

Chapter 154 Won't You Admit It

The cemetery sprawled quiet and peaceful, filled with the subtle chirping of birds and the distinct sounds of cicadas that marked the summer season.

They halted by a gravestone halfway up the hill. It was a shared tombstone, chilled to the touch, displaying a photograph of Kimberly's parents with their names etched above— Caiden Holden and Evelynnn Holden, lovingly inscribed by their daughter, Kimberly Holden, on February 13, 20xx.

Chris spotted the faint traces of blood on the inscription and his brow furrowed, his gaze shifting to Kimberly with clear sympathy.

It dawned on him that Kimberly had etched the gravestone herself.

Could it have been during that time she accidentally cut her hand?

That would explain the deep scar he had seen on her right palm.

Unaware of Chris's contemplations, Kimberly gazed intently at her parents' photograph on the gravestone. Their joyful smiles brought a surge of grief.

Stepping forward, she knelt down and whispered, "Mom, Dad... I've missed you so much."

Tears welled up in her eyes as she caressed the cold stone, her sorrow profound.

Flooded with memories of joyful times spent with her parents, the happiness they had shared now intensified her sorrow, her heart feeling as if it were being stabbed repeatedly.

She continued to speak to the gravestone as though her parents were right there with her, laughing and crying, her connection with them profoundly evident.

The touching scene stirred deep emotions and reflection in all who were present, except for William and his family, who wore frowns, their faces marked by discomfort.

The words Kimberly uttered seemed to stir unease and guilt within them, visible and acute.

Suddenly, a sharp voice cut through the warm atmosphere.

"Kimberly, that's enough. Let everyone else pay respect to your parents! Our time is limited."

It was Theodosia. The urge to speak had overtaken her.

Unbeknownst to others, Kimberly's heartfelt words had chilled Theodosia rather than touched her.

The moment Theodosia voiced her concerns, all eyes, particularly those of Kimberly and Chris, sharp as daggers and cold as a winter breeze, turned toward her and William.

Taken aback, William quickly feigned outrage, scolding his wife, "Kimberly is here to honor her parents. You shouldn't interfere!"

Theodosia turned a shade paler as she grasped the impact of her words, her back slick with sweat.

"Well..." she stammered, her voice faltering as she forced a smile. "I noticed Kimberly has been kneeling for nearly an hour, and I was concerned about her possibly injuring her knees!"

Under her breath, she murmured, "Moreover, at past memorials, we never lingered more than ten minutes. If she really cared, why didn't she visit then?"

"Enough!"

William's expression was stern as he shot a glance at Archie, who looked displeased. While appearing to reprimand his wife, William was actually planting seeds of discord between Kimberly and Archie.

"Kimberly must have valid reasons for her absences. Remember, she was the Walsh family's daughter-in-law. How could she frequently visit the

cemetery? She must have been mindful of her in-laws' feelings, especially given her deep affection for Declan, whom she chose to marry. Naturally, she would place his needs first after their marriage. This is not the time for your comments!" exclaimed William.

Even Chris's expression turned sour, his features tightening.

The implication was apparent—Kimberly's devotion to Declan was so strong that she might neglect her own parents' memorial to keep the Walsh family happy.

William was indirectly telling Archie and Chris that Kimberly was unworthy of their affection.

Chris was about to respond when Kimberly prevented him.

Kimberly knelt resolutely before the gravestone, facing William and Theodosia with an icy stare, her gaze sharp.

"Are you criticizing me, Uncle William and Aunt Theodosia? However, you're correct about one thing, Uncle William. Back then, the Walsh family did everything to confine me to their home, they even took away my phone and had guards monitor me constantly to prevent me from leaving. That's no justification for missing those days. I acknowledge my error, and I own up to it. But... what exactly are you implying with your remarks earlier, Aunt Theodosia?"

Rising slowly, Kimberly felt a wave of dizziness wash over her, her balance faltering.

Chris was quick to support her, his expression etched with worry. He whispered, "Are you all right?"

"I'm okay."

With a shake of her head, Kimberly dismissed his help, steadied herself on her feet, and turned a steely look towards Theodosia, radiating a palpable sense of command and authority, clearly poised for confrontation.

"Aunt Theodosia, does my potential injury concern you, or are you troubled by how long we've been here?"

"That's not what I meant! You're twisting my words!"

Theodosia's demeanor shifted rapidly as she hurriedly denied it, unable to own up to her true feelings in Archie's presence.

A sardonic glint appeared in Kimberly's eyes, her smile sharp as ice.

"Am I really distorting your words, or are you just revealing your true thoughts? You're the only one who knows. I've acknowledged my previous mistakes, and I openly accept them."

Advancing toward Theodosia, Kimberly stopped mere inches away, her intense gaze capturing the fleeting look of guilt crossing Theodosia's face. Kimberly's expression darkened slightly, her curiosity piqued by Theodosia's apparent fluster.

"Do you find it difficult to own up to your error?" Kimberly asked.

"You..." Theodosia was lost for words.

Kimberly's aura was overpowering her cold stare echoing that of Evelyn's. As a brisk wind cut through the air, Theodosia's knees buckled, causing her to inadvertently step backward.

Unaware she was on the brink of the steps, Theodosia's eyes widened with terror as she nearly stumbled backwards, but Kimberly was quick to catch her wrist, pulling her to safety.

With a hauntingly menacing smile, Kimberly fixed her eyes on Theodosia. The striking resemblance to her mother, Evelyn, sent shivers down Theodosia's spine.

"Do I frighten you?" Kimberly asked.



"Help me, and I'll give you a special reward!"

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