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apter 171 Biting down on her lips, Ysabelle went on, "Oh, and one more thing, Josiah. Meredith's mom just passed away and I don't think she'd be able to come home for the time being. Please be understanding of her situation."

Josiah who was about to go through some of his work felt his heart sink at Ysabelle's words. Looking up at her, he asked, "What did you say?".

"I just heard from my dad earlier. He received a call from the hospital saying that Meredith's mom is dead and my dad is required to be present at the hospital for some after-procedures. I'm guessing that Meredith won't be coming back here to serve you. I came here to tell you that."

Meredith's mother was dead? But there were no signs at all.

Josiah could somewhat imagine how devastated and heartbroken Meredith was.

Of course, he was not entirely concerned about Alayna. What made him uncomfortable were Ysabelle's words – that Meredith would not be coming back to the Shelby residence.

Ysabelle added carefully, "So Josiah, let me stay here with you instead, hmm? I'm sure I'd take better care of you than Meredith does."

"No need for that!"

Josiah grabbed his outer coat and walked out of the study room. Watching Josiah as he left without any hesitation, Ysabelle felt a flicker of disappointment. But quickly, her feelings of disappointment were replaced by feelings of coldness. Ysabelle thought to herself, 'Meredith Leighton, let's see how you're going to save your daughter now!'

As long as Meredith's daughter was out of the picture, Ysabelle could then finally stop worrying about Josiah and Meredith getting back together.

Marvin Leighton was startled at the news of Alayna's sudden passing.

But of course, he was mostly glad that Alayna was finally gone.

After all, he had always been insecure about the fact that he married into Alayna's rich family. Plus, he had always been worried that his assets would be taken away

someday. Hence, when the hospital called to inform him about Alayna's passing, Marvin was the first to rush to the hospital.

He saw Meredith sitting absentmindedly on the floor at the corner of a corridor. With a gloomy face, Marvin walked over to her. "Meredith Leighton, how are you still alive?"

Meredith looked up and saw her cold blooded father. Even though Marvin was her father or the fact that they lived in the same city, or how desperately she needed money, Meredith had never once thought of asking him for help.

Because she knew that her own father wanted her dead more than anyone, more than Josiah did. Her face was already wet with tears. Scoffing, she said, "Marvin Leighton, why should I be dead when you are still alive?"

"You-" Marvin slapped Meredith across her face and seethed, "how dare you talk to me this way!"

The mask that Meredith wore to cover the scars on her face came loose. Marvin was startled but he seethed, "Look at this hideous face of yours. If I were you, I would have killed myself."

"Yeah?" With tears welled up in her eyes, Meredith said, "Says the one who betrayed his wife just to claim her fortune and assets to yourself...say, who is more hideous?"

"You-"Anger heated Marvin's blood and he wanted to hit her again.

But his hand stopped in mid-air when Meredith glared at him without flinching.

"Now that my mom is dead, you can claim the company as yours and you can do whatever you want, can't you? But are you sure that you can sleep well at night? Knowing all the horrible things that you've done?"

"Drop the nonsense, Meredith. If it wasn't because of you who cheated on Josiah, the Leighton family was almost destroyed because of what you did, I wouldn't have divorced your mom and wouldn't

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have cut ties with you and your mom."

Chapter 172 "Yeah, because I wronged Josiah, you snatched everything away from mom, and went on to stay together with that new lover of yours," Smiling through her tears, she added, "but why are you the one who gets to stay?"

"I was the one who managed the company for so many years, of course, it shouldn't be me who is supposed to leave!" "Indeed. You've been trying to turn the company to yours little by little, and Josiah simply gave you a reason to abandon your wife and your daughter. Listen, Marvin Leighton, you are the one who killed mom..."

Ysabelle and Josiah too.

Each of them was more wicked, crueler, and more ruthless than the other.

Meredith had kept tabs on each of them.

Feeling guilty, Marvin turned his head away to avoid looking at her eyes which were filled with tears. "I don't have the time to be arguing with you over this. Do yourself a favor and go." Watching him as he left, Meredith said coldly, "Marvin Leighton, you and my mom are not related anymore. You don't have to collect her body." Turning around, Marvin stared right at her and asked, "What did you say?"

"I said, stay the f*ck away from my mother."

"You-" Gritting his teeth, Marvin nodded his head furiously. "Fine, since you asked. Don't go around complaining that I didn't try to do anything to help."

Marvin then left.

Even though it was hard, Meredith managed to arrange a funeral for her mother.

There were no relatives, no friends. Just herself.

Meredith did not even know how she ended up this way. All she knew was that she was running out of tears to cry.

