

After All the Hurt, She Chose Herself

Chapter 7

Aria now knew how to get her new mentor to accept her.

Just then, someone knocked on the car window.

Aria looked up. It was Flora, and she was alone.

“Can I help you?”

Flora stood outside the car, arms crossed, the prim and proper demeanor from the dinner table gone. She casually sized Aria up, a smirk on her lips. “Did you cry, Aria? You’re still such a crybaby, just like when we were kids.”

Aria’s brow furrowed.

When she was fifteen, in her last year of middle school, she attended the same school as Flora.

For no reason at all, Flora started bullying her. Maybe she was jealous of her good grades, or maybe she just couldn’t stand that Aria was so popular.

Whatever the reason, Flora turned everyone against her, making her a complete outcast.

Trash would mysteriously appear in her desk, she was always left without a group for projects, and Flora and her friends would corner her in the bathroom, beating her for no reason...

Teenagers are sensitive, and during that time, Aria was consumed by anxiety and had even contemplated suicide.

Flora chuckled. “If you’d known back then that I was going to marry Charles, would you have gotten on your knees and begged me to leave you alone?”

Aria cut her off coldly. “Does Charles know you used to bully your classmates? Don’t forget, I still have proof.”

When Flora had bullied her, she had filmed it and sent the videos to Aria, threatening to release them if she ever told anyone.

Aria had saved all of them.

Aria’s smile didn’t waver. “Want me to send them to Charles?”

“Or have you decided you don’t want to marry Charles anymore?”

Seeing Flora’s face darken instantly, Aria rolled up the window and drove away without a second glance.

Watching Aria’s car disappear, Flora’s expression grew grim.

Years ago, when Charles received an offer from a top medical research institute abroad, she had eagerly followed him.

But as they spent time together, Charles remained distant.

It wasn't until she accidentally discovered that Charles seemed to be looking for someone that things changed. She had her family investigate and found out he was searching for the volunteer from his old experiment.

According to Charles’s former lab partner, the volunteer had been very mysterious.

Furthermore, the experiment was incredibly dangerous. Volunteers faced a high probability of uterine damage, rendering them unable to ever have children.

Because of this, despite the Brent family offering a fortune in compensation, no one was willing to participate.

Until, at the last minute, a mysterious volunteer appeared.

It was precisely because he had improved upon this experiment that Charles successfully secured the offer from the overseas lab.

Charles had always been grateful to that volunteer. Without them, the Charles of today wouldn't exist.

Flora reasoned that since the person didn’t want to be identified, it meant they wanted to remain anonymous. Finding them in a world of billions would be like finding a needle in a haystack.

So, she made the biggest decision of her life.

Later that evening, Flora returned to the living room and saw Charles on the sofa. She sat down next to him.

Charles had been looking at his phone, but when he saw her, he smiled and gently tapped her nose.

“I came back this time to find the medical genius, Dawn.”

“If Dawn and I can work together, your body can be fully healed.”

As he spoke, Charles gently rubbed Flora’s abdomen, his eyes filled with undeniable heartache.

He sighed softly. “Why were you so foolish? To do such a dangerous experiment behind everyone’s back.”

Flora’s eyes immediately reddened. She sniffled. “I just couldn’t stand to see you struggling all alone. I’m not foolish, I’m smart!”

“Yes, yes, my Flora is the smartest,” Charles chuckled, shaking his head fondly.

“The symposium in three days is very innovative. If I were Dawn, I’d definitely attend.”

It was late when Gideon returned to the office.

He saw Aria’s resignation letter on his desk, his expression calm.

Henry asked, “Mr. Evernight, should I approve it? If she resigns, her performance review will have to be recalculated.”

Gideon found the idea of Aria resigning laughable.

During their years of marriage, the Rowan family hadn't paid her much attention. Without their backing, did Aria really think she could quit and become a full-time housewife?

As if he would support her.

She wasn’t going to quit. This was just another tantrum.

Hadn’t she thrown one before? Complaining that he never came home at night, that they didn’t live in the same room, that they weren’t like a real married couple.

Gideon scoffed and fed the manila envelope from his desk into the shredder.

Since Aria wanted to consummate their marriage and have a child, he would grant her wish. It was a perfect opportunity to get the umbilical cord blood for Lilith.

But if she ever tried to threaten him like this again, he wouldn’t hesitate to fire her for real.

Inside the shredder, the words “Divorce Agreement” flashed by. Henry thought he had misread them and blinked.

Wait, Mr. Evernight wasn't even married. How could there be a divorce agreement?

It must have been a resignation letter. His eyes were playing tricks on him.

Aria, for her part, wasted no time and quickly packed her things.

It wasn't much, just a small suitcase.

Since they were getting a divorce, it was no longer appropriate for her to live with the Evernight family.

In another month, she would have her twenty million dollars.

Just as Aria finished packing and was about to leave, the door clicked and swung open.

Gideon walked in.

Aria froze. Why was Gideon back?

At this hour, shouldn't he be with Lilith?