

Always There: Win My Ex-wife Back, Chapter 51: Memories

“What happened later on?” Michelle pressed for more answers impatiently. She couldn’t believe what she was hearing.

The more she learned about what that Sherry did, the more her dislike for the woman grew.

“Your mother became so haggard and stressed because of losing contact with your father for a long time. You had just been born and she had to raise you alone. Belinda stood her ground and didn’t go home to admit her mistakes, nor did she even want to get a glimpse of the Mills family’s house. I guess deep in her heart she was hoping your father would come back and she’d know the reason why he took off without a word.”

It was Angie who spoke this time after she gained a bit of energy from resting.

“Then why didn’t dad tell mom about what happened even through a simple phone call? Mom would definitely understand and wait for him, right?”

Michelle reasoned out as she tried to make sense of the complicated story that was unfolding before her.

“Chelle, if your father had told your mother about it, things would not have turned out the way it did,” Claire replied affectionately.

Seeing as her niece’s hand began to tremble, she held onto it to extend comfort.

“But my parents died in a car accident when I was five, didn’t they?”

Shaking her head, Michelle grew more confused as the stories piled up. She wasn’t sure how to catch up anymore.

“Yes, they did. Your father eventually came back and lived with you and your mother again. We’re not sure what happened in those two years he lived with Sherry. We didn’t even know if they really got divorced or not because your mother refused to speak with us. We’re clueless about everything until the car accident took their lives,” Elliot filled in.

Though he didn’t know much about the car accident because he was away for a business trip at the time, his gut told him something was out of place.

And as much as he’d like to have it investigated again, there was no new evidence to warrant the case to be reopened.

What was more, Michelle was living a happy life now despite all of the hardships she endured.

That was Elliot's biggest wish for her and he couldn't have asked for a better outcome.

As for how the Greenwoods treated her, the Mills family would neither forgive nor forget.

Now that they were by Michelle's side, they wouldn't let this slide.

"One way or another, we will make them pay for how they treated Michelle" Elliot clenched his fist as he thought vengefully.

"Grandma, I'm still puzzled. I can't wrap my head around this twisted past,"

Michelle complained as her forehead creased deeper in confusion. She had a lot of questions left unanswered, so many thoughts she couldn't express.

Seeing her granddaughter in distress, Angie hugged Michelle and comforted her.

"Honey, let's stop here for the meantime. We have all the time in the world to make sense of the past. Let's deal with the present and have dinner first, okay? Jane cooked your favorite food."

While stroking Michelle's hair, Angie winked at Claire to signal her to get going.

Claire stood up promptly and pulled Michelle from the seat.

"Chelle, there's no need to rush. We're with you every step of the way. What's more important is to take care of your health," she reminded her niece gently.

Michelle knew that Angie and Claire only wanted what was best for her so she nodded obediently.

Inside her mind was a different story though.

Thoughts overlapped and raced in her head.

'Was the divorce agreement between Sherry and my father finalized? Did my mother Belinda pass away as the legal Mrs. Greenwood or was she still the other woman until her last breath?' Michelle kept mulling over these questions and she didn't know if she would ever find the right answers.

Michelle was lost in a sea of her own thoughts when she went to the dinner table.

Angie saw that pain and confusion were still etched on Michelle's face so she took her granddaughter's hand, hoping to ward off any negative thoughts.

She guided her to sit next to David and exclaimed, "Michelle, it's about time that you call him grandpa. We've been looking forward to this day for a decade already!"

Michelle raised her head slowly with tears brimming her eyes.

After some encouragement from Angie, she turned to look at David who was in tears himself.

Acceptance and forgiveness were reflected in his damp eyes.

Michelle rose from her seat and stretched out her arms to embrace her grandfather.

She finally had the chance to utter what should have been said all those years ago.

In Michelle's voice was a silent apology as she whispered emotionally, "Grandpa..."

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Always There: Win My Ex-wife Back, Chapter 52: I Divorced Gerard

"Chelle!"

As tears streamed down David's cheeks, he nodded vigorously and reached out with his trembling hands to caress his granddaughter's face.

For over ten years, the old man had missed the opportunity to hear her call him Grandpa.

Now that she finally said it, he felt that his whole life hadn't been in vain.

"My dear Chelle. It's all my fault."

David cried copiously as he spoke.

Although he used to be a big shot in politics, now, in front of Michelle, he wasn't a frightening and arrogant man.

