

Once Cast 185

Chapter 185 The Gamble

Zera hesitated for a long time before finally sitting back down.

Compared to making a deal with Aella, it seemed smarter to listen to Virginia.

No matter what kind of daughter-in-law the Winters wanted, as long as Tyrone got divorced, Zera would have the best shot at marrying into that family.

She couldn't afford to let that opportunity slip away.

After thinking it over again and again, Zera finally asked, "What do you want me to do?"

Virginia's lips curved slightly with faint disdain.

She set her spoon down and said slowly, "Aella's now a respected sleep specialist, and you've been dealing with depression for more than three years."

Virginia looked straight at her and asked, "After a relapse, it wouldn't be too surprising for someone with depression to also develop severe insomnia, would it?"

Zera frowned in confusion. "You're saying I should go to her for treatment?"

Virginia nodded. "First, you'll need to quit your job and let your life fall apart. You should look worn out, unstable. Make Tyrone believe your depression has come back. All your friends, family, and coworkers need to distance themselves and give up on you. You have to isolate yourself and make your life an absolute mess, even worse than before you came back home."

Zera's eyes darkened with suspicion.

Virginia continued, "Think of this as a gamble. If you win, you'll have the chance to become Mrs. Winter one day."

She paused for a moment, her tone calm but sharp. "But if you lose, you'll have nothing left."

Zera's breathing quickened. "Mrs. Winter, are you using me to test Tyrone's feelings for his wife?"

Virginia didn't deny it. "If Tyrone is willing to divorce Aella just to make sure you're treated, then you win. If not, you lose. Go home and think about it before you give me your answer."

Zera grabbed her purse but didn't leave right away.

That bitch, Aella, is on good terms with Virginia, Raine, and Tyrone's friends. Even if Tyrone divorces her, I can't afford to make Aella my enemy.

Virginia's plan isn't impossible, but it's really

risky.

I have to be careful—agreeing too fast can backfire.

Still, it won't hurt to test this woman a little.

With that in mind, Zera said, "Mrs. Winter, no matter what, Orson's still a Winter. My mom had a fight with my brother and his wife, and my son got scared. Could you please ask Tyrone to spend more time with him?"

Virginia met her gaze, and Zera immediately looked away.

Virginia said evenly, "You're right. He's Tyrone's son, after all. Bring the boy over later, I'll call Tyrone over. We'll all have dinner together as a family."

She deliberately emphasized the last three words, as a family.

After Zera left, Raine hurried over from a nearby table. “Mom, what did you talk about with Zera for so long?”

Virginia picked up her coffee and took a small sip.

Zera might not be the smartest woman, but her ambition runs deep. She’s not the type to back down easily.

A woman desperate in love will cling to even the smallest chance to win.

If Aella really wants a divorce, she won’t pass up this opportunity—she’ll

agree to treat Zera.

I know Tyrone’s stubborn streak too well.

If that happens, Tyrone will insist that Aella treat Zera no matter what.

Then Aella can twist the situation and use it to her advantage, pushing Tyrone into divorcing her.

By then, Tyrone will have no way out.

He’ll either fight to save his marriage and give up on Zera, or choose to treat

Zera and sacrifice his marriage for her sake.

Either way, this tangled triangle will finally come to an end. UPDATE FROM

As a mother, this is the only thing I can do for my son and the girl I’ve watched grow up.

When Tyrone was about to clock out of work, Virginia called and asked him to join her for dinner.

He immediately tried calling Aella.

She didn't pick up, but texted back saying she was having dinner at Webster Manor and told him not to wait up.

Tyrone frowned at his phone, his mood sinking fast. He stared at the screen for a long while, saying nothing.

Noticing the dark expression on his boss's face, Noel quietly found an excuse to leave the office.

After work, Tyrone went home, but Aella still hadn't returned.

At 7 p.m., he arrived at the restaurant Virginia had chosen.

When he opened the door and saw Zera and Orson sitting there, his face froze in disbelief.

Virginia pointed to the seat next to Zera. "Why are you standing there? Sit down."

Tyrone didn't move. "Mom, what's going on?"

Zera saw how angry he looked and quickly stood up,

flustered.

She said softly, "Tyrone, please don't be upset. Mrs. Winter just wanted to see her grandson, so she asked me to bring him."