

Once Cast 196

Chapter 196 The Line Crossed

Tyrone pointed at Shirley, lying unconscious on the ground, and said, "Get her to the hospital, now."

Noel glanced nervously at Aella, then bent down to help, as he was told.

But before he could touch her, Aella walked forward slowly and stopped him.

She said, "She fainted, and we don't know why. You can't just move her."

Noel froze, fear flashing in his eyes, and immediately stepped back.

Seeing Aella approach Shirley, Zera panicked and stepped in front of her. "What are you doing?"

Aella glanced at Tyrone. "Didn't you ask me to give first aid? Step aside."

Zera stepped closer to Tyrone, uneasy. "Tyrone, stop her! She's trying to get revenge!"

Tyrone held Aella in place for a moment. "Are you really trying to help?"

Aella met his eyes, her expression cool and distant.

She said, "Tyrone, I wouldn't waste my time getting revenge on either of you. You're not worth it."

Her icy stare made him tense, but he held back, saying nothing.

Aella glanced at Brad, who immediately signaled Sayer.

“There’s a doctor working here, so everyone, back up! Move!” they both shouted, herding the crowd like wranglers controlling a stampede.

Aella knelt beside Shirley and took a small black hairpin from her own hair.

Leaning close, she whispered softly, “Your daughter stole my husband and ruined my family. Now she’s dragging my name through the mud in public.”

She continued quietly, “I’ve waited a long time for this moment. One jab from this, and you’d be half paralyzed. You’d spend the rest of your life bedridden.”

Then she added, “Don’t blame me. If you want to blame someone, blame your homewrecker daughter.”

As she spoke, she pressed the tip of the hairpin lightly against Shirley’s neck.

“She’s trying to kill me!”

Shirley screamed, rolling away and scrambling into the crowd.

Everyone gasped, then erupted into applause, praising Aella for “saving” her.

Zera sneaked a glance at Tyrone, forcing a shaky smile. “T—that’s great. My mom finally woke up.”

Tyrone’s gaze stayed locked on Aella, his expression unreadable.

He stepped closer. “Since she’s fine, I’ll take you back to the hospital.”

Aella held out her hand, palm open.

Tyrone looked down and saw the black hairpin resting there. His eyes flickered uncertainly.

When he reached for it, Aella dropped it on the ground with a look of disgust, leaving his hand awkwardly suspended in the air.

They stared at each other in silence for a few seconds.

Aella finally said, "I was going to ignore them, but you all kept pushing, refusing to let me go."

Tyrone's chest tightened painfully. He reached for her hand, but she stepped away.

She said, "If I remember right, just two hours ago at my office, you asked me to give you time, and that you'd make things right."

Tyrone's chest rose and fell sharply.

He opened his mouth, but no words came out.

Aella said, "Their little act was so obvious that even Brad and Mr. Locke could see through it. Hell, even I could tell. But you still believe them."

Tyrone looked at her, dazed, and stepped forward.

Aella took a step back.

She said, "Tyrone, we've known each other for over 20 years. We lived together as husband and wife for 3. And right here, in front of everyone, you stood beside another woman. You said I was just being petty, questioned my ethics as a doctor, and accused me of being unfit for my profession."

Tyrone felt the air leave his lungs.

He wanted to reach for her, but even lifting a foot felt impossible.

Aella looked him straight in the eyes. “Tyrone, don’t forget—my dream since I was a kid was to play the violin. But because of your insomnia, I gave it up and went to medical school instead.”

She added, “Anyone else can question me—but not you. You have no right.”

With that, Aella turned and walked away without hesitation.

“Aella!”

Tyrone called out, his chest tightening as he watched her thin, tired figure disappear.

Just then, the ambulance arrived.

Zera glanced at Shirley, who immediately collapsed again, gasping for air.

Zera quickly told the medics to get her into the ambulance.

Before leaving, Zera stopped Aella. “Mrs. Winter, I want to apologize for what I said earlier. My mom fainted, and I panicked. Please don’t take it personally.”

Then she turned to Tyrone. “Tyrone, I spoke harshly because I was scared. Once my mom is settled at the hospital, I’ll come apologize properly in person.”

With that, Zera hurried into the ambulance and left.

Aella stood watching it drive off, too exhausted and speechless to even react.