Kneeling in front of her mother's gravesite, Meredith choked up, "I'm sorry, Mom. I'm sorry that I wasn't able to take good care of you when you were alive. I can't even afford to send you off properly with a funeral. I hope you don't resent me too much."

Between her tears, she smiled. "Mom, I know you won't mind. You've suffered a lot in this life and I hope that you'll be able to get some rest and peace at where you are now."

"Mom, I'll come to visit you often, I promise." Tracing her fingers along with her mother's smile in the picture, Meredith said, "I'm leaving now. Nia is still waiting for me at the hospital."

Leaving the graveyard, Meredith returned to her rented studio, took a shower, and went straight to the hospital. Her mother's sudden passing had left Meredith in a shock.

She stood in front of the lift absentmindedly, not even noticing that the lift doors had opened and closed several times.

It was until she saw a familiar silhouette in front of her. She moved quietly aside and walked into the lift. Josiah had visited Yena in the morning and he was not scheduled to visit her in the evening but he decided to come anyway. Perhaps he knew that Nia was treated in this hospital and he might get a chance to run into Meredith. "Wait!" As usual, Josiah ordered her. But Meredith ignored him. Right when the doors of the lifts were about to close, Josiah used his hand to stop the doors, squeezed inside and dragged her out of the lift by force. Meredith, on the other hand, did not resist nor fight back, allowing him to drag her along as he wished.

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Chapter 173 "Meredith Leighton, what is this? Why are you avoiding me?" Josiah demanded with a gloomy look on his face. Finally lifting up her head to look at him, Meredith stared right into his eyes." Josiah Shelby, I am not running away from you. I'm just utterly disgusted by you, hate you, and I don't want to see you."

Pulling her wrist from his grasp, she added, "Oh, and let me tell you a piece of good news. My mom has finally died because of you. You must be exhilarated, huh.

"And one last thing. Now that you managed to force my mom to death, you can forget about using my mom as an excuse and threaten me to take care of that lover of yours, to be your maid, to be tortured by you, or to be forced to sleep with

you."

For some reason, her words did not sit well with Josiah. He felt somewhat suffocated.

Josiah closed into her until her back was against the wall. Looking down at her, he corrected Meredith, "I'm not the one who's responsible for your mother's death. This is simply what you get for challenging and going against me."

"Josiah Shelby!" Tears were running down her cheeks. "Do you know how much my mom means to me? Do you know how important she is to Nia?"

"What about Yena's mom then? Is she not important to Yena?

"Don't you bring Yena into this! I've nothing to be afraid of because I'm not guilty!" Glaring at him through her blurred eyes, she went on, "Even if I did kill her, Yena should be the one seeking revenge for her mom, not you. "Do you think I don't know that you're simply using Yena as an excuse to trample all over me, to torture me? But why can't you spare my mom and my daughter?" "I only didn't help save your mom." "Yeah? Do

you really think that it's just that?" Meredith was sure that her tears had run dry from all the crying in the past few days, but somehow she found herself welling up in tears again.

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clubhouse, forcing me to pay for the bottle of Lafite that you broke, did you know how much pain and suffering my mom and daughter had to go through? Do you really think that you're not in any way responsible for my mom being locked up away in jail to the point that she was ill? When I pleaded with the doctor to call you, to tell you that my mom needed to be treated immediately, you said that your ex-wife is already dead.

"My mom only died because she was not treated in time! And my mom is Nia's donor. Do you know that my daughter is also going to die now?!

"Thank you for giving me such an amazing gift, Josiah Shelby. If there ever comes a day where I leave this world with my daughter, it would be all thanks to you!"

She then pushed Josiah away and walked away.

This time around, Josiah did not stop her from leaving. He simply remained standing where he was, looking all conflicted.

Standing in front of Nia's ward, Meredith tried to collect herself before entering.

At the sight of her mother, Nia was excited. Throwing up her hands in the air, she wanted Meredith to hug her.

Pulling Nia into her arms tightly, Meredith's heart was broken.

"Mommy, it's been such a long time since you came to visit me," Nia sulked with her lips pursed.

Even though Nia was complaining, she sounded happy.

For Nia, as long as she was able to see Meredith, all the wait was worth it.

Feeling sorry, Meredith patted Nia on her back. "Sorry, sweetheart. I've been really busy with work and couldn't find the time to visit you."

"What about grandma? Is she really busy too?"

Choking up, Meredith nodded. "Mm…grandma is even busier than me. She might not be able to visit you for some time."

"Okay." Nia nodded her head disappointedly.

Feeling her shoulders getting wet, Nia got out of Meredith's arms. Puzzled, she asked, "Mommy, why are you crying? Don't cry, Mommy. I know that you and grandma are busy. I'm not angry at the both of you."

