

## Chapter 1491

“But I didn’t let you trust your instinct. Why do you trust me if you don’t know me well enough, and I’ve never done anything to help you trust me?”

Elaine took a deep breath.

“Have you opened up to me?” Ian looked at her.

“It’s not too late yet.”

Elaine paused because she didn’t know what she could learn about him, so she hesitated.

“You will answer no matter what I ask?”

Ian fell silent for a moment.

“It depends.”

“If you’re just toying with me, then I’m going to leave.”

She had a temper too.

Elaine put down the cup and got up to leave.

Ian grabbed her by her arm, which made her stumble and fall into his arms, frozen.

Ian put his arm around her waist, and she could feel the warmth. She pressed her palms to his chest and started to feel hotter through her hands. She couldn’t look up at him.

Ian gulped and froze too.

Elaine took a peek at him.

He had two buttons undone, it was late autumn, and the air conditioning was turned on, but he looked like he was sweating. She started burning up too.

“I’ll lower the temperature.”

She got up, but Ian pulled her back into his arms.

“It’s not the air conditioning.”

“What—”

She stopped mid-sentence and didn’t continue.

Even if she had never experienced this, she wasn’t dumb! Ian rested his chin on her shoulder while breathing heavily and smiled.

“Stay here. It’ll be fine.”

Elaine’s face turned even redder, but he was very good at calming himself down.

However, Elaine couldn’t calm down because his breath surrounded her, seducing her. Her lips were dry.

“Do you want to let go of me first?”

Ian said, “You need to get used to it sooner or later.”

“If you continue hugging me, I’m afraid that...I might”

“Might what?”

His voice sounded right next to her ear, and his breath brushed her neck, making her shudder.

Elaine chuckled.

“What else could happen between a man and woman? I might not be able to control myself.”

Ian smiled widely as he leaned closer to her neck.

“We’ve already come so far.”

She immediately changed her tone, “I was just joking.”

Ian let go of her, and she scooted back into her seat and thought that it was time to leave.

“I need to go.”

Elaine got up and walked to the door.

Ian’s voice came from behind.

“I’ll pick you up tonight.”

“What for?” Ian smiled.

“What do you want to do?”

Elaine choked.

“Dinner.”

He leaned back.

“Anything you want.”

Elaine didn’t stop walking.

After getting out, she slapped herself for not thinking before speaking.

After it got quiet indoors, Ian looked up at the ceiling, his chest heaving.

It took a while to calm down.

Elaine had said she might not be able to control herself, but he was the one who was going to lose control.

He had underestimated her influence.

Nicholas’ birthday dinner was the next night.

Waylon was on the flight back while Colton and Daisy picked up their grandfather's birthday present.

Once they left school, they asked the driver to bring them to the mall.

"How about a parrot?"

Daisy pointed at the huge smart-looking parrot standing in the rack in the yard.

Colton squinted while he walked toward it.

The parrot tilted its head, looked at him, flapped its wings, and chirped happily, "Big spender, big spender."

Chapter 1492

Daisy laughed while Colton's lips curled.

"This little thing is obsessed with money."

The owner of the store walked out and laughed.

"Hello, little patrons. Are you interested in our Big Spender?"

"That's its name?"

That was such a silly name! The pet store owner's smile widened.

"Yes, didn't it introduce itself to you? It's called Big Spender."

Daisy and Colton's lips curled.

Daisy walked toward the parrot, smiled, and waved.

"Hello, Big Spender."

The parrot flapped its wings.

"It's great to be a Big Spender."

She laughed, then turned to ask the owner, "Can it say a lot of words?"

"Of course. It's a smart bird and will learn if you teach it."

Daisy thought that it was amazing, so she looked at the parrot and said, "Happy birthday Grandpa."

The parrot tilted its head, "Happy birthday Grandpa."

Daisy chuckled, ran to Colton, and tugged at his arm.

"I want it."

Colton nodded and looked at the pet store owner.

"We'll take it."

The owner laughed.

“Great!”

