

## Chapter 552 Do You Miss Me

"Working in a hospital isn't in my cards right now," Melissa said.

"If the hospital's off the table, consider teaching at a medical university," Aloys suggested casually. "Your skills are exemplary, and your knowledge could inspire the next generation of medical professionals."

Melissa's reply was a swift shake of her head, an adamant refusal.

"I can handle surgeries, consult with patients, but teaching? That's a different beast entirely."

Her hesitation stemmed from a fear of leading students astray. Her practical knowledge might not translate well into an academic setting.

"You'll never know your potential unless you give it a shot. I have a friend at the university; he could help you settle in."

He proffered a business card, his eyes brimming with encouragement.

"Fine," she agreed reluctantly, accepting the card.

"Melissa? Who is this? Does Everett know you're dining with another man?"

A jarring voice intruded their conversation.

Emily, who had been shopping nearby, glanced through the large glass window and spotted Melissa laughing and chatting with a man who was decidedly not Everett.

A wave of resentment washed over her, thinking of her own daughter living a life on the run, while Melissa seemed to be having a grand time.

If her daughter couldn't find happiness, Emily would ensure Melissa wouldn't either.

"Emily, it's none of your business."

Melissa didn't look at her and gestured for Aloys to continue eating.

"What? Everett deserves to know about your little tryst!"

As she began recording, she taunted, "How could Everett treasure someone as fickle as you?"

Aloys, his patience wearing thin, snatched the phone from Emily and flung it into a nearby water feature.

"How dare you!"

The audacity of their response left Emily speechless.

Once her shock subsided, her anger flared. "You think Everett shouldn't see this? Fine! I'll broadcast your disgusting behavior for all to see!"

With that, she stormed off.

Melissa knew Aloys' actions weren't motivated by fear of Everett's reaction. There was nothing between her and Aloys, and Everett was reasonable enough to understand that.

Aloys' response was simply a refusal to tolerate Emily's despicable behavior.

"Let's just ignore her, Aloys. Let's eat," she urged, but her appetite had fled.

Seeing her distressed state, Aloys offered her a bottle of water.

"I've lost my appetite. How about a walk instead?" he said.

Melissa's eyebrows shot up. "Already full?"

Her question was met with a sour expression from Aloys. He was as affected by Emily's interruption as she was.

"Her theatrics ruined our meal. Let her enjoy her small victory, her comeuppance is inevitable," she said.

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"Mommy!" A high-pitched squeal of delight greeted Melissa as she arrived home. Lindsey came bounding toward her.

"Look who I brought home!" Melissa said.

"Mr. Brustin!"

Lindsey's eyes sparkled with excitement when she saw Aloys.

"You haven't visited for such a long time. I've missed you!"

Hearing Aloys' name, Merrick also came running, his face bright with joy.

"Mr. Brustin!" he greeted Aloys warmly.