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Chapter 1571

As the saying went, "He who receives a gift, sells his liberty."

Pandora was hesitant to accept Steven as a son-in-law, but she eventually agreed to accept his gifts.

She was taken aback by the extravagance of the so-called 'daily necessities' Steven had sent. They were all high-end items whose value was off the charts. She was at a loss for words. After a moment of contemplation, she said, "Steven, these gifts you've sent could support our family for several generations. Why don't you have someone take them back?"

Steven replied, "A gift once given should not be taken back. Except for this box of gold bars, the rest are not of great value. I've been married to Hannah for years now and I've never come to visit you. Let me make up for my past mistakes with these gifts. Please give me a chance."

Steven was earnest, but Pandora detected an ulterior motive. "Let me make this clear Steven. Whether Hannah chooses to make up with you is entirely up to her."

Steven finally understood what Pandora was worried about. "Pandora, these gifts are for you. I won't use them as leverage to pressure you into doing anything you don't want to."

Pandora replied, "I know you're not that kind of person, but these gifts are simply too expensive."e2 There were indeed daily necessities, and several boxes of clothes for her and Hannah's father. The fabric was of such fine quality that one could tell just by touching it.

"Mom, mom, where did all these boxes come from? What's inside them?" Farley's voice echoed from outside the kitchen.

Pandora quickly hid the box of gold bars and went outside. "Where is your sister and father?" "They're coming," Farley replied, looking at the boxes scattered around the room. "Mom, we only went out for a while and all these boxes appeared. Where did they come from?"

"Your ex-brother-in-law sent them," Pandora replied, placing the box with the gold bars in the deepest part of the room.

Upon hearing the term 'ex-brother-in-law', Farley's eyes lit up. "I think the ex-brother-in-law is pretty cool. He even said he'd gift me a private jet when I come of age. I wish Hannah could get back together with him. Mom, will he be joining us for Christmas this year?"

"Farley!" Hannah and Jeo had arrived, and were startled to hear Farley praising Steven. "You little rascal, are you asking for a spanking?"

Pandora chuckled, "Go wash your hands and get ready for lunch, or your sister will give you something to cry about."

Farley retorted, "I'm already this big and she still bullies me."

Pandora replied, "Maybe you'll be the older sibling in your next life."

Farley responded, "Fine, but as an older brother, I'd protect my sister, not beat her up like Hannah does."

"Mom, where's auntie?" Hannah asked.

"She went back to get some stuff. Call uncle and your siblings. It's getting late. We'll have something for lunch and start preparing for Christmas dinner in the afternoon."

"Okay," Hannah quickly ushered her siblings to wash their hands. Once she was done, she walked into the kitchen and was surprised to see Steven sitting by the stove..

"You, what are you doing here?" she was startled.

Steven replied with a smile, "Your mother found me this morning and invited me to stay for lunch. Remembering how you asked me to join your family for Christmas, I didn't decline her invitation."

Hannah knew Steven too well. If he was found, it was definitely deliberate. Hannah rolled her eyes. "Steven!"

Steven replied, "Hannah, we're not doing anything secretive, there's no need to hide from your family." He had a plan. By winning over Hannah's family, he was ensuring a warm welcome in the future.

Hannah retorted, "Since you're not playing by the rules of the game, we'll..."

"When did you start playing games?" Farley walked in, and upon seeing Steven, he excitedly ran over and hugged him. "Brother-in-law, is that really you?" Steven was nearly knocked off his feet by the enthusiastic boy. "Who else could it be?"

Farley exclaimed, "I just asked mom if you'll be joining us for Christmas this year. I didn't expect you to be here already. No wonder mom didn't say anything."

Chapter 1572

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"Get up. Let's go grab a bite before you get too comfortable by the hearth. We'll chat more in the afternoon."

Seeing Hannah's face growing somber, Steven quickly shoved Farley aside, "Kiddo, your sister and I have some grown-up talk to do."

Only then did Farley notice Hannah's sour expression. "Hannah." He was quick to realize he'd stepped in it and bolted out of there.

Steven got up, moving to Hannah's side, "Hannah."

It was the holidays, and Hannah didn't want to hold a grudge and ruin the mood. "Just this once." Steven happily said, "Deal!"

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Lunch was very simple. Seeing Steven around, Jeo wanted to have a couple of beers, but Pandora wouldn't allow it.

After lunch, Uncle and Aunt Ableson took their kids and went home.

The Ableson family was now down to four, no, actually, it was a family of five.

Their number was small, but they still laid out a full spread for their holiday dinner. The dishes symbolizing prosperity and good fortune were a must-have.

A few days ago, Jeo had caught a ten-pound fish in the river and kept it for today. Everyone chipped in and by dusk, they'd filled up the dining table.

It was snowing outside. And it was very cold. They decided to dine in the living room

The dishes cooled quickly. Jeo had also set up a fondue pot for a long, leisurely night of eating and drinking.

Pandora fetched a bottle of her special stash of wine, pouring a glass for Jeo and Steven, "I didn't let you drink last night because I didn't want you to overdo it."

Jeo, with a chuckle, said, "Steven, do you know why my wife's been so good to me? In a marriage, it can't be one-sided effort. Love is mutual."

Steven raised his glass, "Thanks for the advice. Here's to you."

They clinked glasses and downed their drinks.

Next, Jeo turned to Hannah, "Hannah, care for a drink?"

Farley piped up, "Dad, I'd like a sip."

Hannah intervened, "Dad, I'll pass. And Farley, what are you doing asking for booze? swear, if you touch alcohol before you reach legal age, I'll wring your ears."

Farley fell silent.

Steven took the bottle and poured a few drops into Farley's juice, "Here, have a taste."

Hannah gave him a look. The man was stirring up trouble again. She regretted inviting him to their holiday dinner.

Farley was also quiet. A few drops? That was not how you treated a kid. Not to mention, he wasn't a kid anymore.