

When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 141 - 145

The legal representative of Neotech Co. was now Faye's father, Waine. It did not help that the switch had only happened a few days prior. Waine agreed to take up the position when he was in a drunken stupor, after sharing a meal with Hector.

There was definitely something suspicious about it!

Faye was not a fool, in fact, she was wise beyond her years. It did not take her long to figure out that the switch had been made because Hector had realized that the company was in hot water, and that he would be at risk of being imprisoned if the company was unable to pay off their debt. As a result, he made it so Waine was the legal representative to the company instead to evade any form of liability!

Waine was Hector's biological brother. He was actually willing to throw his younger brother under the bus just like that!

Faye was left feeling even more resentful and equally as demoralized. If familial love is supposed to feel like a warm embrace,

why did Faye feel nothing but the agonizing grasp of an empty, hollow husk?

“So? I told you I wasn’t lying to you.” Howard started to cackle at her misfortune.

He was having the time of his life watching Faye’s sanity spiral.

Faye did not say a word.

Howard promptly ignored her, “It’s high time I was in charge of the Carters’ survival. I admit stealing 1.5 million dollars was an oversight on my end, but I’m a changed man! I’ve acknowledged my shortcomings, and I plan on doing better in the future. I’ve been running around everywhere trying to get an investor onboard. I’ve stayed up until the crack of dawn for nights on end, and I’ve had so much alcohol that my liver’s been begging for mercy. I want to make up for all the damage I’ve caused to our family. Fortunately, I’ve found a way! William’s everything we could ever ask for in an investor. If everything goes according to plan, the Carters will reclaim their former glory once more!”

Everybody was visibly moved by Howard’s emotionally charged speech, with George being no exception. His gaze was filled with affectionate admiration as he looked on from afar.

There was a brief pause before Howard said, “As a product of my endless effort and sacrifice, I’ve gotten ourselves a hefty 15 million dollar investment now, huh? Our company’s only worth a few million at best, and the man’s only asking for 40% of our shares. Where on earth would you be able to find a better deal than that? Now I just need Faye to accompany me when I sign the contract, and the 15 million dollars will be in ours. Our survival depends on you, Faye. Are you really that cruel, huh?”

Howard forced a couple of crocodile tears from his eyes in an attempt to guilt trip Faye.

Suddenly, Faye had been painted to be the villain in this family conflict of theirs.

Everybody in the meeting room began to persuade Faye.

“That’s right, Fifi. Howard made a mistake, but he’s already turned over a new leaf. You’ve got to forgive him.”

“Oh, Faye. The fate of our family rests in your hands now. You’re just going to make some tea for William. It’s not like you have to do anything else. There’s no way you would say no to such a simple task like that, would you?”

“No, Fifi is anything but cruel!”

They all talked at once, voicing out all sorts of opinions that created a field of dissonance in Faye’s disoriented mind. She was all alone with no one to sympathize with her. She had the urge to cry.

There was only one person running through her mind-the man in the clown mask. Maybe the pain would be dulled if he was here to comfort her. She would not need to suffer any more than she already had, would she?

Realizing she had yet to consent, George heaved a discouraged sigh before imploring, “Fifi, I’m begging you, as your loving grandfather. Go with Howard when he meets with William to sign the contract, won’t you? Please.”

She could only tune out the incessant pleading of everybody in the room for so long. Faye finally gave in to the pressure as she slowly nodded her head in surrender.

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“Faye, it’s time to go home.”

Zayn drove over to pick Faye up from work once his car had been repaired.

Faye did not hear his call, but continued to walk ahead inattentively.

Coincidentally, there happened to be a small pothole in her way, and as Faye was not paying attention to where she was walking, she stepped on it and stumbled forwards into a woman with a face caked full of makeup. The woman was in the middle of retouching her lipstick, so the collision had left a long streak of smudged lipstick from the impact.