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Meredith nodded her head. "Mm, I know. Nia is the best!"

"Well, why are you still crying, Mommy?"

"Because I'm really happy to see you. That's why I started crying."

"Ahh, so you're crying because you're happy!" chuckled Nia.

Meredith nodded her head and forced a smile on her face.

"How are you feeling these days honey? Have you been a good girl?" asked Meredith.

Nodding her head, Nia replied, "I've been taking my medicine and taking my injections. You can ask Aunt Wren if you don't believe me."

Aunt Wren who was standing next to them quickly nodded her head. "Nia has been a really good girl."

Meredith turned to look at Wren and thanked her. "Thank you so much for your help, Wren. I really appreciate it."

"Not a problem, Miss Meredith. I am simply doing my job," replied Wren, smiling After Nia got an injection, Meredith kept her accompanied while she ate. Nia took a nap after that.

The past few days have exhausted Meredith too. She finally got a chance to take a rest. Holding Nia's hand in hers, she laid down her head by Nia's bed and fell asleep.

But she did not sleep well. She had the same nightmare again.

Nia was getting further and further away from her in the haze, and no matter how much she tried to pull Nia back to her, it was no use.

"No!" In the end, she woke up in fear.

Only when she saw Nia who was sleeping soundly on the bed, did Meredith finally let out a sigh of relief.

She then came to the doctor's office after having Wren keep an eye on Nia.

"I heard that your mom had just passed away?" The doctor asked.

Heartbroken, Meredith nodded.

"Well, Nia just lost her donor, didn't she?" Meredith nodded and asked, "Doctor Sean, I can settle the money, but can you please help me to find a suitable donor? Please." Shaking his head, Doctor Sean replied helplessly, "Miss Meredith, this is not the first time that your child is ill, and you know better about her situation right now. It's almost impossible to find one." "But we still ought to try, shouldn't we? She's still so young and I can't give up on her."

"I understand, of course. As a doctor, we will not give up on any of our patients too. But there are a lot of people who are on the waiting list for bone marrow transplant surgery. Plus, there aren't a lot of people who are willing to donate. It is already hard to get a donor for a patient with a typical blood type, let alone Nia with her rare body condition." Meredith was a doctor too. Of course, she knew how difficult it would be.

But she did not want to give up. She could not give up.

"Doctor Sean, are there really no other options?" Meredith asked anxiously. Doctor Sean shook his head. "I'll still look into it for you. But I have to be honest with you, the chances are slim."

Meredith already knew what to expect but still, she felt her heart sink.

Collecting herself, she asked, "How is Nia doing these days? Is she getting better?

She could only pray that the heavens would take mercy on Nia.

But even the heavens were harsh on Nia. Seeing Doctor Sean shaking his head, Meredith felt her heart being torn into pieces. "All these treatments are still hard for a young child like Nia, especially with all the pills and injections that she has to take. She even fainted last night when she tried to get down from the bed."

"What did you say? Nia passed out again last night?"

"Yes. It was really dangerous."

"At this rate, how much longer does Nia have?"

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Chapter 175 "That is hard to say," Doctor Sean continued, "like I said the last time. She could leave us anytime and it is also possible that she'd be in pain like now and last another year or two." "Being in pain like this..." Meredith murmured under her breath, "Yeah, every day is torture for Nia." Nodding his head, Doctor Sean replied, "That is why I've tried to persuade you to bring Nia home, to stop her from having to suffer all this pain." In other words, the doctor was telling her to give up. Meredith knew better that Nia would not make it through more than a few days as soon as she left the hospital grounds.

Walking out of the doctor's office, Meredith felt as if her soul had left her body, and all that was left was an empty shell.

Just the thought that Nia would get weaker by day, and the pain that she had to suffer would grow by the day, Meredith desperately wished that she could suffer all the pain for Nia instead. But she still could not bring herself to just sit around and count down the days that Nia had left.

After crying for a while outside Nia's ward, Meredith finally entered the room.

Nia had woken up from her nap. Perhaps the medication had worn off, and Nia looked slightly worse than before.

Nia could only call out to Meredith in a soft and weak voice.

But she still wore a sweet smile on her face. It was as if she was saying to Meredith, 'Welcome back, Mommy.'

"You're awake, darling?" Feeding her some water, Meredith then asked, "How are you feeling? Would you like me to hold you?" "Okay." Nia nodded.

Meredith lifted Nia into her arms and planted a kiss on Nia's cheeks. "Nia, it's been such a long time since we had a heart-to-heart talk. Shall we have one now?

Nodding her head, Nia replied cheerfully, "Sure!"

