

Chapter 213 A Strained Relationship

As Gabrielle stood aside with her phone in her hand, she thought of what she could cook for Westley tonight. She called Sophie and asked her to help by preparing the dinner materials. In this way, she wouldn't have to start preparing from scratch even if she came home late.

"Please help me get the ingredients ready for tonight, Sophie. I'll be back home to cook the dinner myself." Gabrielle was quite polite in her request.

"Oh, Miss Jones. Did you just return to Antawood today? Hope you had a good time with Miley in the countryside?" It was obvious that Sophie was happy to know that Gabrielle was back.

It was quite boring for her to stay alone in Half Moon Bay these few days. Gabrielle was very gentle and accessible. She always treated people fairly and never looked down upon servants.

Which was why Sophie was very fond of Gabrielle and it was no wonder that Miley loved her so much.

"I had a great time, Sophie. Grandma was very nice to me. She also took very good care of me." As Gabrielle said this, she recalled the days she spent in the countryside.

Although she was not very happy when Holly was around, she still enjoyed the whole experience.

When Sophie heard what she said, she was very happy on Gabrielle's behalf. "Well, I'm very glad that you're happy, Miss Jones. Are you coming back to the Half Moon Bay tonight?" Sophie asked.

"Yes, I'm coming back. I'm also going to cook dinner tonight myself. Please just help me get the ingredients ready. I'll be back at about five o'clock." Gabrielle decided to tell Sophie the time, in case Sophie didn't know how long she had to get the things ready.

"All right, then. I will prepare the ingredients and wait for you." Sophie happily accepted the task. To her, it was not a task, but something she was willing to do to help Gabrielle.

When Sophie heard that Gabrielle would come back to Half Moon Bay, she was very happy. She had initially thought that Gabrielle was going to stay at the Vineyard Villa.

"Okay. Sophie. I'll see you later," Gabrielle said and hung up the phone.

Gabrielle sat on the chair in the lounge and thought about her encounter with Estelle. She thought about the Johnson family and remembered that Westley said he had just hampered one or two projects in the Johnson Group. 'Does this mean that Benny manipulated the others? I can't believe this. Is he doing this because he's feeling guilty about what Estelle did to Sloane?' she wondered. ①

'But doesn't he think this is too late already? If Sloane ends up not waking up, nothing would still change even if he destroys the Johnson family, ' she thought again.

Why did people always find themselves regretting their actions when it was too late and even when they were in a situation that could not be remedied?

Gabrielle was so absorbed in her

thoughts that she didn't even notice when Wendy was approaching.

"Why do you look so lost, Gabrielle? What are you thinking about?"

When Wendy got closer to Gabrielle, she saw that her daughter was in a daze, and couldn't help but frown.

"Mom, you're here. I've been sitting here for a very long time and I'm feeling a little sleepy. I almost slept off while waiting." Gabrielle stood up quickly and looked at Wendy.

"How careless can you be, Gabrielle? How can you sleep in such a public place with all this noise around you?" Wendy couldn't help but scold Gabrielle.

"It's okay, Mom. Since you're here, let's go shopping first. What exactly do you want to buy for Grandpa?" Gabrielle didn't try to hold Wendy's arm like she usually did, but just smiled at her.

"Let's go and see the jade and the dark-red enameled pottery. You know that he likes to drink tea." Wendy didn't say anything more than that.

Ever since Gabrielle got married to

Westley, the relationship between the two of them had grown further apart. Although they weren't that close in the past, Gabrielle was dependent on Wendy and still tried her best to treat Wendy like her real mother.

But right now, she became very distant.

The gap between the mother and daughter was quite huge this time around, but Wendy didn't intend to fill it up. After all, Gabrielle was sensitive, and once something was bugging her, it would be very difficult to be solved in a short period.

Wendy felt that her daughter must hate her for sacrificing her to protect the Jones family and Bryce especially.

When they went to the orphanage at first, they just wanted to adopt a child. Taking her as the future daughter-in-law of the Jones family wasn't part of their plan. After Wendy gave birth to Bryce, her uterus had to be removed forcefully and as a result, she couldn't have any other child. This was why she had to try to adopt another child. They had adopted Gabrielle so that she could help the Jones family build business connections with a

powerful family through marriage. 5

After all, rich people always wanted to have more children, not because they wanted their children to inherit the family business, but to expand the family's network and also stabilize their economic status.

