

Impulsive Vow to an Enigmatic Husband (Cornelia Stewart)

Chapter 1526

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Tonight was Christmas Eve, and most folks were huddled at home with their loved ones. Very few ventured out for a spot of fishing.

Farley and Hannah, siblings on the hunt for a fishing spot, had been unsuccessful in their search. And yet, they persisted.

Farley wiped away another tear, "I'm sure mom and dad did this on purpose."

Hannah retorted, "You're just figuring that out now?"

Farley broke into sobs, while Hannah couldn't help but laugh at his expense.

Meanwhile, Steven, had just finished watching the world-wide livestream featuring Jeremy and his family. Seeing Jeremy, a man half a year younger and married a few years later than him, filled his heart with an acidic bitterness. If only he knew, he wouldn't have subjected himself to this torment of singleton.

Just as he was wallowing in regret, his assistant knocked and entered, "President Dixon, the meeting is about to start."e2

Everyone was eager to get the meeting over with so they could start their Christmas holidays. Everyone, that was, except Steven.

Steven put his phone away, saying, "Let's get this over with."

Upon his return to Harbor City, Steven initiated a merciless purge of the Dixon Group's executives who were deeply involved with the Salazar family. He then made some decisive decisions on partnership projects, leading to a full-blown feud between the Dixon Group and Salazar Corporation.

After several rounds of corporate tug-of-war, the Dixon Group was gaining an upper hand, and the staff's spirits were soaring, making the meetings unusually lively. After several hours, the meeting finally ended. Everyone else had cleared out, leaving Steven alone in the conference room, unable to bring himself to leave. His new assistant, not daring to leave before him, sat dumbfounded, waiting alongside his boss..

It was Christmas Eve, and the assistant had promised his wife and child that he'd be home for dinner. With every second ticking away, he was growing increasingly anxious. He glanced at the clock on the wall over and over, before finally summoning the courage to speak, "President Dixon, I'm sure your parents are waiting for you at home to celebrate Christmas Eve."

Steven retorted, "Isn't it your wife and child waiting for you?"

The assistant chuckled awkwardly, "I promised my five-year-old daughter that I'd be home for dinner. If I don't show up, she won't eat."

Steven dismissed him, "You can go."

The assistant hesitated, "What about you? Aren't you going home for the holiday?"

-Steven ignored him, waving him off impatiently.

Going home for the holiday... He scoffed.

Kenny had fallen ill unexpectedly, and it took a day and a night to stabilize him, scaring his mother to death. After Kenny was discharged, they both moved to New Zealand for retirement. They had planned to return for Christmas, but considering Harbor City's harsh winter and the long journey, they decided against it for Kenny's sake.

So, no matter which home he returned to, it would be empty and devoid of life. For fear of loneliness and desolation, he couldn't bring himself to return to the house he once shared with Hannah.

Another night spent in the office.

In recent times, Steven didn't know how many of such nights he had endured.

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Dawn was just breaking when Jacqueline's phone call came through again, "Steven, the office is closed for the holidays. Why don't you fly over and spend Christmas with us?"

Steven remained silent upon hearing this.

Jacqueline's slightly anxious voice came again, "Son, why aren't you saying anything? Is something wrong?"

Steven exhaled a heavy sigh, then finally spoke, "Mom, I'll come to New Zealand to see you and Kenny after Christmas."

"Spending the holidays alone can be pretty lonely, you know. If you think it's boring with me and your dad, you could come over and meet some girls. Our neighbor's daughter is quite a stunner. I think you two could hit it off." Jacqueline suggested.

Jacqueline never worried about Steven's work. Whenever they spoke, she would always bring up his love life. Steven had told her countless times that the only woman he wanted was Hannah, But it seemed like Jacqueline couldn't understand him. Time and again, she tried to persuade him to consider other girls. She would always tell him, "Steven, when you first step into a strange forest and your eyes are immediately drawn to a big tree in front of you, you might think that it's the best tree in the world. But if you venture further and look at the other trees, you might realize that the tree you initially thought was great is actually quite ordinary."

In the past, Steven would get annoyed, feeling that she didn't understand him. Everything changed when he unintentionally overheard a conversation between his mother and father.e2

That day was the second day after Kenny had been unconscious for more than ten days. Jacqueline's worry hadn't subsided, "Kenny, you can't scare me like this again."

"Without me, you'll still have our son. Don't be afraid." Kenneth rea**ured her.

Jacqueline shot him a glare, "What are you talking about? You're you, and our son is our son. You both are the most important people in my life. I can't lose either of you."

"Life is precious precisely because it's not eternal. We all have to leave this world; it's just a matter of time." Kenneth stated matter-of-factly

"I know we're all going to leave. That's why I want to find a soulmate for Steven. When we're gone, someone will still be there to accompany him, to love him and understand him. Then he won't be lonely." Jacqueline murmured dejectedly.