He was just a grandfather who deeply loved his granddaughter.

Sitting next to each other, David and Michelle smiled through tears.

Once they saw this, everyone in the room immediately breathed a sigh of relief.

They had been worried that the stubborn old man wouldn't accept his granddaughter again.

But as it seemed, everything worked out.

“Oh, don’t cry, Chelle. Here, have some of your favorite spareribs.”

Claire looked affectionately at her niece and served her bowl.

The next moment, she did the same with her father-in-law and said, “Dad, Chelle loves spareribs as much as you do, especially the fried ones. I guess we can say that she took after you.”

The entire room promptly burst into laughter.

The tense atmosphere had finally dissipated.

At this moment, David also put various delicious food in Michelle’s bowl, which soon turned into a high pile.

Nevertheless, she was happy.

This was just one more piece of evidence that her grandparents still loved her.

All the wrongs in the past could finally be put behind them.

“Chelle, I heard from your aunt that you married a man named Gerard, right?”

Angie was slightly worried about the young woman’s love life.

After all, this was a subject which most women were often concerned about.

Michelle nodded.

Before she came today, she had decided to tell her uncle and aunt the truth, so she said, “In fact, I divorced Gerard a short time ago.”

“What? Divorced?”

Elliot was clearly the most shocked one at the news. As Michelle’s uncle, he had never seen Gerard and seldom heard his niece mention him before.

Now she told them that they had already divorced. How could he not be surprised?

“What happened?”

Claire asked. She couldn’t help but worry about Michelle as well. She knew that her marriage to Gerard was concealed from the outside world and only family members were aware of it, but why did they get divorced? Wasn’t it a hasty decision? Angie and David, in turn, weren’t anywhere near as surprised as Elliot and Claire.

Yet their faces still showed obvious signs of concern.

They wouldn't simply tolerate anyone who hurt their dear granddaughter.

"Grandpa, Grandma, Uncle, and Aunt, don't worry. Just let me finish, please."

Seeing how much her family cared about her, Michelle was deeply touched.

"Marrying Gerard was a total mistake. I did it because the Greenwoods asked me to. Besides, Gerard wanted to keep the marriage a secret, which at first didn't make much sense, but at least I knew why he married me."

"Why?"

Claire remembered that the Greenwoods had several daughters who were older than Michelle.

If age had been their criteria, her niece wouldn't have been chosen to marry Gerard.

She also wasn't the most loved family member there, so why would an orphan be favored in this matter, especially among people as snobbish as the Greenwoods? However, one thing was certain, if Michelle were of no use to the Greenwoods, they wouldn't have raised her in the first place.

"Gerard is actually a quite smart guy. He knew that the Greenwoods didn't hold me in high regard, so he agreed to marry me. If he had chosen either Jolie or Paula, it would have been impossible to keep his marriage hidden from the outside world as he wanted. Also, it wouldn't be so easy to divorce them."

4/5 - (1 vote)

Always There: Win My Ex-wife Back, Chapter 53: A Marriage of Mutual Interest

Michelle's voice sounded as calm as if she were talking about something that happened to someone else instead of her.

As they heard this, people at the table felt angry and odd.

"Chelle, are you saying that Gerard married you on purpose?"

Claire wanted to confirm if she heard it right. If so, Michelle was used and then discarded. She nodded.

"I'm not the Greenwoods' favorite person. In the face of a great suitor such as Gerard, they wouldn't choose me over Jolie and Paula to marry him."

“So Gerard married you because you were the most convenient person to his goal. Since he was aware that you weren’t important to the Greenwoods, once he realized they were of no use to him, he could divorce you, knowing that they wouldn’t do anything to help you, right?”

Elliot summed it up. Before Michelle could answer, David thumped the table angrily.

“Humph! This Roberts’ brat! Does he think that my granddaughter is someone who he can marry and divorce without any respect? He then underestimated the Mills family!”

Although it had just been a few minutes since David accepted Michelle as his granddaughter, he didn’t hesitate to back her up.

Seeing the old man’s reaction, everyone in the room laughed, relieved that he finally let go of the past.

“Grandpa, calm down. There’s no need to be angry. I bet this was a marriage of mutual interest. Chelle must have had her reasons for marrying Gerard too. Otherwise, she wouldn’t have allowed herself to be used, would she?”

A sudden voice cut into the room.

