

## Once Cast 186

### Chapter 186 The Family Dinner

Tyrone shot Zera a cold look, then turned and walked off.

Virginia slammed her glass down. "Get back here!"

Tyrone stopped and turned around.

Zera looked at him with pleading eyes, reached out, and gently pulled him back to his seat.

Virginia ignored Tyrone's dark, stormy expression.

She said, "I heard Zera's mom got into a fight with her brother and sister-in-law. She was so upset that she got sick, and the kid got scared. You're his dad—don't you even care?"

Tyrone frowned hard. "Mom, can you please stop meddling in my life?"

Virginia snapped, "You think I want to? I told you to handle it yourself. Did you?"

Zera sat there awkwardly while the two argued right in front of her.

She nervously said, "Mrs. Winter, you've got it wrong. Tyrone's always been good to me and to Orson."

Virginia gave her a sharp, unimpressed look.

"Zera, is that really all you have to say? People in our circle are talking about you two nonstop. You might not care about your reputation, but we still have to face everyone. Even if you're fine being the other woman forever, have you ever thought about what that means for your kid?"

She managed to scold both her son and Zera in one go.

Tyrone's face darkened even more. "Mom, can you please not go too far?"

Virginia didn't back down. "You've done all these disgraceful things, so why can't I say what I want? Your mistress and your son are both here—have you ever thought about them?"

Tyrone pressed his lips together, his brows tight.

Zera lowered her head, trying to hide her reaction.

From Virginia's tone, she could tell the woman was ready to officially acknowledge Orson as part of the family.

People always said grandparents loved their grandkids more than anyone,

There was no way the wealthiest family in Vleka would let their only great-grandson stay an unrecognized bastard forever.

A flicker of excitement stirred in Zera's chest, and she quickly helped the waiter bring out the dishes.

Her hands trembled, and a bit of food spilled from the plate.

Orson immediately reached over, picked up the dropped food, and popped it into his mouth.

Zera just took a napkin and wiped his hands, not stopping him.

Tyrone frowned at the sight, clearly uneasy.

Virginia's disgust was written all over her face.

When the waiter left, Virginia turned to Tyrone and said, "If you couldn't get over Zera, you shouldn't have married Aella. But since you did, you had no right to betray her. Now you've destroyed two families. Aella's been hurt and humiliated, and Zera and Orson have no place to belong."

Tyrone shifted uncomfortably. "Mom, what are you trying to say?"

Virginia said, "You already wronged Aella, so don't hurt these two anymore. You and Zera have a child together. Legally, it's complicated, but what you two have is practically a common-law marriage. You still have a responsibility to your kid."

Tyrone's expression turned grim, words failing him.

He forced a weak smile, but there was nothing he could argue.

This was the fallout he brought on himself the moment he chose to acknowledge Zera's son.

What really shocked him was that Virginia actually seemed to support his divorcing Aella.

Virginia went on, "Zera's mother is technically your mother-in-law. She's sick right now, and as her son-in-law, it's your duty to go visit."

She added, "Since you can't give Aella the kind of marriage she deserves, then just stay with Zera and your son. You can't keep bouncing between two families—it's starting to make me wonder if that boy is even yours."

Zera's face drained of color, while Tyrone's eyes darkened dangerously.

Virginia picked up her purse and stood up. "You three eat together. Tyrone, after dinner, drive

them home and spend some time with them. As for Aella, you two don't have kids or much tying you together, so just let her go."

Before Tyrone could say a word, Virginia walked straight out of the private room.

Once she was gone, the air turned heavy and silent.

Zera glanced at Tyrone, trying to read his expression. Then she said carefully, "Tyrone, maybe you should head home to Aella. Orson and I can take a cab."

Tyrone gripped his glass tightly. "Did you tell Jenny to come find me?"

Zera's heart skipped a beat, but she quickly shook her head. "What are you talking about? Did Jenny go see you?"

Before he could answer, she said quickly, "Things have been tough lately. Jenny saw how upset I was and told me to ask you for help, but I said no."

She added, "Maybe she felt bad for me and went behind my back. I'll ask her about it later."

Tyrone felt a wave of irritation rise inside him. "I've got things to do. You two take a cab home."