

Chapter 869 Dancer

Listening to Leonel's words, Adah finally grasped the full weight of her mother's intentions.

Sally had insisted that Leonel go along with Gia's decision to send the young Adah away to a deserted town. This mirrored the advice Rita had given Elliana: pretend to be dull and unattractive, all to avoid drawing unwanted attention. Staying hidden kept them safe from harm.

Driven by his devotion to Sally, Leonel had obeyed her wishes, even though he understood the risks tied to her secretive past. He had tucked away his own ambitions and accepted a life where he played the part of a spineless man.

Looking back, Adah realized it was her father, not she, who had endured the greatest injustice. A wave of emotion washed over her.

"Adah, your mother and Elliana's mother were the closest of friends," Leonel continued, his voice gentle. "There was something the two of them kept hidden from everyone else. I'm also certain your mother survived the fire; she must have faced trouble and been forced to leave. All these years, I've been holding on, waiting for her to come back. As time passed and there was still no sign of her, I began to lose hope. But now that Elliana's mother has returned, surely your mom can't be far behind. Why haven't I heard anything yet?"

Leonel paused before asking, "Adah, you mentioned you've been staying at Rosewood Villa, Elliana's new place, which means you've been close to them. Have you asked Elliana's mother where your mom might be?"

The light in Leonel's eyes faded as he spoke. "Could it be that she's already returned, but she no longer loves me and wants nothing to do with me?"

"That's not true," Adah hastily said, and she took the time to share everything she had learned about her mother.

After listening, Leonel's spirits fell. "So there's still no clue as to what

happened to her?"

Adah nodded.

Crushed by the news, Leonel found himself at a loss for words. The news of Elliana's mother returning had filled him with hope; he truly believed Sally would soon return to his side, and their family would finally be whole. It was heartbreaking to realize his years of waiting had led only to more uncertainty.

"Don't give up, Dad," Adah said gently. "Both Elliana and Rita are committed to helping me search for my mom. I bet my mom is still alive, and one day, she'll come back so we can all be together again."

Leonel gave a firm nod. Seeing how strong his daughter was, he knew he had to be just as resilient. He couldn't allow himself to sink into despair.

After a brief silence, he attempted to bring up something lighter. "Do you have any plans for the future?"

He still had no idea how capable Adah truly was. As far as he knew, she had dropped out of school years ago and had never had the chance to develop any real skills. Now that she was home, he wanted to make sure she had every opportunity to build a future.

"Whatever you want to study or whichever career you want to chase, I'll stand by you all the way," Leonel promised.

Adah could see her father was genuinely concerned about her, and the warmth behind his words touched her. She was debating whether she should reveal her real capabilities to him when her phone vibrated.

A new message arrived from Elliana. "I heard you stirred up some chaos in your family home today. I've pulled together some information about your opponents. Hope it's useful."

Right after that, Elliana sent a string of messages, each packed with detailed profiles on the Norris family members.

As Adah scrolled through the files, what caught her attention most was Rowena's registration for the Ublento Dance Competition.

Elliana's research was as meticulous as ever, even revealing that Gia had been funneling money into building up Rowena's image as a "dance

prodigy" and had quietly paid off two of the event's judges.

It didn't take Adah long to unravel their entire plan. The Norris family wanted to use the contest to launch Rowena into overnight fame and then ride her new reputation to arrange a marriage with a wealthy, powerful family, lifting the Norris family to a new level.

Adah resolved that with her standing in their way, they could forget all about pulling off that scheme. Although dance had always been just a pastime for her, she made up her mind right then that she would enter the Ublento Dance Competition herself.

A playful smile crossed Adah's lips as she announced, "I've decided to become a dancer."

A dancer? Leonel's eyes swept over Adah, taking in her graceful build. There was no question she looked the part, but he knew she hadn't received any formal training. Could she really pull it off?

Gently, he spoke, hoping not to discourage her. "Most dancers start at a very young age. It's tough to break in now. Have you thought about trying something else?"

Instead of feeling discouraged, Adah's smile became even more confident. "Dad, I plan to sign up for the Ublento Dance Competition. If you're free, I'd love for you to be there and cheer me on."

Entering the Ublento Dance Competition? Leonel could hardly believe it. "That's a world-class event! Only the best dancers compete. You..."

At that moment, Melanie stepped out of the kitchen with a gentle smile. "Please, your daughter has always been clever. You should have faith in her choices. She could never be average."

Leonel paused and then suddenly smiled in agreement. Melanie was right. Sally had always stood out. Why wouldn't her child be exceptional, too? Even though Adah had grown up away from him, maybe she had quietly honed her skills on her own, just like Elliana, who had blossomed even under tough conditions in the Jones family. He realized he needed to trust his daughter.

With these thoughts, Leonel declared, "Of course, I'll support you! I heard Rowena's competing too, and I can't wait to watch you beat her with my own eyes."