As everyone turned, they saw a handsome young man in a gray suit. He walked in with a smile, which formed two cute dimples, one on each side of his face, just like Michelle’s.

His tanned skin particularly glowed under the lights, making him even more attractive to look at.

“Moore!”

Michelle had remained close to her three cousins since childhood and had never lost contact with them, especially the eldest one.

Despite the constant smile on his face, Moore Mills was more sensitive than his two other brothers. He could always tell what was on Michelle’s mind.

Stretching out his arms, he gave her a warm hug.

Then he pinched her nose affectionately and said in a soft tone, “Little girl, you’ve grown even more beautiful in these past few months we haven’t seen each other.”

“I’ll always be the most beautiful girl in your eyes!”

In front of Moore, Michelle never shied away from acting like a naughty, spoiled little girl.

“And a big mouth too from what I can see!”

As Michelle pulled him, Moore sat at the table and greeted the elders, “Hello, Grandpa, Grandma, Mom, and Dad. Why didn’t you call me and my brothers and tell us Michelle was coming for dinner?”

“As if it’s easy to get you on the phone. I can’t believe you’re even here! Every time I call, you’re busy. If one day I want to see you, what should I do? Make an appointment with your secretary?”

Claire complained as her eyes remained fixed on Moore.

Even though her three sons weren’t teenagers anymore, they weren’t considerate towards their parents’ wishes.

Elliot and Claire were getting old and all they wanted at that moment was to have grandchildren.

However, the three men kept showing up with new love affairs in the news every day instead of bringing actual daughters-in-law home to meet them.

5/5 - (1 vote)

Always There: Win My Ex-wife Back, Chapter 54: Michelle's Filial Piety

Always There: Win My Ex-wife Back, Chapter 54: Michelle's Filial Piety

“Well, Aunt Claire, don’t admonish Moore anymore. He’s back now, isn’t he?” Michelle defended Moore with an easy smile.

“Oh, my Chelle. You can’t always defend him. He might get used to having his way.”

Claire pretended to be angry as she tapped on Michelle’s nose gently. How could she be mad at her loving niece?

“Well, mom, Michelle told you she divorced Gerard. Actually, I already knew about it even before,” Moore admitted to his family.

Michelle gasped in shock at his unexpected words.

“How did you find out?”

Meanwhile, several pairs of eyes stared at Moore in surprise and interest, all of them encouraging him to continue. Moore nodded, took a sip of water, and recounted the past events.

“You heard it right. I came across the Greenwoods in a hotel a few days ago. I overheard them talking about it. And I also found out that they were planning to marry our Chelle to a forty-year-old man, whose wife has passed away!”

Moore grew angrier the more he thought about it.

If he hadn't accompanied his clients to dinner that day, he wouldn't have heard what the Greenwoods was scheming, nor would he have learned that Michelle was divorced.

What enraged him the most was that they were still trying to take advantage of Michelle by marrying her off to a man who was old enough to be her father.

The whole Greenwoods would stop at nothing to cause harm and it was good timing that Moore had his entire family, including Michelle, in the house to discuss it.

“When exactly did you hear about this? Were you aware of it too, Chelle?” David asked in a voice full of concern.

The Greenwoods had gone too far this time.

They treated Michelle as if they owned her and made her do whatever they pleased, regardless of her happiness! They couldn't let this go on any further.

The Mills family would do whatever was needed to protect Michelle.

Upon realizing what Moore's story meant, Angie felt her anger rise to a fever pitch.

She was willing to march to the Greenwood's house right at that moment to fight them for her granddaughter's sake.

“Chelle, tell us exactly what that awful family has done to you. We will do our best to make them pay!” she exclaimed as her eyes burned with suppressed rage.

“Grandpa, grandma, listen to me.” Michelle looked around her family as she spoke calmly.

She really appreciated their care and love for her, but she didn't want them to have unnecessary conflicts with the Greenwoods so she decided to come clean and tell them the truth.

“It's a two-way street since I also used Gerard. At the back of my mind, I already expected that he would divorce me shortly after we got married. Since I was just a dispensable p**n to the Greenwoods, they wouldn't care if we got divorced. It would only mean I can get away from their control without so much fuss,” Michelle shared matter-of-factly.

“Sure enough, when Gerard got the approval he was waiting for, he filed for divorce and I agreed willingly. It was generous of him to provide me a hefty amount of alimony. What I didn't expect was that Clay was planning to marry me off to the old man Dustin,” she continued to explain and she looked up to her relatives to see their reaction.