"The Salazar girl is definitely not suitable. The Salazars spoiled her rotten. She's done too many bad things and will eventually face retribution." Kenneth agreed.

“You knew that the Salazar girl was not suitable, then why did you still want Steven to marry her?” Jacqueline asked incredulously.

“I was set up by the Salazars back then, which led to the majority of the board of directors being dissatisfied with me. They all wanted to replace me, especially my siblings. They were all eyeing my position greedily. I insisted on promoting Steven to my position, but both the board and our family members disagreed. Steven was still too young and inexperienced, so I had to use the Salazars to stabilize his position in the corporation.” Kenneth explained.

“You don’t trust your son’s abilities.” Jacqueline asserted.

“Of course I trust my own son’s abilities. But back then, he was still young, and no match for those old foxes. However, it turns out I was overly worried. Steven soon, managed to establish himself in the corporation on his own and kept the Salazar girl at arm’s length. I was very relieved.” Kenneth admitted.

“So why did you remove the staff Steven arranged to protect Hannah, allowing Daniela’s scheme to succeed?” Jacqueline questioned.

“If I told you that the staff Steven arranged weren’t actually reappointed by me, would you believe me?” Kenneth asked.

“You didn’t reappoint them? Then what on earth happened?” Jacqueline asked, looking puzzled.

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Kenneth remarked, “I’m not sure what’s going on, but I bet Steven has figured it out. Otherwise, he wouldn’t let me be.”

When Hannah was mentioned, Jacqueline also felt guilt, “We didn’t cause this, but we’ve made mistakes in the past. We allowed Steven to bring his ex-wife into the Dixon household, and not only did we fail to protect her, but we also let the others in the family bully her, calling her a second-rate actress.”

At this, Kenneth felt a pang of guilt, “That must be the biggest mistake we’ve ever made. We hoped for our son to lead a good life, but because of our actions, his life changed for the worse. We only have one son. He used to be so attached to us. When he was a teenager and received love letters, he would always show them to us, trusting us fully. We rejected the girl he chose, leading him to move out with her and never bringing her home during holidays, causing the gap between us to

widen.”

Jacqueline agreed, "You're right, we thought everything we did was for his best, but we never considered if it was what he wanted. We forced it upon him. Kenny, since we have realized this, let's support him no matter who he wants to marry."

Kenneth added, "We still need to look out for him, in case he gets tricked by someone."

Jacqueline replied, "Sure, I'll keep an eye out for some suitable girls for him to choose from."

Steven overheard their conversation, but didn't interrupt. He knew his parents' intentions. They just had the wrong approach.e2

No, he was the one truly at fault.

The others in the Dixon family dared to call Hannah a second-rate actress, saying that her lowly status was unfit for the Dixon family. It was all because of him. If he valued Hannah enough and gave her the respect she deserved, no one in the Dixon family would dare gossip about the wife of the Dixon Group's leader.

Steven gathered his thoughts, "Mom, you don't need to find anyone else for me. My only wife will always be Hannah."

Jacqueline paused, then spoke seriously, "If she's the only one in your heart and the only one you want to marry, I support you. But have you asked her if she's willing to remarry you?"

Steven was silent.

Jacqueline continued, "Son, if she never wants to reconcile with you, do you plan to stay single forever? Will you give up having children?"

Steven replied, "Mom, if you and Kenneth are worried about the Dixon family bloodline, you two can have another child. You're still young enough."

Jacqueline was angry enough to smack him, "You cheeky boy, is that what I meant?"

Steven retorted, "Aren't you worried about the Dixon family?"

Jacqueline replied, "Although the Dixon family does have a huge inheritance, I've never seen you as a breeding machine. I've never felt you must have children. If you want to have kids, then have them. If not, then don't. What I'm trying to say is, have you prepared yourself for the possibility of living alone and without descendants if Hannah doesn't accept you?"

Chapter 1529

Hearing these words from an elder's mouth was indeed a rarity.

Nowadays, many young folks were reluctant to have children, given the high cost and the immense effort it took to raise one.

However, many parents, stuck in their old ways, failed to understand this and continued to pressure their children to carry on their lineage.

Steven said, "Mom, I love you!"

Jacqueline asked, "Why the sudden sweetness?"

Steven said, "Enough chit-chat, Mom. I'm going to find Hannah."

Jacqueline replied, "Go ahead. As long as you bring her back, I promise to treat her well."e2

Steven said, "I'm afraid she might not give you the chance to."

Steven continued, "You should go with Kenny. I'm hanging up now."

With that, he ended the call. He then booked a flight to Haines using a mobile app. Without taking anything with him, he headed straight for the airport.

After a two-hour flight, Steven landed in Haines in the early afternoon. Rick picked him up, "President Dixon, I knew you'd come to Haines for Christmas."

