

Chapter 540 Go To The Basement

"Please, Mom, don't do this! It wasn't me. Melissa and Mercer colluded and planned this whole thing!" Karl shouted anxiously.

However, Joyce was more concerned with the result than the process. With so many liars around her, it was hard to know who to trust.

Since the jade pendant was found in Karl's possession, it seemed like he was involved.

After Karl was taken away, Joyce turned to Melissa with a smile.

"Melissa, you're a good girl for turning over the jade pendant to me. Now, go to the secret basement with me. Mercer, go with us together."

Melissa was taken aback for a moment, but then she tried to act composed. "Mrs. Carter, since the jade pendant is now in your possession, there's no need for me to go to the secret basement. It holds many secrets, and I don't want to be involved in them."

Joyce smiled warmly at Melissa and said, "You and your mother are both talented. Why don't you join me in my studies? I can teach you everything I know and you'll have a bright future if you learn to make poisons with me."

Melissa's smile was awkward as she replied, "I'm not interested in that kind of thing."

Joyce's expression turned dark immediately. "No! It's not easy for me to find someone to inherit my skills and be my successor. How can you say you're not interested? You must be interested!"

She marched forward, and her bodyguards immediately grabbed Melissa's arms to pull her along.

It was clear that Joyce was determined to take her to the secret

Just as they were about to leave, Mercer spoke up. "Wait! Let go of Melissa. I need to speak with my mom."

The bodyguards exchanged glances, their eyes fixated on Joyce, who wore a frown and appeared unhappy.

"Mercer, what do you think you're doing? Are you uncomfortable with the idea of Melissa becoming my successor?" asked Joyce, her tone challenging.

Mercer shook his head. "No, I just need to speak with you privately."

"Okay."

Joyce gestured for him to follow her, and they moved to a quiet corner to talk. As the conversation progressed, Joyce's expression grew increasingly sour. Finally, she walked back into the living room and waved her hand dismissively.

"Take Melissa somewhere else to rest. The rest of you, follow me to the secret basement."

Joyce and her bodyguards finally left, and Mercer quickly took hold of Melissa's hand.

"We don't have much time. You must leave the Carter family's residence as soon as possible," he urged.

Melissa nodded in agreement, but she couldn't leave without finding Mona first.

"My friend is still here. I can't go without her," she explained.

Mercer had already thought of this and assured her, "Don't worry, I've arranged for my men to watch over her closely. They'll take action to free her as soon as I call them."

He took hold of Melissa's hand again, ready to leave with her, but Melissa had one more concern.

"Mr. Carter, if you let me go today, will Mrs. Carter blame my escape on you?"

Melissa anxiously watched Mercer's back, feeling troubled by the behavior of the three Carter brothers. She sensed their inferiority complex and oppressive demeanor toward their mother.

Even Karl was taken away rudely. Judging from the fear on his face, Melissa knew that the punishment inflicted by the family would be severe and far from the typical disciplinary actions taken by ordinary mothers, such as spanking or slapping.