“Chelle, why did you have to resort to that? Is that how you think of marriage, a mere game that you can call for a timeout when one of you was done? You and Gerard were brought up from different backgrounds. Why are you foolishly willing to be used by the Greenwoods? If you have any difficulty with money, you could let us know and we will help you through it,” Claire cried out in reply.

She didn't expect to hear those words from Michelle and it was heartbreaking to learn the truth.

“Why is she so stubborn? Why did she let those people use her? Didn't she value herself enough?” Claire still wanted to voice out these questions but she chose to keep them to herself.

Michelle shook her head gently to disagree.

“Aunt Claire, I have no difficulty at all and I didn't do it to repay the Greenwoods for raising me either. Everything I did was for my mother. In fact, Clay promised me that if I married Gerard, he would acknowledge her as their daughter-in-law. This way, my mother's remains could be buried together with my father's in the ancestral tomb of the family!” Michelle finished her side of the story.

If she could go back, she would do it all over again to honor her mom.

5/5 - (1 vote)

Always There: Win My Ex-wife Back, Chapter 55: A Call From George

“But after I married Gerard, Clay didn't keep his promise. I don't know why, but by hearing you mention Sherry just now, I think she might have something to do with him going back on his word.”

“Oh, you silly girl!”

As women, Angie and Claire could understand why Michelle would go to such lengths to fulfill her mother's wish.

The two sighed, feeling pity for her innocence.

“Chelle, that old fox tricked you!” Moore shook his head disapprovingly.

Michelle didn't mind his words.

Everyone was entitled to their own beliefs, and she believed in persistence.

Therefore, she would do anything in her power to bury her mother beside her father so that Belinda could rest in peace.

David and Elliot, who had been silent this whole time, exchanged glances and fell into deep thought.

The other few people at the table didn't notice the somber expression on the men's faces.

After dinner, Moore insisted on dragging Michelle to his room to chat.

Unable to resist him, she gave in.

"Michelle, Jared came back, right?" he asked unexpectedly.

"Yes," she replied softly but would never forget his indifference and disregard for her that day in the Greenwood's house.

At the same time, Jared's affection for Lynn was vividly visible, leaving a deep scar in her heart.

"And what about Lynn?"

At the thought of Jared, it was inevitable not to think of Lynn.

Back when they were studying abroad, they kept in touch, but in reality, Moore couldn't stand Lynn's pretense and hated to look at Jared's face.

He was more or less aware of how things ended between Michelle and him, knowing that the latter had abandoned her to leave the country with the other woman.

Taking a pillow, Michelle lay on the bed.

She wanted to scream as she thought, 'Who can save me from having this conversation now? In contrast to what he looks like, Moore is a real gossip! "She came back with him," she replied.

"Did they get married?"

Michelle sat up in bed and shook her head.

"No, they got engaged a few years ago and returned to hold a wedding ceremony now."

“Chelle, how about I send you on a trip abroad to relax a little? Tell me, where would you like to go? What do you think of France? It’s such a romantic country. My little brother loves it. Otherwise, why would he be so reluctant to come back, right? I’m certain that you’ll meet your Mr. Right in France!”

Although he acted like a gossipy woman, he still cared about his dear cousin. He loved her since she was a child.

Now that she had been wronged, he had to do something to comfort her.

“I don’t want to go!” Michelle pouted.

Noticing that the phone on the bedside table kept flickering, she glanced at the caller ID and saw George’s name on it. She had no idea why he would call her so late.

At first, she wondered if it could be an emergency, but on second thought, she realized her job wasn’t required in the emergency room.

After considering it for a while, she decided to pick it up anyway.

“Hello? What’s wrong?”

Michelle glanced at her cousin, who was looking back at her ambiguously.

“Hey, Michelle! I just wanted to remind you about the Roberts Enterprise’s dance party tomorrow night.”

Although this was just an excuse, George made it sound casual.

God knew how much he missed this girl.

All he wanted at that moment was to hear her voice and see her face.

“Actually, I’m not going.”

Despite George’s kind reminder, Michelle refused him without hesitation.

Her plans for tomorrow night included going to bed early and not attending a party held by Gerard.

Besides, Paula and Jolie would also be there, and seeing those two would only make her sick.

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