The woman was practically fuming with rage. She was going to give Faye a piece of her mind. “Watch where you’re going! Are you blind? Were you born without any eyes?”

Faye was jolted back to reality by the screaming lady in front of her. She realized she had just landed herself in some deep trouble. Before things could get any worse, she hastily began to apologize, "I'm really sorry, I truly am! I was lost in thought so I wasn't watching where I was walking. I bumped into you by accident."

"What's the point of apologizing when the damage is already done? My makeup is ruined, and I was on my way to a huge business meeting!" The woman had her hands on her hips while she took on a jarringly sarcastic tone of voice. She could only point fingers at Faye's nose as she unleashed a deluge of insults and her spit.

From a glance, people could tell that she was an uneducated hoodlum. "Let me tell you this. You better pay up or I'm never putting this behind me!"

Faye furrowed her brows. She regretted not paying attention to where she was walking earlier. Now that she had landed herself in some hot water, she felt even more agitated than ever, especially since she was the subject of ridicule amongst the onlookers. She was humiliated. Faye was admittedly very sensitive, and she absolutely hated being the centre of unwanted attention. She did the only thing that could be done. "It's my fault for ruining your makeup. Here, how much would you like in compensation?"

A look of pleasant surprise took over the woman's features before she raised a finger. "This much."

"1000 dollars." Faye furrowed her brows in bewilderment. She was asking for an outrageous amount of money from Faye. The bump was quite gentle, if Faye were to be completely honest The only notable damage could be seen on the woman's face in the

form of some smeared lipstick. It could easily be removed with a napkin and makeup remover too, so her appearance was still salvageable.

Plus, judging from the way she presented herself, Faye had a hard time believing that the woman was headed for a huge business meeting. In fact, she was most probably an escort. In spite of this, it still did not mitigate the fact that Faye was at fault. Faye was not unreasonable, so she tried to convince herself that she was simply buying peace. She dug her phone out of her

handbag and offered, "I don't have much cash on hand, so I'll pay you through Venmo."

However, after the cash had been transferred to the woman's account, she was less than thrilled to see the number that appeared. "1000 dollars? Do you think you're talking to a bum? I asked for 10000 dollars!"

"10000 dollars?" Faye could not suppress the gasp that escaped her lips. The woman had such an exorbitant price in mind. Forget that, it wasn't just exorbitant, it was daylight robbery!

The onlookers who had been watching the scene unfold before them were a choir of murmurs and gasps. She was demanding 10000 dollars as compensation, and that was more than just unreasonable, it was criminal!

"That's right-10000 dollars. If you're even a penny off, I'll make sure you'll never hear the end of it," threatened the woman menacingly.

Faye clenched her teeth as she tried to negotiate with her, "It's only a small smudge of lipstick on your face. Just use a napkin and it'll come off in one wipe. I hope you realize you're basically extorting money from me by asking for 10000 dollars."

And while her reaction was hard to place under the thick layer of makeup sitting on her face, you could tell that she was displeased. "Extortion? B*tch, you're so full of yourself. Don't you dare disrespect me like that, huh! You were obviously the one who bumped into me and cost me my huge business deal. I was being generous by only asking for 10000, and you still have the audacity to accuse me of extorting money from you? Looks like I have to teach you a lesson so you know who you're dealing with!"

Faye had always been an obedient little girl. She never took part in fights, and she was barely ever caught in a quarrel. She was completely out of her element in a situation like this, what could she do? Faye's face was drained of all its color. She barely knew how to dodge if at all, so she could only watch helplessly as she braced for the slap that had her face as the trajectory.

But the slap never connected. A huge hand had suddenly appeared out of nowhere to stop the woman's hand with impressive accuracy and speed. "That's very bold of you to try and slap someone in broad daylight."

It was Zayn. He pushed through the crowd just in time to stop the woman's vile attempt at slapping Faye. Zayn was absolutely seething with rage.

Faye had already prepared herself for the slap, so when she witnessed Zayn swooping in to save her, she was mesmerized.