After paying, the bodyguards walked behind them with the parrot in a cage.

Daisie saw Zephir walking out of a coffee shop nearby. She ran over to greet him.

“Zeph!”

Zephir stood in front of the car and smiled when he saw Daisie walking over.

“Daisie, why are you here?”

She replied, “I’m here to get my grandfather a birthday present.”

Zephir looked toward the bodyguard who was holding the parrot in the cage.

“A parrot?”

“Yes, my grandfather probably feels bored, so we found someone to speak to him.”

“That sounds great.”

Daisie chatted with Zephir and seemed to have lost track of time.

Colton stood behind her with his hands in his pockets, rushing her.

“Are we leaving?”

Daisie looked back.

“A little bit longer.”

Colton looked at his watch.

“You get one minute.”

Zephir smiled and looked at Daisie.

“You should go with your brother.”

“Alright, bye then.”

She waved.

Zephir watched as they got in the car and left before getting into his car.

The woman in the car with sunglasses chuckled and said, “Oh, is that your little girlfriend?”

Zephir looked back and smiled.

“A lot of free time on your hands, Violet?”

“Haha, you’re getting less adorable now that you’re older.”

Violet Lovegood opened up her mirror and reapplied her lipstick.

“You should focus on your studies at your age. Don’t get into a relationship yet.” Zephir smiled.

“You should focus on yourself. You’re married, yet your mother is still worried about you.”

She snapped her mirror shut and looked at him.

“Don’t speak to me like you’re an adult. Do you think I wanted to get married?”

She wasn’t interested in a marriage of convenience, but she had to marry the useless Jackie Clifford.

They had been married for three years, but Jackie had been treating her badly all this time.

She didn’t want any of that. She wouldn’t have stayed if it weren’t because her father had given the order. She could no longer live with that, so she finally came to Bassburgh to stay with her mother’s family.

Zephir looked down.

A marriage of convenience was all about getting benefits through marriage.

It was to elevate the status of both families and had little to no love involved.

If he had to get into a similar situation with a woman that he didn’t love, he might just be as repulsed as his cousin.

Chapter 1493

But if Zephir liked the woman, he might just accept it.

Violet leaned closer to ask, “By the way, the girl is from an affluent family, right?”

Zephir’s lips moved.

“She’s the daughter of Mr. Nolan Goldmann.”

“Mr. Goldmann’s daughter! ?”

Something came to Violet’s mind, then her face dropped, and she cursed, “F\*ck!”

Weren’t they cousins of the Cliffords? At the Goldmann mansion... When the parrot was brought in, Nolan started getting a headache because it got too rowdy. He rubbed the bridge of his nose.

“Your grandfather’s birthday is tomorrow. Don’t you think it’s noisy to bring it back so soon?”

“You’re the one who thinks it’s noisy. I think it’s fine, right, Big Spender?”

The parrot hopped in the cage.

“Big Spender isn’t noisy.”

Daisie was elated.

Maisie walked down from upstairs and chuckled.

“Big Spender? The pet store owner is really good at naming.”

The parrot flapped its wings happily.

“Pretty lady!”

Maisie paused and laughed out loud.

“This little thing is really smart.”

Nolan’s face dropped.

‘Pretty lady?’ What was that little thing thinking about? Maisie walked to the cage and tickled its chin.

The parrot enjoyed it and started chirping.

Nolan took a deep breath, walked to Maisie, and pulled her into his arms.

“This is my wife.”

“My wife, my wife!”

The parrot chirped happily.

Nolan wanted to defeather it then and there.

Maisie laughed and turned back to look at Nolan.

“Why are you annoyed by a parrot?”

He rested his chin on her shoulder and leaned in.

“It’s a male parrot.”

Maisie was rendered speechless.

Daisie and Colton looked at each other.

They had lost their appetite.

As the night grew dark, the neon lights of Bassburgh Harbor lit up from the south to the north.

The lights blinked and shone into the car windows.

Elaine lowered the window to let the cool night air blow in.

