

Chapter 140

Olivia nuzzled Grace's shoulder. "Mom, you and my brothers are the best. Having you all is the greatest blessing of my life."

Grace smiled at her words. "Of course, we treat you well; we've raised you."

But she wasn't going to let the matter slide.

Her smile faded, and she cast a stern look at her sons. "Your behavior is simply inappropriate. How can you be hugging your grown sister like that? Via might not understand, but you should know better how to maintain boundaries."

"Have you seen the rumors online? They're speculating that Alex and Via are more than foster siblings, even suggesting they're a couple."

She was so upset she even slapped the table for emphasis. "From now on, you all need to be more mindful. No more hugging Via or behaving intimately with her."

She specifically glared at Alex. "Especially you, Alex. You need to stop kissing Via on her forehead or touching her inappropriately."

Remembering the online comments, Alex was infuriated.

Just because he was close to his sister, how did that turn into rumors about him being a fake brother with a secret affair?

It was absurd.

Now, being scolded by his mother, he muttered, "Got it."



Brandon and Raymond didn't think it was an issue.

They had always been like this with Olivia, treating her as a beloved sister, nothing like the sordid ideas outsiders had.

"Mom, we're just close. The public are the ones with dirty minds," Brandon argued.

Grace frowned and reprimanded them. "Regardless of how close you are, you're adults now. Siblings must avoid behaving like that, or the public might think all of you lack proper upbringings."

Then she turned to Olivia. "Via, you're a grown woman now, so you need to be mindful too."

Deep down, Olivia was reluctant.

Olivia had spent many years subtly cultivating her brothers' affectionate and protective behavior toward her, considering them her own. She worried that if they stopped acting this way, their bond might weaken.

Nevertheless, she obediently nodded and said, "Mom, I didn't understand these things before. From now on, I'll listen to you and be more mindful."

In front of Grace, Olivia was always sweet, considerate, and never threw tantrums. This was one of the reasons Grace was so fond of her.

Grace, feeling satisfied, said, "You're always so well-behaved."

Then she cast a stern glance at her sons. "Did you all hear that?"



She didn't notice Olivia winking at her brothers from her embrace.

They all responded, "We heard you. We'll be more mindful in the future."

Though they said that, none of them actually meant it.

However, they did understand the need to be cautious in public to avoid harming Olivia's reputation.

With that issue temporarily resolved, Grace suddenly remembered something that had been bothering her.

She turned to Olivia and asked, "What's going on between you and Justin?"

Olivia had already planned how to handle her mother's questions.

She looked even more aggrieved and said, "Justin and I are just friends. We meet privately because his mother likes me and often sends him to pass things to me."

"That so-called couple's pendant was a gift from his mother. Neither Justin nor I knew about it beforehand. This whole misunderstanding was caused by Lindsay. Justin tried to explain, but she refused to listen."

"She's making everyone misunderstand us," Olivia continued, her voice filled with hurt.

Hearing Olivia's explanation, Grace felt a bit more at ease.

So, it was all a misunderstanding.



This was something she could easily confirm with Justin's mother, which would confirm that Justin and Olivia were telling the truth.

Besides, Olivia had always been favored by Abby since she was little.

As long as Olivia wasn't stealing Lindsay's boyfriend, Grace could accept her relationship with Justin.

"So, it's just a misunderstanding. That's good to know," she said, relieved.

She then turned to Oliver. "Go find Lindsay and offer her the company's best contract and offers. Consider it as a compensation."

Pausing for a moment, she added, "And bring her back home. It's not right for the heiress of the Harper family to be living in a small apartment."

Grace wanted her daughter back but couldn't bring herself to say it directly, so she had Oliver handle it.

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