

## Chapter 542 Everett Came

Furrowing her brow, Joyce spoke up. "On my way here, I realized Karl is a reckless and cowardly man; he couldn't possibly conspire with Melissa. So it must be you who collaborated with her. You deliberately placed the jade pendant in Karl's house to frame him, didn't you?"

Mercer remained composed and responded respectfully, "Mom, why would you think that? I've never considered framing anyone. Moreover, the jade pendant was discovered at his place. The prescription should also be there. Perhaps you should search for it there."

"I've sent someone to locate the prescription, but strangely, Melissa has vanished, likely taking the prescription with her."

Feigning shock, Mercer exclaimed, "How could that happen? Our security system is so stringent. How could she simply disappear? I suspect she's still within the Carter family grounds."

Joyce frowned, pondering Melissa's potential hiding spot.

At that moment, two security guards rushed over.

One of them reported, "Mrs. Carter, Mr. Mercer Carter attempted to escort two servants out earlier. We found it odd and went to inform you, but you weren't at your quarters. You..."

As the bodyguard prepared to continue, he noticed Mercer standing nearby. He instantly fell silent, not daring to speak further.

"Damn it! You deceived me again!"

Enraged, Joyce struck Mercer's leg with her walking stick.

"Did you help them escape? I can't believe I trusted you!"

Just as she was about to order the bodyguards to scale the wall and search for Melissa, two additional security guards hurried over.

"Mrs. Carter, numerous people are storming the premises."

"What?"

Before Joyce could react, a cacophony of noise erupted overhead.

Looking up, she spotted several helicopters, each lowering a ladder as they approached the ground.

A squad of well-trained bodyguards leaped out and encircled Joyce and her entourage.

A man in a black suit strode toward them.

With a furrowed brow, the man surveyed the scene, sizing them up as if they were already defeated.

"Where is Melissa?"

Joyce grew uneasy, having never witnessed such a brazen intrusion. Who was this man? How could he be so audacious?

"She's not here. Who are you? What are you doing on my property? How dare you trespass?"

Everett stared at the assembled group coldly. "I'll give you ten minutes to hand over Melissa, or I'll kill every last one of you."

Though frightened, Joyce maintained her authority as head of the family.

She scoffed, "Kill us all? Who gave you the audacity to be so arrogant? Just a few helicopters and bodyguards, and you dare invade the Carter family's estate? You must not understand our family's power. I have enough bodyguards to rival an army."

"Oh? Really?" Everett raised an eyebrow, taunting her.