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PART PROGRESS

0% Complete

The woman who had a face full of makeup was ultimately apprehended by Zayn. She glared at Zayn scornfully, “Now who is this little motherf*ck*r, and how dare he stop me? You ’re just asking for me to end you!”

While she barked aggressively at Zayn, she raised a leg and aimed for his lower body as she ferociously tried to kick him in the b*lls. She had the reaction speed of no ordinary woman, and she was abnormally strong as well. It was apparent that this was because she was frequently involved in street brawls. Had Zayn not picked Faye up from work in advance, she would have been at a huge disadvantage.

Zayn let out a rough grunt as he used his knees to shield the targeted area in advance. An audible thud resonated through the air. The woman kicked her legs up and down strenuously as she continued to assault Zayn’s knee. A wretched screech came out of her mouth as she hissed in pain, “Ouch, that f*ck*ng hurts! Are you asking for a death sentence, you’re already a dead man, do you hear me?”

She had slammed her shin against Zayn’s knee earlier, and her eyes were still watering from the pain. She glared at Zayn and Faye, her rage and contempt remaining evident despite being clouded by her tears. She whipped out her phone and made a quick phone call. “Hello, Skyler. Come here quickly! I’ve been hit...”

Even after she had hung up, she continued to glower at them viciously. “Just you wait, b*tches. My man’s on his way to grind you into pieces, and he won’t stop until the both of you are paralyzed!”

Faye was so threatened that she immediately began to tug at Zayn frantically. “Oh no, we’re in deep trouble. Let’s just make a run for it, quick!”

“It’s fine. It’s going to be fine, I’m here,” consoled Zayn as he pat Faye’s hand soothingly.

Out of the blue, a familiar face appeared from the sea of onlookers. It was Ruby. At the sight of Zayn and Faye, she had a plethora of questions to ask. She furrowed her brows. “What are the both of you doing here? Zayn, I thought you went to go get your car fixed. Is it fixed already?”

“Mom, the car’s already been fixed. It’s parked over there,” answered Zayn as he gestured towards the car parked next to the road.

“Then why are you just standing there? Go home! And what’s with the crowd surrounding the both of you? What happened here?” interrogated Ruby curiously. She had just left the company headquarters, so she had been unable to witness the incident.

Faye clenched her teeth. She was about to explain herself when she heard a malevolent voice call out to her from the crowd. “I remember now. It’s that Faye Carter and her good-for-nothing husband who married into her family.”

The statement immediately drew the attention of all the onlookers. They were taken aback by its boldness, though it quickly incited an animated discussion amongst them.

The Carters were not a powerful family in the slightest. They were already weaklings in comparison to the Browns or the Smiths, so you could imagine how large the disparity would be if you added the Larsons into the equation.

However, the Carters were widely known due to the existence of Zayn and Faye.

Faye had always been well recognized for her breathtaking beauty. As soon as she had blossomed into a young adult in high school, there was no shortage of suitors vying for her hand in marriage. In fact, many of them were the sons of wealthy families. Everyone was convinced that Faye would marry into a wealthy family. In spite of that, Faye never did marry anyone famous, instead she found love in a pauper from the countryside a good-for-nothing deadbeat.

It was the talk of the town at the time almost everybody on the street knew of the event in question, even if they had never seen the couple with their own two eyes.

“I was just asking myself why they looked so familiar, turns out it is Faye and her deadbeat husband. Hah-hah-hah, this is going to be good!”

“I was asking around and apparently that woman’s name is Charlotte. She seems to have quite a number of connections!”

“You’re right. I think she might be Skyler Moore’s plaything!”

“What? Skyler Moore... Isn't he that burly gangster? Oh no, oh no, Faye is in huge trouble this time...”

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Hearing the crowd, Ruby was practically quivering from anger as she stared daggers at Zayn. “It's you again, huh, you piece of trash?” she fumed under her breath. “How many times do you have to embarrass us, huh? You've gone and challenged the wrath of some underground kingpin? Why don't you just keel over and die right now?”

