

Once Cast 195

Chapter 195 The Crowd Turns

Tyrone and Aella stood face to face.

Tyrone's expression was icy, his eyes warning Aella without a word.

Zera crawled toward Aella, still crying.

She clutched the hem of Aella's coat and begged, "Dr. Reid, I'm begging you. The ambulance isn't here yet, and I don't know what else to do. Please, can you give my mom first aid?"

As the crowd's angry murmurs grew louder, Aella looked down at Zera.

Her eyes fell on the wrinkled fabric of the coat where Zera held on, and she frowned.

In the next instant, she yanked her coat sharply, shaking Zera off.

"Ah!"

Zera screamed as she tumbled to the ground.

Tyrone quickly stepped forward, lifting her up. He looked down and asked, "Are you hurt?"

Zera, still sobbing, grabbed his hand. "Tyrone, it doesn't matter if I'm hurt. But Dr. Reid is a doctor—how can she just stand there and do nothing, even if she hates me?"

Tyrone let go of her hand and walked toward Aella.

He snapped, "Aella, you call yourself a doctor? You're letting personal grudges get in the way of saving someone's life. Do you even deserve that title?"

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They locked eyes, and Aella let out a short, cold laugh. "You're not the one to decide whether I deserve it or not."

Tyrone's dark eyes narrowed.

Aella's tone cut through sharply. "If you care so much about your mother-in-law, why aren't you taking her to the hospital instead of wasting time arguing with me?"

The crowd heard her call the old woman Tyrone's mother-in-law and instantly turned against him.

"I thought he was just some passerby—turns out he's her son-in-law!"

"Other people might hesitate to help, but he's family. Doesn't seem very caring."

"Her mom fainted, and they're just standing there? Shouldn't they be rushing her to the hospital?"

Hearing everyone assume he and Zera were married, Tyrone's face darkened.

He snapped, "Aella, what nonsense are you talking about?"

Aella glanced at Brad and Sayer.

Zera hovered awkwardly among the crowd, clutching her clothes tightly.

Catching Aella's signal, Brad nudged Tyrone a little toward Zera.

Brad said, "Come on, Tyrone, that's not right. You two already have a son who's almost in elementary school. Even if you're fighting, you can't just ignore your mother-in-law."

Before Tyrone could reply, Sayer pointed at him. "I can vouch—they're married. Their kid's already quite big!"

The crowd started buzzing.

More and more people joined in, criticizing Tyrone openly.

He stood there, his expression dark beyond description.

His lips pressed tight, eyes locked on Aella.

Aella remained calm, ignoring his furious glare like she was watching a show.

Sayer, still unsatisfied, shouted, "Your kid's mom is crying, and you don't even care? And your mother-in-law's passed out? I've never seen a man this heartless!"

Brad added fuel to the fire. "Yeah, a guy who treats his wife and her mom like that must have a mistress somewhere."

The two of them went back and forth, inciting the crowd even more.

Soon, attention shifted from Aella to Zera, and sympathy poured toward her.

"He looks so well-dressed, but what a jerk."

“You really can’t judge by appearances. Look at that fancy suit, then look at his mother-in-law, dressed so shabbily.”

“He’s got a wife and kid and still messes around. Men like him should end up alone.”

Zera couldn’t take it anymore.

She ran in front of Tyrone, shouting at the crowd, “Stop it! All of you, stop talking!”

She cried out, “You don’t know anything! What gives you the right to judge him?”

Tyrone pulled her aside. “Just take care of your mom. Don’t worry about me.”

Zera shook her head, clutching his arm. “This is my fault. I can’t just stand here while they insult you.”

Watching the two of them share that “touching” moment, Aella almost wanted to applaud.

Tyrone noticed the mocking smile on Aella’s lips and subtly nudged Zera away.

A middle-aged woman stepped up to confront Zera. “Girl, there are plenty of fish in the sea. If your husband’s heart isn’t with you, stop defending him.”

An old lady added, “You can’t hold hang onto a man like that. Let him go.”

A young woman joined in, “A jerk like him deserves a woman just like that. They should be stuck together so they don’t hurt anyone else.”

Zera froze in the crowd, humiliated, wishing she could sink into the ground.