

Chapter 112

Xander's words confused me. It was true, though. Petra and I were not related to one another in any way. I did not even know her before this, but she was willing to help me. Why? I never got to the bottom of it and just assumed it was because of Theo.

Come to think of it, it was very strange. With Petra's current wealth and position, Theo's help was completely unnecessary.

Especially this morning. She had asked a bunch of inexplicable questions that I was still confused over.

"What's going on?" I was pulling at Xander as I asked impatiently. Everything seemed strange.

Xander turned around and looked at me with disapproval as he said, "There's really no cure for your stupidity. No wonder Theo dislikes you and wants to divorce you. Your mind is no match for his."

I furrowed my brows. It felt that things were getting more complicated. I asked in a deep voice, "What's going on?"

"You still don't get it? My mom thought you were her daughter and that's why she was good to you. She did a DNA test with your and Cindy's samples. The results came out this afternoon saying that Cindy is her daughter."

I was completely frozen. I never expected that.

Xander continued talking, "Honestly, I thought it'd be you since you look so much like her. I didn't think the results would point to Cindy."

"Why was my DNA taken for the test? Solely because I look like her? And how did your mom even get my DNA?"

Xander looked at me and sighed as he said, "You and Cindy look a lot like my mom. She has always been looking for her daughter, so she would certainly not let go of any clue. As to how she got your DNA, what do you think?"

I thought about it and asked, "Theo?"

“Stupid, but not very. After an investigation, my mom found that many of your and Cindy’s experiences overlapped. But she wasn’t sure about your identities, so she had Theo arrange for you two to see her. After that, she went and did a DNA test.”

“Do you mean that Theo came up with excuses back then just because your mom wanted to see me?” My heart ached a little. I initially thought that he wanted to help me. Who knew...

All this while, I was grateful to Theo because he had brought me to see Petra and therefore helped Cecilia. Never in a million years would I have thought that he was only doing somebody a favor.

He never mentioned a word about it.

“Does Cindy know?” I questioned.

“I’m guessing Theo told her since she has been very close to my mom recently. I don’t like her at all.” Xander downed the glass of wine.

I was furious but wanted to laugh instead. He had hidden the whole matter from me.

They took my DNA at the very start and treated me like a fool!

I had always known that Theo only had Cindy in his heart but never thought he would go this far.

As Xander said, I really was foolish. I had even felt a sense of guilt and gratitude toward him. I was not even aware of how I got betrayed.

Seeing that I did not look well, Xander consoled me. "Don't overthink it. Maybe Theo didn't tell you because he was afraid of affecting your mood. You're still pregnant, after all. Besides, no one was sure of anything before this."

"They had no right to hide it from me and were in no place to steal my DNA for that test. I don't like being manipulated by people. I really hate it!" I said loudly with a heart full of grievances and anger.

Theo did not have the right, even more so Petra!

"Don't feel bad. I despise my mom's actions too, but maybe she went overboard because she's been looking for her daughter for so many years when she

● daughter for so many years when she suddenly saw that you look a lot like her," Xander said, trying to comfort me.

"Why is it excusable for everyone to hurt me?" I shouted in a rage as I could not take the feeling of being betrayed by people anymore. I ran back to the hall.

Petra and Grayson were hugging Cindy in the middle of the hall as they introduced her to the guests one by one. Seeing them smiling cheerfully, my eyes started to hurt as if they had been poked by thorns.

This world was indeed unfair. Some people were born fortunate and always loved by many. As for me, I could only experience hatred, betrayal, and hurt all my life.

Chapter 113

“There’s no use being envious. Some things are just meant to be.” A gloating voice came from beside me.

I turned my head to see Zedd’s sarcastic stare. I asked in a deep tone, “Do you see me getting envious, President Nichols?”

“Stop pretending, Wanda. Your jealousy is written all over your face. It’s true, Cindy is now Petra’s daughter.

Everything has changed now, whether it’s identity or wealth. She’s not comparable to ordinary people anymore. Only she is worthy of standing next to him.”

Zedd glowed with pride as he looked at me with a provoking stare.

I took a glass of juice from the server’s hand, took a sip, and raised a brow at him. I said, “You think that I’m not worthy to stand beside Theo, yet you’re worthy of standing beside Miss Reed?”

I gave a few looks at Cindy who was

surrounded by the crowd and continued to say, "At least Theo is still the father to the child inside of me. What about you? You were barely considered to be Miss Reed's little attendant back then. Who knows if you can even keep this identity in the future? You must be feeling inferior and terrified deep in your heart. Is that why you always come to me to vent out?"

"You..." Zedd did not think I would frustrate him. He was too angry to speak a word.

I ignored him and walked toward the hall with the glass in my hand.

"You stay right there!" Zedd stretched out his hand to pull me. The glass of juice I was holding splashed on the cuffs of his suit due to the great force.