Zayn was speechless. How poor did his mother-in-law's comprehension skills have to be in order to get to that conclusion? It was obvious that Faye was the one who provoked them!

Not that he wanted to waste his time explaining something like that to a rock.

Faye's panic multiplied. “We should go!”

“Go?” Charlotte echoed, her voice thick with derision. “Sure, just try and escape, I dare you. I know who the two of you are now one of the Carter family's little ladies and her infamously useless husband, huh? You two sure deserve each other. You can escape me, but don't think you can escape us.”

“Don’t... Don’t take another step in our direction! If I feel like I’m in danger, I... I’ll call the cops!” Faye cried.

Charlotte threw her head back and guffawed as though she had heard a really good joke. “The heat? You’re gonna call in the heat? Thanks, now I’m thoroughly aware that you have no idea who my darling Sky Lord is. Go on, call the cops. Back out of your threat, and I’ll have to treat you like a pretty little puss. Of course, I should probably also warn you that if you get the police involved, then say goodbye to sweeping all of this under the rug with only 10000 dollars!”

With that, she crossed her arms and snickered, her eyes trained on Faye like a hawk. Charlotte was not at all concerned about the possibility of her calling the cops at all. She was right, in fact-her threat had gotten to Faye so much that despite having her phone already in her hands, Faye could not bring herself to punch in the numbers.

It was then when an imperious voice rose above the din. “Get the hell out of my way!”

A look of pleasant surprise shadowed Charlotte’s mien before dark amusement displaced it the moment she turned to look at Faye and Zayn. “Oh, you two are dead. My baby Sky Lord is here... Your pathetic 10000 dollars can’t help you now!”

The color was fully drained from Faye’s face. Ruby, too, panicked, and immediately broke out into yet another one of her endless whines, “Oh, what should we do now? From the looks of it, they’re all gangsters and underworld kingpins! Those aren’t the sort of people we normal, law abiding folks should ever irritate! God, Faye, it’s all your fault. How can you be so careless? Now look what you’ve done!”

Faye clenched her jaw as she hung her head in silence.

“Zayn, you stay here and keep them at bay for as long as you can,” she continued, “While Faye and I go!”

“What the... Mom!” Faye blurted out in disbelief.

“What’s with that look? This useless son-in-law has been leeching off of our family for so long! We’ve spent a fortune just to feed him! And how many times have we been humiliated because of him? Now is a great time for him to finally be of use and repay all that we’ve given him!” Ruby argued matter-of-factly. “Besides, he’s got an iron-made hide for skin anyways, so it’s not like he’s going to die from being beaten up this one time.”

Faye could not believe her ears. What sort of mother-in-law was she? What other mother-in-law would so readily dispose of her son-in-law as bait and use him as a meat shield as though it was a perfectly normal thing to do.

Zayn, however, had seen enough of Ruby’s shameless feats that he was no longer surprised. “Fifi, go with Mom if you’re scared. I’ll handle it,” he told Faye.

His words enraged her. “How are you supposed to handle this, genius?! Do you even know who we’re up against? And this was my mistake, all mine. I should be the one fixing it!”

“Even if it was your mistake, I should still be the one trying to fix it by the virtue of being your husband. Protecting you is my duty,” he replied. “Remember? This was something I swore to do from the moment we exchanged our wedding vows.”

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Faye’s heart skipped a beat.

Six large men walked out of the crowd led by a man with the pudgiest face she had ever seen, a big frame, and a very prominent beer belly. He looked to be about 200 pounds. His friends sported very similar physical attributes too, and all of them possessed large swathes of tattoos.

It was telling that their lives revolved around the criminal underworld, especially so when they emanated the aura of a cutthroat. Many onlookers who had joined the crowd looked on fearfully as they carefully kept their distance between these newcomers and themselves. Those who had taken to snapping pictures and recording videos made sure to be a lot more subtle about their actions too.