She looked at the skyscrapers on the other side, which seemed to be covered in golden flakes that reflected on the water.

“You brought me here for the view?”

She looked back at Ian in the driver’s seat.

His hand was on the steering wheel.

“Do you like the view here?” She paused.

“Quite.”

Ian turned to look at her.

“What do you think about moving here?”

“You want to move out?” asked Elaine.

He nodded.

“I’ve thought about it.”

She looked away.

“There’s no need to tell me that you’re moving.”

Ian put his arm behind her and leaned in with a smile.

“If we get married, do you plan to make me stay with your parents? “

“Do you think that’s a good idea?”

Elaine’s heart skipped a beat because he was so close she could hear him breathe.

She looked down and said quietly, “I’m not sure if I’m going to really marry you yet.”

Ian’s finger brushed her cheek, startling her.

When she turned around, he kissed her.

His kiss drew her in deeply, and the warmth almost made her melt.

Elaine couldn’t help but put her arms around his back.

The neon lights outside made everything more beautiful.

Ian placed his palm on the side of her neck, his eyes burning with desire.

The face in his palm started to look clearer, and this time, there was no double vision.

It was all Elaine.

After a moment, they both pulled away.

Elaine’s cheeks flared up, and she didn’t know where to look.

Chapter 1494

Elaine looked at Ian from the corner of her eyes and saw that he unbuttoned two buttons and lowered the window down more.

The breeze that blew in messed up his dark hair.

Ian was holding back more than her.

Elaine bit her lip.

“Are you not interested in me?” Ian paused and turned to look at her.

“What do you mean?”

Elaine looked down. She didn't think she needed to be shy because she was no longer a little girl.

"You kissed me because you wanted to confirm our relationship, but if you're not interested in me, I don't think we should get married because I can't be sleeping in the same bed with my husband and doing nothing."

After Elaine said that, she sounded as if she was more excited than he was? Ian was quiet for a moment, then laughed.

His laughter was clear in the quiet carriage.

Elaine glared at him.

"Why are you laughing?"

He was still laughing.

"You meant interest in that way."

After he said that, his eyes fixed on her face.

"I'm a normal man. What do you think?"

It meant that he had intentions.

While she zoned out a little, Ian's hand brushed her cheek, and his eyes filled with desire when he looked at her, but deep inside, there was a glimpse of loneliness.

He ran his finger across the corner of her lips.

"I don't want you to think that you're the same as the rest of the women."

They were different.

She was clean and innocent, while he was dark and dirty.

He had to work with greedy women like his mother because of his missions and had to pretend and use them.

He didn't feel sorry for them because they would do anything just to get riches and benefits.

All those years when he was undercover, he had seen what was hidden in the corners of the beautiful world.

The men would do whatever they wanted when they had status and power and treated women like toys and tools.

However, the women enjoyed being tamed by money and sacrificed everything to get that in return.

He had tried to bring the women struggling in the dark crevices to light after his missions, but they would fall back into their old habits.

They were used to sacrificing something to get what they wanted.

That was why he never felt sorry for the women he manipulated.



Elaine was surprised.

After a long time, she looked at him and slowly said, "Can I ask about you and Mrs. Boucher?"

Ian froze.

Elaine looked down.

"I just wanted to understand more. It's alright if you don't feel like talking. I won't force it."

Ian leaned back into his seat and looked into the bright lights from the buildings.

"We...never had a thing."

Elaine was startled.

"Because of who you were?"

He nodded.

"On top of that, she was also the daughter of my mentor, Michael Chase."

Elaine leaned in closer and asked, "But if you both had feelings for each other, couldn't you overcome all the obstacles? Why didn't you end up together?"

Ian fell silent for some time, his eyes glistening.

"Just because we had feelings for each other doesn't mean we would end up together. We missed our chance, and it was meant to be that way."

"Let me tell you a story."

Before that, he had been undercover carrying out a secret mission.

He met Barbara, and they fell for each other but never crossed that line because of who they both were.

Chapter 1495

Ian didn't want to get Barbara involved.