"Wanda! Did you do it on purpose?" Zedd's eyes went red as his body shook with fury.

Looking at the orange juice that was spilled on his cuffs, I said helplessly, "You were the one who pulled me. Why are you blaming me?"

"I don't care. You're responsible for

cleaning it." He stretched his dirty arms in front of me with an aggressive look.

"You sure you want me to clean it now? You, President Nichols, are wearing stained clothes on such an important occasion. You'll look even shabbier in front of Miss Reed," I raised my brows and questioned.

Farther away, Cindy happened to look in our direction. She scanned past me coldly. Her eyes were full of disdain. Next, her eyes fell on Zedd and she made a 'go' gesture with her hand.

Zedd immediately took his jacket off and threw it on my arms. He said as he walked, "Deal with it now."

I looked at the jacket in my hands and shook my head somewhat helplessly.

The birthday party had officially begun. Petra went up on stage to give a speech of appreciation and ceremoniously announced that she had found her daughter. She invited Grayson and Cindy up on stage. While overcome with emotions, she spoke about the past and her experience in finding her daughter.

After decades of wandering, their family of three was reunited. They were not the only ones crying and hugging each other emotionally as the audience below the stage was also wiping their tears. The whole scene was warm and touching.

At the same time, Petra expressed that she would transfer half of the company's shares to Cindy and educate her on management as soon as possible.

The spotlight landed on Cindy in an instant as everyone's attention was now on her. Not only did she become a plutocrat in seconds, but more importantly, she also had Grayson's blessings. It can be said that she had squeezed her way to the top of the pyramid. She could do whatever she wanted in both Salt City and Whaldorf City now.

I had no interest in what was taking place. It was Zedd's jacket in my hands that troubled me. I did not know what to do with it.

"Pass this gift to President White later."
A faint and cold voice suddenly spoke.

I had no idea when Theo stood beside me. His face looked cold and his eyes were deep.

Despite my surprise, I took the box from him. I did not understand his intention and why he could not give it himself. Why did he need me to pass it to her?

“This is President Nichols’ jacket. I accidentally spilled juice on it earlier. Please let him know I’ll replace a new one for him.” I took the opportunity and stuffed the jacket into his hands.

Theo frowned but did not say anything. He turned around and tossed the branded jacket into the trash.

At the front, Petra and Grayson had already introduced Cindy to their guests one by one. I looked at them and said faintly, “You should be standing beside Miss Reed right now.”

His already bad expression turned even gloomier and colder. He frowned and said, “Don’t you think you owe me an explanation?”

I knew that he was talking about Tyler. In

I knew that he was talking about Tyler. In the past, I would have explained it to him in detail about Tyler and me, but now, I did not even want to say a word. I just said to him, "There's nothing to explain. It's as you saw."

He reached out to grab my wrist, and his eyes looked as if they were burning.

However, because of the crowd here, he only muttered, "Why do you have to be like this?"

I was silent. I did not want to be like this here too, but I was mad.

"Come pass this gift with me." Seeing that I did not say a word, he restrained his emotions and spoke coldly.

"I don't think Miss Reed hopes to see us there together. Go and accompany her. I'll be there in a while." I flung his hand away with force as I finished talking.

However, he was gripping my hand so tightly that it hurt. He looked at me and solemnly said, "Don't cause a scene."

I was so angry that I was close to laughing. "Theo, do you think of me as someone who unreasonably causes you trouble?"

As I was too angry, my voice was a little loud and the people next to me started

and the people next to me started giving sideways glances.

“Wanda, be aware of the occasion,” he whispered.

I looked up and said, “I’ve never understood appropriate etiquette nor do I know how to be aware of the occasion. I’m just a wild girl from the countryside. I can’t even begin to compare with Miss Reed.”

“You...” Theo’s face got even gloomier and colder.

“Why are you here, Wandy? I’ve been looking all over for you. I know you don’t like these kinds of occasions. Let’s leave.” Tyler smiled warmly as he turned a blind eye to Theo’s anger.

“Alright.” I just wanted to leave. I forcefully broke free from Theo’s grip and left with Tyler.

I did not look back at him. If Tyler was the devil, then Theo was someone scarier than the devil.

After walking a few steps, I realized the gift box was still in my hands. I told him, “Let’s go say goodbye to President

White.”

“You can go. I’ll wait for you here.” Tyler was full of smiles tonight. It was rare for him to be so patient.

I went to the second floor where President White was.

When she saw me, Petra smiled kindly and was still enthusiastic. “I didn’t attend to you well tonight. Please forgive me for that, Miss Lane.”

I was no longer the same as before. I became polite and courteous. “You’re too kind, President White. Here’s a little gift, to show our respect. I wish you a happy birthday and for you to be happy forever!”

