

A Man with Nerves of Steel

The steering 93

+15 Bonus

Cora went to a psychiatric hospital for a full evaluation, and the results came back normal.

When Joseph observed Cora throughout the examination, something seemed to weigh on his mind. However, he said nothing.

On the drive home, Cora asked, “Joe, do you still think I’m lying to you?”

“It’s good that there’s nothing wrong with you. At least now you can accept the truth.”

Joseph knew a normal psychological evaluation proved little. Someone as clever as Cora could easily cover up the truth.

“I didn’t betray you and I never cheated on you. That’s the truth. I’ve accepted that. But what about you? When are you going to stop doubting me and start living normally again?”

“Your problem hasn’t been solved, Cora.”

“There’s a problem with me? We’ll settle it once we get home. However, I don’t think there’s anything wrong with me. And Joe, I’m sure there’s nothing wrong with you either.”

Joseph said nothing more and headed back to the villa. Shortly after, Natalie came to confront him.

“I’ve investigated the matter. The DNA report you gave me was fake. You deliberately made me find Frank. You used me. Why would you do that?”

“I used to be too kind. I didn’t realize how ruthless people can be. Nat, if you don’t want to find your biological father, then stop looking into it. Accept that you may never know the truth and live your life as it is. And if Cora intends to keep hiding it from you till her death, then accept that she’s a cunning and

ruthless woman.”

“So you really were provoking me on purpose. You bastard! Once I find my real father, I’m not letting your get away with this!” Natalie warned Joseph. She was so furious that she wanted to bite him.

Before the argument could go any further, Cora summoned Natalie to the study.

“What were you and Joseph talking about? Why are you so worked up? Did he manipulate you into doing something again?”

“He said this incident was a lesson about the real world. It showed me how sinister people can be, and how no one can truly be trusted. He told me I needed to grow up fast. After all, I have to face the cruelty of society sooner or later.” 1

“How incredibly noble of him. He is teaching you a lesson, but his methods are despicable. I don’t support it at all. Your dad understands you better than anyone. With just a few words, he can send you into a panic and have you dancing to his tune without you even realizing it.”

“What do you mean?”

+15 Bonus

“It means you’re being naive. Can’t you see how foolish and terrible your actions have been?”

“I know Joseph made use of me. I admit he had me fooled. But what about you? Didn’t he play you too? And Grandpa and Grandma? I think a toxic man like him doesn’t deserve you. You should just cut him loose and be with my real father.”

*Joseph is your biological father.”

“Impossible! Mom, you’re contradicting yourself now. You claim the DNA test between Joseph and me is fake, but you believe the one between me and Frank is real?”

“It’s not the same.”

“It is. I don’t belong to Joseph or Frank! Did you actually sleep with Frank?”

“I have only ever been with one man in my entire life, and that is Joseph! This is Joseph’s evil ploy. He throws out one accusation, and it takes so much effort to clear up the mess. You didn’t even know what was happening, yet you were dragged into it and turned into a source of gossip. You’re still young, so I won’t blame you for it. But I’m arranging for you to transfer schools.”

“Where?”

“Jenton Girls’ School. It’s a fully enclosed school. There’s no way you can leave the campus without my explicit permission.”

“So I don’t even get a choice. Before I leave, can you give me a truthful answer for once? Who is my

father?”

“Joseph.”

“I mean my biological father, Mom. My real father. Joseph isn’t him.”

“No. Joseph is your biological father.”

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