But on the day he was carrying out his mission, Barbara's half-sister, Katrina, was there, and Katrina told him that Barbara had been taken away.

He was afraid she would be dragged into danger, so he searched for her in the club even though it might expose his identity.

Unfortunately, he didn't go in and check who the woman they had caused to get drunk was in the private room.

Katrina knew where she was and called him away, but they didn't know he had missed his best chance of saving her.

Missing that chance led to them ultimately missing their chance to be together, and he would never get the chance to undo the mistake. He missed the chance to save her, which was why she was harmed.

Thus, he lost the right to love her.

Elaine was shocked, but she couldn't help but put out her hand and place it on her cold hand when she saw how sorry he was.

"That wasn't your fault." Ian was stunned and looked at her.

"Do you really think it's not my fault?" She looked down.

"Even though I don't know the exact situation, it's not possible for you to always make the right move." Ian looked at her in silence.

After a moment, she retracted her hand.

"I'm sorry. Even though I don't have the right to comment about this as an outsider, I don't think you should blame yourself. That's all.

"Because you did search for her, you just didn't know that the woman in the room was Barbara. You didn't want to miss the chance to save her and were tricked into leaving. She was a victim, but so were you."

Ian smiled a little.

"But I couldn't accept that I misjudged the situation. How could I protect others if I couldn't even protect her?"

"Did you resign from the ministry because of her?"

He didn't answer.

The silence confirmed it.

Ian might have resigned because he didn't love power, but he loved his job and had overcome a lot.

Still, his error in judgment had caused him to fail to save Barbara.

He had high expectations for himself and respect for the job, so he might have resigned because of that.

Elaine took a deep breath and looked out the window.

"No one has a perfect life, and everyone makes mistakes. You made one mistake, resigned, and gave up on your future. Isn't that enough? Do you still need to keep all those mistakes in your mind?"

Ian's hand on the steering wheel tightened.

The next day...

Elaine zoned out during the meeting. She didn't know if she was being nosy and commenting about what had happened as an outsider.

He must have thought she was pathetic.

She really didn't understand him.

"Ms. Xavier."

The colleague next to her nudged her. She immediately snapped back and saw the director of J Tech looking at her.

“Ms. Xavier, you rarely zone out during meetings.”

She nodded a little to correct her mistake.

“I’m sorry for disrupting the meeting.”

“It’s fine. You’re doing well. Since this is your first offense, I’ll let you off, but please focus next time.”

Chapter 1496

“Thank you for your reminder.”

After the meeting was dismissed, Elaine’s secretary walked up to her and asked, “Are you all right, Ms. Xavier?”

Elaine shook her head and smiled.

“I’m fine.”

“You seem distracted. Did you have a fight with your fiancée?” asked her secretary.

Elaine froze and lowered her head.

Things would have been easier if they were only having a fight.

She did not even know what had happened between them this time.

Neither of them talked when Ian sent her back home last night.

The atmosphere in the car had been awkward, and she was certain that he thought she did not understand him at all.

Looking at the troubled expression on her face, her secretary comforted her.

“Actually, both of you just need to sit down and talk everything out. If you refuse to communicate, no one will know what’s on your mind.”

Elaine let out a bitter smile and said, “What if he gets even angrier after I tell him everything?”

Her secretary was stunned.

“Is your fiancée such a petty-minded man? What is it about that would make him angry after you told him?”

Elaine pressed her lips tightly and said, “It’s not his problem. M-Maybe I’m just being nosy.”

Her secretary was even more confused.

“You’re his fiancée, so isn’t it normal that you want to know more about him? It would be abnormal if you didn’t care about him at all.”

Elaine returned to her office and massaged her temples on her chair.

Suddenly, she chuckled at herself.

They were just having a marriage of convenience.

However, she was the one who fell in love with Ian.

They had said they wouldn't interfere with each other's private life, but she was the one who poked her nose into his stuff.

Even though Ian treated her sincerely after she inadvertently took the stab for him, at the end of the day, she still couldn't replace Barbara's position in his heart.