Gabrielle was chosen to be the sacrificial lamb right from the beginning and as if by colossal accident, she was forced to get married to Westley. At first, Wendy thought that Gabrielle just had to marry a man whose family was as strong as the Jones family. She didn't even dare to imagine that her daughter would be a member of the Morris family by marriage, which was the most powerful family in Antawood.

Wendy didn't expect that Gabrielle would marry a member of the Morris family. But what shocked her, even more, was when she got married to the CEO of the Morris Group, a man with so much power in the whole of the city.

Since Gabrielle had such a good man, Wendy wouldn't let anything hinder both Westley and her daughter, which might eventually lead to a divorce.

She didn't care if Gabrielle hated her or not. All Wendy was concerned about was her reputation and that of the Jones family. She felt that if anyone wanted to get married, it was better to get married to someone rich and known in all spheres of life.

Many women in Antawood dreamed of getting married to Westley, but right now, he was Gabrielle's husband.

"Gabrielle, how are you and Westley getting along?" Wendy felt that the silence between the two of them was awkward, which was why she took the initiative to talk. ②

"It's not bad and that's all there is to it. We have gotten married already. What are you expecting to hear me say?" Gabrielle asked. The tone of her voice was a bit unpleasant. ⑤

She was still angry at her mother for lying to her that they would go all out to find Bryce as long as she married Westley.

What Gabrielle hated the most was deception. If Wendy had confessed to her that she wasn't planning on looking for

Bryce at the beginning, she would have felt so much better, instead of having false hopes.

"Are you still blaming me for all this, Gabrielle? I know that you've been wronged but you should know that I'm doing all this for your good. Westley is the CEO of the Morris Group and he is the heir of the most powerful family in Antawood. You will never suffer now that you are married to him. Anyway, you were bound to end up getting married sooner or later in life. I just hope that you can marry a better man and live a happy life in the future," Wendy said as she tried to defend herself. ①

Although Wendy knew that she was being selfish, she didn't choose to hurt Gabrielle intentionally. She hoped in her heart that Gabrielle would marry a good man who would benefit both her and the Jones family at the same time.

"Live a happy life?" Gabrielle asked with a hesitant look on her face.

How could she be happy when she got married to someone that she didn't love? Although Westley was trying to be nicer to her now, Gabrielle knew that she was

still far from being "happy". 4

"Don't you feel happy with Mr. Morris now? Are you still feeling pain in your heart concerning your marriage?" Wendy asked as she stared at her.

"No," Gabrielle answered sincerely. She didn't feel any pain, but at the same time, she didn't feel so happy.

She and Westley would get divorced anyway. Whether she was happy or not in the marriage didn't matter anymore.

"Well, that's a good step. It means that you both can build a better relationship slowly. When I got married to your father at first, I didn't have any feelings for him and there was no love. We just didn't hate to get along with each other and after we had lived together for a while, the feelings started growing naturally. Many people's marriages start with no love at the initial stage, but with time, it was nurtured slowly," It was apparent that Wendy was taking the opportunity to teach Gabrielle a lesson.

Chapter 214

Compensation For Her

If cultivating feelings was as easy as Wendy had said, Gabrielle didn't know how hard it could be for others. In any case, it was not simple to foster feelings between Gabrielle and Westley.

Wendy underestimated how difficult it would be. Maybe, she really liked Westley, because after all, her excellent son-in-law was the most distinguished diamond-level man in Antawood. Countless girls wanted to become his wife, and an infinite number of mothers wanted their daughters to marry him.

"Mom, the teapots here are excellent. Let's go inside and have a look."

When they were passing by the teaware shop, Gabrielle rushed to take Wendy into the shop, trying to divert her attention. She didn't want to listen to her brainwashing teachings anymore.

"Gabrielle, I'm only doing this for your own good. Many women have insanely

wanted to marry Westley, and you're aware of that. But now that you're the one who got this shot, you should seize the opportunity and develop your bond with him." Wendy knew that Gabrielle was trying to escape this conversation, so she quickly pushed forward.

