

### Chapter 15 Paternity Test

Calista was startled by him yelling through the phone. She froze, not knowing how to respond. She glanced at Selena, who was also staring back at her. Then, she turned and left the ward.

"What are you talking about?" she asked. When did she ever joke with him?

Lucian's deep and harsh voice sounded from the other end of the line. "Where are you now?"

"The hospital—"

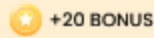
"Even if you're making up an excuse, come up with something more convincing," Lucian snapped.

"Weren't you so eager to get divorced? It's only been one night, yet you're so sick you can't get out of bed? Or maybe you're just making a fuss to get my attention?"

Calista didn't even get to tell him that Selena was at the hospital when he cut her off. She knew his impression of her had never been good, but she never thought it was much worse.

He accused her right away without even having the patience to let her finish talking, let alone listen to her.

She took a deep breath and tried to suppress the sadness



threatening to overcome her. "It's not me. It's Mom. She has a high fever and was taken to the hospital."

Lucian fell silent.

"You didn't know, right?" Calista started mocking him. "Even when your mom's sick, the staff only call me instead of you. Do you realize just how often I have to rush here and there to take care of your mom all these years?"

Once, when Macy called her to tell her that Selena was in shock, Calista was at work. To make matters worse, Lucian was trying to make her life difficult.

To please him, the HR Department deliberately caused her trouble. They rejected her request for a leave. Selena's situation was urgent at that time. So, Calista skipped work for her.

After that, Lucian lashed out at her with everyone watching. He didn't even ask her what had happened.

"If you can't do your work, just go home and continue being the pampered little miss you are. There's no place for trash in Northwood Corporation!"

Those were his exact words.

Calista was a fool for not defending herself just to avoid embarrassing him back then. 2

She remembered that day vividly. She couldn't forget the faces of her colleagues staring at her disdainfully and

ridiculing her.

It was as if time had stopped. After quite a while, Lucian finally spoke. "Call me if something like this happens again." 3

Calista didn't realize that he was trying to speak nicely to her. Even if she did, she wouldn't put much thought into it. After all, she had been overthinking things way too much in the past.

She hung up without giving him a reply. Afraid Selena might realize something was off, Calista paced in the corridor. She needed to calm herself down before entering the ward again.

Soon, Lucian arrived.

Calista glanced at Selena, who was now sleeping on the bed. When Selena fell sick, she always looked so pale and frail. It was as if half of her soul was sucked away somehow.

"Let's talk," Calista said to him.

Lucian scowled, thinking she wanted to talk to him about the divorce. "We can talk about it later. Mom's sick. I don't have the time to deal with you."

Even now, he still thought she was trying to cause him trouble. Calista started to retort, but she noticed a red mark on his neck. And its position was ...

She sneered. How shameless of him! They weren't divorced yet. But he didn't even try to hide that he was making out with another woman.

"Then I'll say it right here," she said.

Lucian glared at her and walked out of the ward.

In the corridor, Calista put her hands in her pockets and stared at the whitewashed walls of the building across from her. "The doctor wants Mom to get a check-up."

Lucian frowned. "Why?"

"I'm not sure. But he did say that we'll know once the report comes out."

With that said, Calista checked her watch and added, "Mom just fell asleep. She won't be waking up anytime soon. The care workers will take care of her for now. We still have an hour before City Hall closes for lunch."

Lucian's face darkened. She had been cold and harsh since she told him about wanting to get a divorce.

It made his heart burn with rage. And it annoyed him since he couldn't accept it or tell her about it.

"How could you still be thinking about divorce when Mom is in such a state? Where's your conscience?"

Conscience? It was long gone. It was worn thin every time he became indifferent and cold toward her. 2

"If you say so."

Provoked by how unconcerned she was, Lucian narrowed

his eyes at her. He was reminded of when she bought a man's bag right before his eyes. He had assumed she was deliberately trying to piss him off because she was mad at him. But the bag appeared before him a few days after that.

It wasn't the first time something like this had happened. She wanted to make him jealous. So, she purposely bought something misleading and claimed it was for someone else. In the end, though, those items always got stashed in her wardrobe back home.

However, on that particular day, he saw the same bag in the hands of another man. Maybe it was just a coincidence that the man had a bag of the same model and style. However, every luxury item like this bag had a unique code.

For some reason, he took the bag from the man to check its code. It was the same as the one Calista bought back then.

"Are you so eager to get rid of me because you've already found someone to rely on? The bag you bought that time ... It was for him, right? That guy's old and ugly. What did you see in him?"

Calista didn't understand what he was talking about. One thing she was sure of was that she had run out of patience with him. Her eyebrows furrowed, and she snapped, "You're so annoying! Don't you get tired of talking so much?"

Lucian sneered. "We'll talk about the divorce later. Mom's still hooked up to IV drips. She needs someone to take care of her."

Now, Calista felt even more inclined to refuse. Dragging things out always led to more trouble.

"We'll have the care workers look after her for a while. It won't take long."

Lucian's already gloomy face darkened several shades deeper. "I said we'll do it some other time."

Still, Calista couldn't read between the lines. She asked, "How about this afternoon, then?" She had applied for leave, anyway. So, it didn't matter if she had to wait until the afternoon.

Selena was almost done with her IV drips, after all. Everything here in the hospital should be settled by noon. City Hall closed at 5:30 pm, so she and Lucian could certainly make it in time.


Just as she finished her question, Lucian suddenly lifted her chin. It forced her to look at him.

"Men don't like being provoked. The more you try, the more I don't feel like doing it," he said, his tone stern and unyielding as if he was warning her.

"A person who thinks like that isn't a real man. He's an animal," Calista said. She swatted his hand away, then turned and left.

An annoyed Lucian watched as she disappeared into the elevator. When he was irritated, he'd start smoking.

He entered the ward again after some time but was greeted with a pillow thrown at his stomach. He looked up to see Selena staring daggers at him.

"You can't even coax your wife! You must've bumped your head when you were young. Since we're in the hospital, you should get a paternity test done. Your father and I would never have an idiot like you for a son!" 

Selena continued questioning Lucian as if he was a criminal. "You slept together last night, huh? And today, she wants to divorce you! You'd better be honest with me. Are you too old to do it?"

A shadow seemed to flit across Lucian's face. Even his voice sounded frosty when he started talking.

"Did Calista tell you that I slept with her last night? And she mentioned us getting divorced too?"

This hypocrite! She kept asking him to get divorced. Yet she was complaining about him to his mom.

Calista knew Selena wouldn't agree to it if she knew. He had underestimated just how sly she could be!