Even if he felt that he owed her something, she was certain that he felt he owed Barbara even more.

Suddenly, she received a text message from Lucy.

[Sis, my mom told me to remind you not to forget to attend Mr. Goldmann Sr's birthday party.]

'Mr. Goldmann Sr's birthday party, huh?' Elaine frowned.

'The Bouchers and the Goldmanns have a great relationship. Does this mean that Barbara will be there as well?' Just as she expected, all of the Bouchers were at Nicholas' birthday party.

The Goldmanns did not invite a lot of people, and most of them were their close friends.

The Hannigans, the Bouchers, and the Lucases...

Most of the prestigious families in the city had come to his birthday party.

It was Nicholas's birthday.

His face was full of smiles, and he was in high spirits since his son, daughter-in-law, and grandchildren were with him.

"I heard that Mr. Goldmann Sr's daughter-in-law prepared the birthday party. He treats her like his own daughter."

"Well, his daughter-in-law has given him three grandchildren. Not only is she smart and talented, but Mr. Goldmann loves her to the core. Now the Goldmanns have three heirs, and you can see from the fact that he adores his daughter-in-law when he allowed Mr. Goldmann's daughter to carry her mother's surname."

All of the guests were envious of Maisie.

When Maisie first married Nolan, everyone in Bassburgh thought she did not deserve Nolan.

After all, most of the women who married into rich families did not lead happy lives.

They only got married because of their family status and the benefits they would gain from the marriage.

However, not only was Maisie a pretty woman, but she was also talented and had brought a lot of fortune to Nolan.

It went without saying that Nicholas would adore her from the bottom of his heart.

What's more, Nolan spent all his time on his wife after being married for so many years.

He did not have any scandals with any women, nor did he make his wife worry about him.

Not many men in Bassburgh could do that to their wives like him.

Elaine followed the Xaviers and walked around.

She looked at those couples, as well as Lucy and Hector, and a surge of sadness erupted from the bottom of her heart.

Edward led them toward Nicholas to give him birthday gifts.

Nicholas was happy tonight, treating all the guests with great enthusiasm.

Chapter 1497

Barbara followed beside Helios when they went around talking to the guests.

When she turned her head around, her gaze met with Elaine's.

Elaine froze for a moment, but she still nodded at her out of courtesy.

Barbara said something to Helios, and he nodded.

After that, she put down her glass and walked toward Elaine.

"Ms.Xavier."

Elaine was stunned.

She looked at Barbara and asked, "Is there anything I can help you with, Mrs.Boucher?"

Barbara smiled and asked, "Can I have a second with you?"

Elaine hesitated for a few seconds before nodding.

"Alright."

Soon, they walked into the courtyard.

Maisie and Ryleigh saw this.

After Ryleigh had given birth to her child, she and Louis had been living with her parents in Stoslo, and she only came back recently.

Therefore, she did not know anything that happened at all.

"Who is that woman?"

Maisie pressed her lips against the rim of the glass and chuckled.

"The eldest daughter of the Xaviers.Well, there's some story between her and Barbara."

"What kind of story? Did I miss something?"

Ryleigh pressed on.

“You missed a lot of things.”

Ryleigh pouted.

Maisie was right. She had missed too many things.

Pearl and Tanner had gotten married and had a baby.

Maisie’s cousin had become the boss of Zestar and was in a relationship with Lucy.

Meanwhile, in the courtyard...

Barbara and Elaine stood beside the fountain.

Unlike the lively atmosphere in the building, it was cold and quiet here.

“Mrs. Boucher, if you want to say anything, just say it.”

She could handle everything that she told her.

“Don’t get me wrong. I don’t mean anything.”

Barbara pressed her lips and chuckled when she saw how nervous Elaine was.

“I just want to talk to you.”

Elaine lowered her head and replied, “I didn’t get it wrong.”

“When I went to look for Ian last time, I just wanted to talk to him.”

Elaine looked at her in confusion and asked, “Why are you telling me this?”