“Sky Lord, oh, you’re here! I’m saved!” Charlotte exclaimed and dove into Skyler Moore’s arms before bursting into audible sobs that were hideously dramatic. “I was so scared of being beaten to death by these thugs! Sniff, sniff...”

Skyler patted the young woman on the back with his large hands and squeezed her against his chest for a bit, before declaring heroically, “Don’t be scared, I am here! Anyone who dare lay their finger on you will be squashed like a bug!”

Charlotte was beyond ecstatic. Quickly, she pointed at Faye and cried loudly, “This is the b*tch who knocked me down! Instead of apologizing to me like she should, she shouted at me. And you know what’s the worst? She had her husband beat me up! I told her I’m Sky Lord’s girl, but it only made her hit even harder, and then she said... ‘Sky Lord? He’s just an ass!’ L-Look at my leg... Her husband left bruises all over it and I just... Sniff!”

She added so much disinformation into the retelling that Faye had become a ruthless, insensible termagant in her account. It was so untrue that Faye, shaking in fury, screamed, “Bullsh*t, everything she’s said is a lie! You disgusting, contemptible skank!”

Skyler was livid. “Picking on Sky Lord’s babe? You’re just asking for it! Suicidal pig!”

Curiously, Skyler seemed to suffer from a serious case of myopia, because it was only after he took a few steps closer did he finally manage to see how Faye looked like. His eyes twinkled as a pleasant shock overcame his erstwhile scowl. “Whoa, who knew she’d be a piece of eye-candy?”

The way he ogled at Faye was brimming with so much lust and lewdness that anyone subjected to his gaze would instantly feel violated. Faye herself was so revolted that she ducked behind Zayn.

“Oh, oh no, no, no! What are we going to do now? We just made him an enemy! Zayn Larson, this is all the fault of you and your useless brain! Why the hell did you fight back? You should have just let her slap you back then, you’re a grunt with tough skin, aren’t you? You really think a few slaps from a woman like that will hurt you? Now look

at what you've done! You just have to make this happen! ” Ruby whined, unleashing a tirade as she stabbed her finger into Zayn's back in accusatory exasperation.

“Look, Mom, chill. This is hardly a big deal, okay? I'll protect you and Faye, I promise,” Zayn replied with little resignation.

Immediately, Ruby jabbed him with her foot. “We're about to die and all you can think of is to pretend to be a hero?! As if you have anything inside that empty skull of yours that can help! God, I shouldn't have let Faye marry you, this was a total mistake in my judgement! A complete mistake!”

Even now, the woman's jeremiad saw no sign of ending. It was to the point that Faye herself was greatly irritated that she snapped, “Can you shut up already, Mom? Just run away if you're scared. I'll stay here and stand with Zayn. Then you don't have to worry about being dragged into this mess!”

“Excuse me, young lady? Is that a way to talk to your mother?!” Ruby retorted angrily with her arms on her waist.

While all of this was going on, Skyler was standing right in front of Zayn already. With his finger trained at his nose, the former barked, “So, you're the bastard who had the guts to touch my baby girl, huh? You think wearing big boy pants makes you tough, huh?”

Zayn returned his gaze with a penetrating one of his own. “ She lied to you. I didn’t accost her, she hit me first. I was only defending myself,” he replied grimly. “And my wife did bump into her by accident, but it only caused her lipstick to smear onto her own cheek. There was never any injury at all, and yet she touted 10 thousand dollars for ‘compensation’. What, you don’t think that’s ridiculous?”

“Self defence? Man, who says you’re entitled to self defense? My girlfriend doesn’t lay her hands on just about anyone, for your information. You should feel honored that she deems you worthy of slapping! You should have let her... You’re a criminal the moment you retaliate!” Skyler retorted with all the grandeur of a self aggrandizing jack*ss.