Theo was the one who bought the gift. It must be something out of the ordinary.

“Thank you, Miss Lane. You’re very considerate.” Petra received the gift. She kept an elegant and calm smile on her face.

Grayson, who was holding onto Cindy and chatting with others, saw me. He softly said something to Cindy before walking over.

Cindy looked at me and her face was somewhat gloomy. She turned and left.

“You must be Wanda,” Grayson said as he arrived in front of me. This was a man of dignity. Although he was in his 40s, his figure was still tall and straight. He was an attractive man, indeed.

Seeing the kind smile on his face, my heart was shaken and I felt like I could not speak. He looked very familiar but was not at the same time. I could only nod and smile. “Yes. Nice to meet you, Mr. Louis.”

Grayson stared at me and nodded slightly. He turned around and said to Petra, “Very few people are not afraid of me when they see me for the first time. This woman here looks exactly like you when you were young. There’s some stubbornness in those bones.”

“I know. I had that feeling too when I first saw her. If it weren’t for the DNA test, I would’ve thought that she was the one,” Petra chuckled as she spoke.

“You’re a pretty good kid.” Grayson looked at me and asked kindly, “Can I call

you Wandy?"

I nodded lightly. It felt like I had experienced this exact same scenario a long time ago, especially listening to his gracious voice. It was like déjà vu.

"I heard you grew up with your mother. Is she..." Grayson was about to speak.

"Mom, Dad, both of you are the protagonists tonight. Don't keep hiding in the corner. Everyone's looking for you guys." Cindy walked over, reached into the crook of their arms, and said coquettishly.

Grayson looked at me and apologized. "I'm very sorry, we're a bit busy today. I'll talk to you another day." He held Petra's hand and they headed toward the crowd downstairs after he finished talking.

Cindy and I were the only ones left. We stood in the corner where no one noticed us.

She stopped pretending, lowered her face, and glanced at me with arrogance as she spoke coldly, "Wanda, we need to talk!"

Chapter 115

I let out a sigh and said, "We have nothing to talk about." I was in a bad mood tonight and did not want to argue with her.

I turned around and prepared to leave after saying that.

Cindy blocked my way as she said with contempt and mockery, "Wanda, do you still think you can solve a problem by avoiding it?"

"I don't know what problems I have with you, Miss Reed." My steps came to a halt, and I lifted my head to look at her.

"Just say it. How much will it take for you to leave Theo?" Cindy radiated with wealth and status.

I could not help but laugh. "I must have forgotten that you're filthy rich now, Miss Reed. How much are you planning to spend on buying Theo?"

"Don't push it, Wanda. Theo is God's favored one and I'm the only one who's

worthy of standing next to him. I'm also the only one who can benefit his career. You're no match for me."

Another sentence with 'no match' in it. It was the second time that I heard those two words tonight.

"I'm no match for you?" I sneered. "Your ability to instantly change your attitude has really enlightened me. Why didn't you bring this up when you were a helpless orphan like me? You've just found your parents and gone back to your roots, yet you already consider me unworthy of standing next to him and want to solve the problem with money?" 2

"He doesn't love you, Wanda. Why do you still want to hurt yourself? Won't it be nice to take the money and start a new life? I advise that you agree to it while I'm still willing to negotiate with you. Otherwise..."

"Otherwise, what? You'll get your new parents to kill me?" I scoffed.

"Don't you pity yourself for being like this, Wanda? Waiting a lifetime for a man who doesn't love you will make you

miserable forever.”

“Looks like you have a bad memory. I remember telling you that having a home is happiness as well. At least he’s my husband according to the law. My child is his only descendant and will openly call him ‘Dad’.”

Neither threat nor temptation did the trick. Cindy changed her attitude, lowered her voice, and asked, “What is it that you want? You only need to say it and I’ll give it to you. My only request is that you return Theowy to me.”

Cindy was stooping low to say those words to me after failing to get what she wanted.

I always thought Cindy had a kind heart back then. I realized now that she had nothing but regrets in her heart.

They must have been piled up in her heart over the years. Over time, it became an obsession. As for the new-earned wealth, she could not wait to use it to get others on her side.

I could not help but think it was funny and said softly, “Cindy, you’re much

more pitiful than I thought. You both don't even love each other."

"You're bullsh*tting." My words provoked her, and she turned slightly ferocious. "Theowy has loved me ever since we were young. I love him too. It's you! You appeared and ruined things between us."

"Oh, really? Do you know how to prove if a man really loves you?" I frowned and laughed a little.

She looked at me without saying a word, but her body was shaking a little. She looked very unhappy.

I went near to her ear and whispered, "It depends on whether you can arouse his passion and whether you can make him get excited."

After a pause, I continued, "Recently, Theo no longer gets excited when he sees you, right? He would rather let me please him at home with my hands instead of going to look for you. Do you know why?"