“He’s your fiance, so you have the right to know about it.”

Elaine turned her head to look at the ripples on the water and did not say anything.

Looking at her, Barbara continued.

“I just don’t want to cause you any trouble because of me. The things between him and me are already in the past. My heart belongs to Helios now.”

Elaine nodded.

“I know...”

Then, she remembered something and lowered her head in dejection, “We didn’t get together because we love each other. I don’t know him well, and I only realize that I can’t replace your place in her heart after knowing more about him.”

Elaine chuckled upon saying that.

“He only wanted to start a relationship with me because he felt that he should be responsible for my injury. I know how much I weigh in his heart.”

'For him, I'm nothing"

Barbara was stunned.

"Are you sure about that?"

Elaine looked at Barbara.

"Is it not?"

Barbara laughed.

"Did he tell that to you himself?"

Elaine was stunned and shook her head.

Ian had never said anything like that before.

It was all nothing but her speculation.

"Since he didn't say anything like that, how do you know how much you weigh in his heart?"

Barbara sighed.

"The last time I talked to him, I asked him what he thought of you."

Elaine clenched her fist tightly.

She wanted to know his answer, but at the same time, she did not want to know about it. She was torn.

Barbara could see her struggle and said, "He told me that he doesn't hate you."

She mumbled, "What kind of answer is that?"

"Honestly, it's considered a good answer from him."

Elaine was stunned again.

Chapter 1498

Barbara stood beside her and continued.

"His distrust of women stems from the fact that he had a greedy mother. His birth wasn't honorable. His mother gave birth to him behind Mr. Saldana's back because she wanted to use him as a bargaining chip to get herself a good life. He's an illegitimate son.

After being rejected by Mr. Saldana, his mother pushed all the blame and responsibility on him.

"His childhood life is rougher than anyone in the world. Even a beggar has a better life than him, and what he has experienced is something we have never experienced before. If he hadn't met my father, he might not have lived until today, or he would've gone down the wrong path.

"I used to be unaware of his identity as an undercover agent, and I did not know how dangerous the mission he carried out was. As such, his unceremonious departure left me very upset and heartbroken.

“It was not until several years ago that I learned he felt guilty about me because of what happened to me.

He couldn't bring himself to face me and his own mistakes, so he chose not to see me.

He has been living in remorse and has even given up on his career.

“His inability to let go of his guilt for me is the same as my disappointment at his sudden disappearance. Our relationship didn't even blossom. Since there's no beginning, there's no end either.

It's just a nostalgic recollection of each other's regrets.

“He isn't the kind of man who would fall in love easily. I'm not exaggerating things, but the women he has seen while an undercover agent are even more than the clothes he's worn. He's abandoned his emotions and shut his heart off for the sake of the mission. The reason he's attracted to me is that I'm the daughter of the one who saved him.”

When Barbara finished talking, she turned her head to look at Elaine.

“Other than me, you're the first woman I've ever heard him say he doesn't hate.”

He had even just taken advantage of her sister, Katrina. He had not had any feelings for her at all.

Elaine remained silent.

She had thought that it was not easy for him to risk his life becoming an undercover agent, but it turned out that it had not been easy for him since he was a child.

Barbara put her hand on her shoulder and continued.

“If you really love him, then don't give up on him.”

Elaine's heart shook.

Barbara returned to the living room, and Maisie walked up to her.

“You two are done speaking?”

“Yeah,” Barbara replied with a smile.

Ryleigh came over and chimed in.

“What are you guys talking about? Hurry up and tell me.”

Barbara pushed her head away and said, “Shoo, shoo, it's none of your business.”

Ryleigh was so sad that she stamped her feet in frustration, “How can you two be so mean? I haven't seen you guys for a few years, and you're sidelining me .”

Both of them chuckled.

Meanwhile, Waylon, Thomas, and Jackie came in.

“My dear son-in-law!”



Nicholas was talking with his friends, and he was stunned.

“Why did you come together?”

He was talking to Waylon.

“Brother!”