Steven shot him a cold glance, "You're getting ahead of yourself."

Rick grinned, "It's not about me, but it's about you not being able to leave your wife alone. I knew you'd rush to be with her for the holidays."

Rick still remembered. Last Christmas, Steven and his wife had already divorced, but he left the big Dixon family gathering to spend the holiday with her. With all the pressure last year, he still came. This year would be no exception.

Rick drove Steven towards the city center. After a while, he finally asked, "Is she doing okay?"

Over the past days, Steven had avoided any news about Hannah, deliberately not asking Rick anything about her. He thought that by doing so, he might be able to forget her and start anew. But it was impossible. No matter what, his thoughts were always filled with Hannah. The woman was like a poison, etched deep into his heart. Forgetting her would mean breaking his heart.

Rick answered, "Mrs. Dixon is doing well. The Ableson's have been taking good care of her. Her leg injury healed quickly, and she can walk normally now."

Steven murmured, "Hmm."

Rick said, "President Dixon, the Ablesons are in town shopping for the holidays. They have not returned yet. Do you want to see them?"

Steven asked, "What do you think?"

Was there any need to ask? Of course, he wanted to see them. But he had his pride, and Rick had to respect that, "The mall they're at is close to the airport. We can drop by since it's on our way."

In truth, even before he asked Steven, Rick's navigation was already set to the large shopping mall where the Ablesons were. If they didn't need to go to the city, they could have gone straight to the county from the airport without having to detour through the city.

Steven said, "Whatever."

Rick chuckled.

Chapter 1530

Steven sure had a thing for appearances, always seeming to prefer to suffer silently rather than sacrificing his dignity. He'd even followed her all the way to Haines, yet still putting on a front. What pretense? If he kept this up, his wife would leave him for another man, and he'd be left crying.

Rick said the mall wasn't far from the airport and it was 'on the way'. In reality, the mall was over a dozen miles from the airport. To get there from the airport highway by car would take about half an hour.

Rick drove into the parking lot of their destination, parking next to a Mercedes SUV. "President Dixon, this car was a recent addition to the household by the Mrs. Dixon. Your father-in-law certainly seems to have taken a shine to it." He remarked.

Although Steven hadn't asked about the Ableson family, Rick, as a competent secretary, made it his business to know. These days, he knew all about the Ablesons. From big events like new car purchases to smaller ones like a new dog in the house or how many eggs the hens laid.

That was why Steven had him stationed here. Rick was meticulous, getting things done without needing to be told.

During the half-hour drive, Rick casually mentioned all the happenings in the Ableson family in recent months. Steven seemed disinterested, but he stored away every detail Rick mentioned about the Ablesons. He Steven looked at the car next to them, "My father-in-law really likes this cat?"

Rick nodded, "Of course. After it was delivered, he took the family on at least ten laps around the river."e2

Steven pondered, "What if I were to give him a better car?"

Rick hesitated, "President Dixon, that might not be a good idea."

Steven questioned, "Why?"

Rick explained, "This car was a gift from his daughter. It's not about the car, but about the sentiment."

Steven decided, "Get in touch with the Mercedes dealership, and have them deliver a car."

Rick tried to dissuade him, "President Dixon, there's really no need."

Steven insisted, "If he's happy about a gift from his daughter, then he'd be happy about one from his son-in-law."

If he could please the elders at home, then he didn't think Hannah could continue to ignore him. Why hadn't he thought of this sooner? He really should ask Lucas for more advice on these matters. Lucas was the best when it came to keeping the father-in-law happy.

Risking dismissal, Rick pointed out, "President Dixon, you and your wife have already finalized your divorce. You're not his son-in-law anymore." Steven gave Rick a cold stare, which was sharp enough to kill. Rick was sure he'd be dead if looks could kill.

Rick started to say something but was interrupted by the sight of Hannah's family coming out of the mall pushing shopping carts, "President Dixon, Mrs. Dixon and her family are coming out."

Steven looked up immediately.

Jeo and Pandora were pushing two carts full of goods. Hannah and Farley each held an ice cream cone, both of them looking rather cheerful. Farley asked, "Didn't you used to dislike ice cream? Why do you seem to like it more than me now?"

Hannah replied, "Who said I don't like it?"

It was just that she had to maintain her figure for filming, so there were a lot of things she couldn't eat. She hadn't filmed anything in the past few months, and she didn't plan on appearing on screen in the future, so she ate whatever she liked.

In just a few months, she had gained 20 pounds, now weighing 110 pounds.

She was 5'7", which made 110 pounds quite slender for a regular person. But before she gained weight, she had been only 100 pounds. She had been as thin as a reed yet still faced criticism from trolls for being overweighted.

Steven's gaze

fell on Hannah, and it seemed to stick there, unable to move away.