Everyone understood the principle, but very few people could practically implement it. Besides, the modern generation's view of marriage and love were two entirely different things. Nowadays, young people tie up love with love.

For them, marriage could only take place if love existed. 'How could a marriage without love last long?'

However, Gabrielle believed that her marriage with Westley wouldn't last long. Bryce and Nellie had already arrived in Thailand, and they would come back soon.

'Will everything be the same once they come back?'

"Mom, can you stop talking about Westley and me?" Gabrielle was annoyed by this conversation.

"Okay, I won't talk about it. But tell me, do you want to have a baby? Once you have a baby, it's possible..."

Gabrielle blushed before interrupting her, "Mom, I have never thought about having kids. Do you think a child can bound Westley with me through marriage? No one can force him into something he doesn't want." 2

Perhaps, Westley thought the same way. Although they have had sex, he had carefully used contraception, and she had taken birth control pills afterward, which could be double protection to avoid pregnancy.

It was obvious that he didn't like kids, or rather, he wouldn't like the kids she would give birth to.

"Since he doesn't mind touching you, he will definitely not hate your child. Be smart and try to get yourself pregnant." Wendy was a little disappointed, but she still encouraged Gabrielle. 4

Gabrielle felt suffocated. 'What a bad idea Wendy had proposed! Was she sure that the idea she suggested will save the two of them from getting a divorce?'

How could she expect that after having a baby, Gabrielle could keep Westley stay forever? Westley wouldn't be himself if he was so easily kept. That was just not the description of Westley.

And further, she had never thought of giving birth to his baby.

"Mom, can you please stop talking about such a topic outside?" Gabrielle complained in a low voice. Luckily, the shopping mall was big enough that no one heard them. Otherwise, it would have been too embarrassing for Gabrielle to discuss having children in public.

"Mom, I think these clothes are amazing. You should pick some for Grandpa. Since you already know his preferences, he will love whatever you'll buy for him." Gabrielle tried her best to bring her mother's focus on wares, no longer wanting to listen to Wendy's persuasion anymore.

"These clothes are indeed great. Gabrielle, did you decide on maternal Grandpa's gift? Zaid likes you, and so does he like the gifts you've been giving him every year." Wendy was curious about Gabrielle's gift for Zaid. And Gabrielle

was relieved that finally, Wendy left that inapt topic.

Gabrielle's birthday gift for Zaid wasn't high in expense or beauty. But among the gifts from the youngsters, she chose the most unique and pleasant one. ②

"Mom, it's a secret." Shaking her head, Gabrielle refused to reveal it to Wendy.

Wendy wasn't really interested in what gift she would give to Zaid. She was happy anyway that Zaid always liked her gift, proving that they had taught Gabrielle well. It was the honor of her, after all.

"Okay, don't tell me. I know that you must have contemplated a lot about his gift, the reason why he likes the gifts from you, right?" Wendy had always praised Gabrielle in this regard.

Gabrielle had been a considerate girl ever since she was a child, and she did everything earnestly too, which naturally made Zaid like her a lot. ②

After choosing the tea set, they went to pick the tea pet made of jade and prepared a whole collection for Zaid.

"Gabrielle, I haven't bought you clothes for quite long. Do you want to..."

"No need, mom. I don't need new clothes." Gabrielle refused right away. She had reasons like there was a big cloakroom in each of Westley's houses. Even though those clothes were not prepared for her, she didn't care much about clothes in the first place. She'd be happy as long as there were clothes to wear. Not being a part of the fashion world, she rarely attended any fancy celebrity parties. Gabrielle wasn't interested in competing with others for beauty, neither was she in need of doing that.

"Gabrielle, you got married curtly, and I feel guilty for that. I always wanted to give you something, but I didn't even get a chance to prepare a decent dowry for you. Are you still angry with me?" Wendy was truly upset for all that Gabrielle had been through.

There were glorious ceremonies on the weddings of other's daughters with grand weddings and luxurious dowries. But her daughter secretly got married as if she was ignoble.