When Daisy saw Waylon, she threw herself into his arms and smiled.

“I missed you so much!”

Waylon patted her head fondly and looked at Colton, who was standing beside him.

“I missed you guys too.”

Thomas laughed and said, “I ran into Waylon on the plane, so I brought him to Octavia to spend a day with me before bringing him to celebrate your birthday.”

Nolan nodded and greeted, “Grandpa.”

Thomas patted his shoulder.

“It has been a year.”

Nolan chuckled.

“Yeah.It’s been a year.”

Nicholas looked at Waylon and asked, “How about your great grandfather?”

“He is still in Yaramoor,” replied Waylon.

“He couldn’t make it in time, so he asked me to bring you a present.”

“What a shameless old man.It seems to me that he won’t leave the Hathaways until he achieves his goal.”

Nicholas harrumphed.

“Well, you reap what you sow.Judging from what he did to his wife when h e was young, he really deserves it.”

Chapter 1499

They heard that Yorrick and Xyla were expecting a daughter.

The Hathaways had to prepare to welcome the arrival of their daughter, so they couldn’t attend Nicholas’s birthday party.

Nolan looked at Jackie and asked, “I thought you were married? Where’s your wife?”

Jackie’s face sank when he heard Nolan’s question.

Everyone knew that he had married Violet when he returned to Octavia three years ago.

They had had a small wedding in a small outdoor setting and had invited less than 100 guests, keeping a low profile.

The media had been keeping an eye on them before their marriage.

However, Jackie and Violet seldom appeared in public, and even though they were caught on camera by the media, it was either Jackie alone or Violet shopping with her friends.

The media had a lot of speculation about their marriage, but they cleared everyone's doubts by saying that there wasn't any problem in their marriage.

However, no one knew the truth.

Jackie calmed himself down and said, "Something came up, so she went home."

Nicholas chuckled and chimed in.

"It's okay. I'm very happy that everyone can take time to come to my birthday party. If she has something to attend to, we can't force her to come either. After all, everyone's here today to have fun and enjoy themselves."

"Grandpa."

Daisie jumped to Nicholas' side and wrapped her arms around his.

"I have a present for you."

"Really?"

Nicholas looked at her.

"What kind of present have you prepared for me this time?"

Suddenly, the voice of a parrot erupted in the distance.

"Big Spender wishes Grandpa happy birthday."

Saydie brought the parrot over, and it began singing the Birthday Song.

Nicholas was momentarily stunned before he burst into laughter.

"Good, good, good. I like your present very much, Daisie."

The gift that Waylon prepared was rather expensive.

It was a Champlevé Aromatic Oil Burner. Champlevé was an enameling technique or a decorative object made by the champlevé process.

It was a unique, delicate, and exquisite technique that was used in ancient times.

It wouldn't be far-fetched to call it a gorgeous piece of collection.

While everyone was stunned by Waylon's present, some of them mumbled, "Even though he's still young, he isn't ordinary."

“Yeah. I heard that he looks like Mr. Goldman the most among the three kids. I’m sure he’ll become even more outstanding than his father.”

Maisie turned her head to look at Waylon.

Perhaps because Waylon had been training overseas these few years, he was more mature than Colton and Daisy.

He was her kid as well, and she felt sorry for him. He should have grown up under their protection, but he chose to be the one to protect them.

Nolan wrapped his arm around her shoulders and asked, “What’s wrong, Zee?”

“I’m thinking whether Waylon has a hard time since he’s in another country.”

She was his mother, yet she did not carry out her responsibility to take care of him.

As such, she felt that she owed him something.

Nolan grabbed her into his arms and said, “It’s better for him to train himself early since he’ll have an easier time later after he grows up. Besides, it’s good for him to be independent early too.”

Disengaging from parental help was not bad for the child.

At least, it would give the kid a better perception of how the world worked.

If the kids stayed with their parents, the parents would always help them solve their problems, this would create a wrong impression for them that the world would always be kind to them.

However, kids had to grow up one day, and they had to face their problems themselves.

