

Chapter 643 Be Hen-pecked

Johnny's expression remained serious as he spoke. "Alright, fine. We can consider adopting her. But why insist on having her call you and Everett 'dad' and 'mom'? Are you not concerned about people talking behind our backs? We should think about the consequences!" ☹

Melissa was taken aback by Johnny's strong emphasis on reputation. Nonetheless, she knew she had done nothing wrong and felt unfazed by the concerns he raised.

"If people want to gossip, let them. Our lives are our own, and we shouldn't be dictated by others' opinions."

Johnny hadn't anticipated Melissa's unwavering stubbornness.

Reluctantly, he had to find a middle ground and reason with her.

"But we already have two children of our own. If you adopt her, would she be entitled to a share of our family's assets in the future? Can't we find a childless couple to take her in? Surely there are others who can care for her. I know plenty of wealthy women without children. Leave it to me. I'll find a loving family for her. She'll be much happier there than staying in our family."

Johnny employed every possible tactic to convince Melissa to relinquish the child.

"Dad, please don't worry. When it comes to the family's assets, you don't have to be concerned about it. If Everett genuinely wants to share with Star, it's a reflection of his love for his daughter. If that ever happens, please don't stand in his way."

"Melissa!" Johnny's face darkened. "I've gone to great lengths to explain myself and even made concessions. I'm willing to find a wonderful family

for the child. Why won't you listen to me?"

Another voice resonated from the doorway.

"I think you're the one being stubborn!"

Vivienne, who had overheard much of the conversation, approached them.

"It's you who refuses to listen to others. Melissa has expressed herself so earnestly. Have you truly heard her at all? If you would just listen, you'd understand how much this child relies on her. Besides, she's not a mere object to be discarded as you please. She's seeking acceptance within our family. How can you just cast her aside?"

Vivienne's words carried weight, impacting Johnny to some degree. His face paled, and he was left at a loss for words in response to her heartfelt plea.

"You're being unreasonable. I don't want to argue with you about this. I need to speak with Melissa," he said.

Crossing her arms, Vivienne sneered. "Speak with Melissa? You think it'll be that easy to coerce her just because she's young? Listen up, Johnny. Despite her youth, you can't just push her around because she's my daughter-in-law. If you won't show her care and respect, then I will! You better treat her right, and that includes being good to the child she adopted!"

Vivienne stood her ground, her voice unwavering in front of Johnny's bewilderment. ☹

Johnny struggled to find the right words to respond but found himself rendered speechless.

Unfazed by his silence, Vivienne grabbed Melissa's hand and declared, "Come on. Let's go. There's no point in arguing with this stubborn old man. He's grown old and foolish!"

Johnny stood in stunned silence as they walked out of the study.

Vivienne turned to Melissa, her concern evident in her voice. "Don't pay any mind to what your father said. He's just an old man stuck in his ways. It's pointless to listen to him."

Melissa nodded appreciatively. "I understand. Thank you, Mom."

"Star, these toys are my favorites, and I want you to have them. Would you like to come to my room and keep me company? It's a big room, and we can even share the same bed," Lindsey said cheerfully.