

Chapter 571 The Beloved Father And Daughter

"Dad! Why am I the one to apologize? She's the one in the wrong!"

Arielle continued to shout, her words bristled with indignation and her eyes alight with rebellion.

Howell didn't direct a single reproach toward Melissa, his face awash with regret.

"Melissa, Arielle has a tendency to be frank, sometimes too much so. I implore you to not take her words to heart," Howell said.

Melissa's gaze lingered on the shattered vase strewn across the floor.

"Irrespective of what she said, how do you account for this? Had my reflexes not been sharp enough, I might have been sporting a gash instead of this frown. Would that have pleased you?"

"Well..." Howell stuttered, taken aback. "I concede it was her misstep, but she was merely caught in the heat of the moment."

It was ridiculous. What could Melissa possibly say now? All she could do was scoff silently.

Arielle's outburst, coupled with Howell's defense, only served to underscore her status as the outsider.

She had grown used to their callous disregard for her feelings, though.

Candor, it seemed, was the only viable option left. It was better to make everything clear to each other.

Raising her gaze to Howell's disingenuous expression, she posed a pointed question.

"If she were to kill me one day, would you still dismiss it as an unintended

"Well..." Howell was rendered speechless, Melissa's words striking a nerve.

Arielle, her voice laced with frost, interjected, "Spot on! I wish I could rid us of your presence. You're the cause of our misery, the reason Everett is tormenting me! This is all your fault! Melissa, can't you just die and disappear? What's wrong with that?"

A mirthless smile graced Melissa's lips as she leveled her gaze at Arielle's livid countenance. "And you? Your scheme to abduct my children nearly resulted in our deaths. How do you justify that?"

Arielle's countenance faltered, her retort cut short by Howell's interjection. "Melissa, it's all a misunderstanding. Arielle didn't intentionally kidnap your children. She merely wanted to grow closer to them. Please understand, their indifference toward her made her desperate. It's a misunderstanding, that's all."

Melissa's realization dawned as Howell's true intentions came to light. He had orchestrated the apology, hoping to persuade her to relinquish her pursuit of Arielle.

He wished for Arielle to resume a normal life, oblivious to the atrocities she had almost committed.

His unwavering dedication to ensuring Arielle's happiness, regardless of her actions, was infuriating. Melissa scoffed.

His blatant favoritism angered her.

If that was his wish, she would ensure it remained unfulfilled...

Without missing a beat, she stealthily triggered the emergency call button, reaching out to Everett.

As soon as he picked up, the voices of Howell and Arielle filled the line.

A spark of vigilance ignited in Everett's eyes.

So, Arielle was with Howell. This time, she wouldn't escape his grasp.