They would get crushed easily when they realized that the world was not what they thought it was.

Although it was tough for Waylon to grow up away from his parents, he had learned a lot of things.

He could basically solve every problem himself, and that was the reason Titus had decided to bring him to Stoslo back then.

Chapter 1500

As for Waylon, they were not very worried about him.

They were certain that he could fend for himself when he had to face the world alone.

The only person they were worried about was Daisy.

That incident with Lisa indeed had given Daisy a huge blow, but the good thing was that she herself had learned from her mistake.

When Quincy came out with the five-layer cake, the kids all went forward to help him.

Daisy put a birthday hat on Nicholas’ head, and he laughed happily.

Maisie felt relieved to see the happy atmosphere between the children and Nicholas.

The birthday party only came to an end very late at night.

Maisie and Nolan stood at the door and sent the guests off one after another.

After that, they returned to the living room.

There were a lot of expensive gifts for Nicholas in the living room, and amongst them, the parrot that Maisie prepared for him stood out the most.

Thomas and Jackie stayed for one night.

Jackie had returned to the guest room while the three kids had gone to play on their own, leaving Thomas to talk with Nicholas on the couch.

Nolan and Maisie sat on the couch and said, "Grandpa, why don't you stay for a few more days?"

"I'd love to, but unfortunately, I still have some business affairs to attend to over there. Jackie can stay here for a few days, though. After all, he has nothing to do right now."

Maisie looked at Thomas and asked, "He has nothing to do? I thought he's already married? Does he not need to take care of his wife?"

Thomas sighed.

"Well, it's kind of complicated."

They had gotten married not because of love but because of the benefits that would bring to their families from the marriage.

They did not have any feelings for each other, so it was difficult for them to get together.

Back then, it was Aaron who had proposed the marriage to him.

At that time, he felt that since both of the families had the same social status and the marriage would help each other to advance further in the industry in Octavia, Thomas had said yes to the proposal.

Honestly, he was rather satisfied with Violet being his daughter-in-law.

She was well-behaved and respected the elders in his family.

The only thing was that she did not have a good reputation in the industry.

Meanwhile, Elaine was drunk due to the amount of wine she consumed at the birthday party.

She leaned on Lucy's shoulder while Lucy held her shoulder.

"Why did you drink so much wine?"

She did not go back with Edward and Jenna.

Instead, she came to sit in Lucy and Hector's car as she did not want to go home.

"You're so noisy. I can drink how much I want, and it's none of your business."

Elaine felt dizzy, and her cheeks were burning because of the rapid blood circulation.

“I’m going to sleep at your place tonight. After all, you’re going next door later.”

Lucy’s face turned red in embarrassment as she placed her hand on her forehead.

“Did something happen between you and Ian?”

Elaine opened her eyes slowly but quickly closed them and ignored Lucy’s question.

Lucy knew she did not want to talk about it, so she did not press on.

When they arrived at the Lakeview Apartment, Elaine’s phone rang.

However, she leaned on Lucy’s shoulder, and it seemed as if she was not going to answer the phone.

Even though Lucy tried to tell her that her phone was ringing, she ignored her.

Lucy thought she had fallen asleep, so she stuck her hand into her purse and pulled her phone out.

The call was from Ian.

She gazed at Elaine and answered the call, “Mr. Saldana, I’m her sister, Lucy.”

Ian was momentarily stunned and frowned.

“Where is your sister?”

“Well...She’s drunk.”

“Where are you?”

Lucy was dumbfounded for a moment before giving him their address.

Hector parked the car below the building.

After turning off the engine, he turned his head and looked at them.

“Is Mr. Saldana coming to pick up your sister?”

Looking at Elaine’s phone, Lucy wasn’t sure either.

“I guess so.”

After all, he hung up the call after asking for their address. She turned her head to look at Elaine.

Although she did not know what had happened between her and Ian, she had a hunch that her sister had gotten drunk because of Ian.

Soon, Ian’s car arrived at the Lakeview Apartment. He was wearing a gray trench coat as he marched toward them.