"Stop it. I don't want to hear it." Cindy was clutching her ears, burying her head

down low.

“Because I told him before that if he touches anyone else, he can’t touch me. It’s obvious. He’s giving you up for me.” I spread my hands out, making a helpless gesture.

Cindy’s mentality completely collapsed. She covered her ears and was shaking badly while squatting on the floor.

Honestly, I did not want to upset her. She was the one who brought upon her own destruction.

“I don’t believe you. Theowy loves me and cares for me the most. I’ll prove it to you.” Cindy stood up all of a sudden and pulled me toward the stairway.

She then loosened her grip and fell down the stairs.

Everything happened in a flash. I was just standing at the stairway with my eyes wide open as I watched her roll down the steps. She finally landed in the middle of the hall.

There was a burst of exclamations from the crowd below and many screamed in

Everything happened in a flash. I was just standing at the stairway with my eyes wide open as I watched her roll down the steps. She finally landed in the middle of the hall.

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Chapter 116

“Cindy!” From a distance, Petra panicked and darted over.

However, there was someone quicker than her. He went ahead and took Cindy into his arms.

“Quick, call 120.”

“Where did the family doctor go? Quickly give her a check-up.”

...

All of a sudden, the hall was in a great frenzy. Some were checking on Cindy while some were softly comforting Petra.

A while later, Cindy finally opened her eyes. She stared at Theo who was carrying her and said weakly, “Theow, my whole body is aching. Will you send me to the hospital, please?”

“Okay.” Theo glanced at me while I stood at the top of the stairs. He looked cold from head to toe. He carried Cindy out of the door as Petra and Grayson followed closely behind.

Guests who were left behind in the hall were talking quietly.

“It couldn’t be Mrs. Grant who pushed her, right? I saw them talking earlier.”

“As expected, jealousy makes one go crazy. It must be her. I heard that President Grant always treats Miss Reed kindly, and Mrs. Grant is really unhappy about it. Besides, Miss Reed found her parents today. She must be afraid of losing her status, that’s why she pushed her.”

“But honestly, someone as outstanding as President Grant is a better match for someone with a status like Miss Reed’s. Mrs. Grant must be afraid of that and hurt her!”

“I didn’t see that coming at all. She looks like a gentle person. Who knew she’d do such a thing?”

“What’s so strange about it? Aren’t all rich people like that?”

...

I found it slightly amusing listening to

those unabashed discussions downstairs,
but I could not bring myself to laugh.

A night of repeated drama made me
exhausted. I just wanted to go home now.

“I always thought you were very smart. I
didn’t think you’d lose control and take
action with so many people around.”

Zedd had enough of the scene and started
to pick a fight with me again. “But it’s
true. Your looks never came close to
Cindy’s, and even your family
background isn’t comparable to hers.

What makes you worthy of being with
Theo? Take my advice and just forget it.
Only Cindy is worthy of being with him.”

“What’s wrong with me losing control? A
t least I dare to fight openly. Unlike you,
you wretched villain. You can’t even
bring yourself to say you like her. You’re
going to be a coward all your life.” I
spared no mercy with my words.

“You... Hmph! You ingrate!” Zedd was hit
in his sore spot and left angrily.

The people downstairs were still pointing
fingers, but I looked steadily forward and
proudly walked over while slightly lifting

my dress. I left the noise behind me.

Tyler was leaning against a pillar in the garden outside. He was smiling with his gaze fixed on me.

I walked up and said, "This was your reason for bringing me here? If this is your way of torturing me, then congratulations. You've succeeded again."

I had wondered earlier in the day if he was a changed man. Now, I finally understood that he was still the same. There was a purpose to his every action.

Back then, he liked to use the most merciless ways to directly torture me. Years had passed and I thought he had changed, but he just came up with new tricks.

When I finished talking, I ignored him and ran outside. It was difficult to walk on the steps with heels. I decided to take my shoes off, carry them in my hand, and continue running.

There were no cars outside and I could not hail a cab. The only way was to walk.

A dark shadow caught up to me. It did not

...speak, nor did it stop me. It only followed me at a steady pace.

I knew who it was even without thinking, but I did not look back and ignored him.

I was walking barefoot on the asphalt road, and I could still feel the heat from the afternoon sun. The core of my feet was burning with sharp pain. 1

I simply sat down on the lawn due to exhaustion. The black figure came to sit beside me with a slight sigh. He still did not speak.

A long while later, I suppressed the grievances and anger in my heart. I spoke calmly, "Tyler, what are you planning to do by coming to look for me this time?"

This was how humans were. We would be scared to death before facing something scary, but when we really faced it, nothing could stop our courage.

It was the case now. I actually daringly questioned Tyler. Back then, I did not even have the courage to face him.

Tyler did not answer me. He stared at me and said, "If I said I had good intentions