired. Instead of helping, she'd just made things worse, turning Tyrone and Zera against each other.

Her silence only made Zera think she was guilty.

Aella sat down on the couch, trying to stay calm. "Got a better idea, then?" she asked.

Zera stared at her, hesitating before answering. "Maybe I do. But the question is—would you go along with it?"

"Let's hear it," Aella said.

Zera said slowly, "Find some guy and sleep with him. I'll bring Tyrone to catch you. Once he sees that, he'll have no choice but to divorce you."

Aella laughed coldly and stood up.

"I really want a divorce," she said to Zera, "but I'm not about to destroy my reputation or my body just to make it happen."

Zera snapped, losing control. "Don't pretend to be so righteous. You knew drugging Tyrone wouldn't work, but you still told me to do it. You never planned to leave him—you just wanted to tear us apart. You were jealous, admit it!"

Aella rolled her eyes. "If that's what you think, then go back to wherever you came from. Tyrone loves you so much, right? He'll follow you anywhere. Now go."

Zera's hands balled into fists. "Of course, he loves me! You're the one who refuses to let him go. If you really wanted out, why did you still sleep with him?"

Aella brushed her fingers over her neck and gave a faint smirk.

"Ms. Caldwell, you and Tyrone are sleeping together without being married. But he and I are legally married. What's wrong with me sleeping with my own husband?"

Zera's jealousy burned hotter. "Maybe you're his wife in name, but he gave me his heart. You're just the third wheel stuck between us. What's the point of clinging to a marriage with no love?"

"Then tell me a better plan," Aella said evenly.

Zera's voice turned sharp. "If you won't sleep with someone else, but you truly want to let us be together, then leave the country. Just go and never come back!"

Aella stared straight into her eyes, her expression hardening.

"Ms. Caldwell," she said slowly, "don't be ridiculous.

"I was born and raised here. My family, my friends, my work—my whole life is here. And

you want me to throw it all away and start over somewhere else just because of one man? You're not worth that."

Zera's anger flared again. "So that's what this is really about—you can't give up Tyrone and all the Winters' money and power!"

Aella was speechless for a moment.

Finally, she said, "Ms. Caldwell, instead of picking fights with me, maybe try figuring out how to make Tyrone actually divorce me.

"Because here's the truth," Aella continued. "As long as Tyrone and I are still married, I'm his legal wife. I can spend his money however I want, and I can sleep with him whenever I please. And if one day I decide to give the Winters a child, then you'll be out of the picture for good.

"So before I change my mind," she warned, "you'd better come up with a real plan to make him end this marriage."

Realizing she couldn't get anything out of Aella, Zera had no choice but to leave and start packing her things.

Jenny showed up just as she was in the middle of it.

"Zera, you just moved in not long ago," Jenny said, confused. "Why are you leaving already?"

Tears filled Zera's eyes. "Mrs. Winter doesn't like me," she said softly. "She's been giving me a hard time, and Tyrone doesn't want me to get hurt, so he told me to move back home."

Jenny tried to comfort her. "Zera, you already have a son with Mr. Winter. What's there to be afraid of? If things really fall apart, just go public. Everyone knows Mr. Winter cares about you most—you have nothing to worry about."