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Tracing her fingers around Nia's small hands that were covered with injection marks, Meredith asked, "You must be sad that you can only stay in the hospital when other kids get to go to school and play, right?" Nia nodded weakly. "Mommy, I want to go to school and play with the other kids too. I will take my medicine so that I can get better faster." "You are already doing a good job, sweetheart." Nia had been a good girl, and a brave

one. But the heavens did not seem to give her a chance to get better. Doctor Sean was right. It was cruel to put Nia through such pain.

"Nia, what is it that you want to do the most now?" Meredith asked.

"What do I want to do the most?" Turning her head to look at her mom, Nia's eyes shot wide open. "Anything?"

"Mm…"

"The thing that I want to do the most is of course to stay together with you and daddy."

"What else?" That was too unrealistic and there was no way for Meredith to fulfill that wish of hers.

"To get to go to school?"

That was unrealistic too.

"What else, darling?"

"To be able to play the piano on stage, to have a lot of people clapping for me."

"That..." Hesitating, Meredith nodded. "sounds doable."

Meredith could not fulfill Nia's other two wishes but she was able to fulfill Nia's wish of playing the piano on stage. Meredith decided that she would help Nia achieve her dream. Even if it meant that she would have to pay the audience to clap for Nia.

With this in mind, Meredith started looking up on the internet places where Nia could perform. She found a few and had contacted them but most of them had rejected her idea when they heard that it was a three-year-old girl who was going to perform.

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At her fourth attempt, when she asked them if they needed a performance, they replied, "No, we're not looking for any performing guest, thank you." "Wait a second." Meredith pleaded politely, "I don't need you to pay for our performance. I'll pay you if you provide me a platform for us to perform."

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hapter 176 The person on the other end of the call was startled. "Oh, you're looking to promote yourself, yeah? But it's just a small business and we don't have a lot of customers. I'm afraid that you'd be just wasting your time."

"Oh no, it's not to promote me. I just want to let my child have some experience." "How old is your child?" "Three...I mean, four years old. She plays really well even at her age. Her piano skills are almost in the seventh and eighth grade." "A four-year-old child has skills in seventh and eighth grade? Who do you think you're fooling?" The person then went on, "Alright now, I still have work to do. Please look somewhere else instead."

"My daughter is really talented..." Before Meredith could even finish her sentence, the person had ended the call.

Looking at Nia who was sleeping soundly in the room, Meredith could only sigh helplessly. It looked like she would have to hire an audience.

Just when Meredith was racking her brain, she received a call from Zya.

On the other end of the call was Zya who sounded excited, "Merelyn, I bit the bullet and went to beg Miss Josie earlier, she said that one of her friends who is working at a parent and child shop is having an event and they are looking for performances that are put together by the parent and the child." "Really? Where is the place? And what performance do they need?" Meredith asked excitedly yet at the same time she sounded apologetic, "You know how Nia's body condition is. She wouldn't be able to sing or dance. Plus she wishes to play the piano."

"I know and I've told Miss Josie about it too," Zya added, "oh before I forget, let me send you the owner's number. It'd be better for you to contact her."

"Okay, thank you so much, Zya," Meredith added, "and help me give my thanks to Miss Josie too."

"I will be sure to pass your thanks to her. But as for me, what's with the thanks, we're best friends, aren't we?"

After ending the call with Zya, Meredith made a call to the owner of the parent and child shop. The owner was a nice lady. After hearing Meredith's explanation, she agreed to have Nia perform on stage right away, and her only request was for Meredith and Nia to be wearing their outfits when they perform on stage.

It was good news to Meredith. After all, she was worried that Nia would not be able to pull through the entire event as she was weak. But if she was allowed to be on stage with Nia, she might even be able to help Nia achieve her dream too. Meredith visited the owner that very same day. For the sake of leaving a good impression, Meredith changed into her usual performing outfit, a white dress, and made sure to put on a face mask.

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The owner was utterly pleased with Meredith after watching Meredith's performance.' In disbelief, the owner asked, "You really don't need the performance fees?"

Meredith shook her head. "I am already thankful enough that you are giving this opportunity to my daughter." The owner noticed the sole of her shoes that had worn out, as well as the bag that was washed out, she said, "But you look like you could really use the money." Meredith choked up but she shook her head again. "It's fine now. I am not in need of money anymore." Back then, she needed money for Nia's surgery fees but now that her mother was dead, Nia would not be able to receive any surgery.

So why would she need money? All she wanted to do right now was to stay by Nia's side for the remaining time that she had left and help her achieve the things that she wanted to do. Seeing how Meredith's eyes had turned red, the owner thought that Meredith was hiding something. "Don't worry, I'm also paying other performing guests from the performing arts organization. I don't want to take advantage of you and your daughter. So fret not, I'll pay you accordingly." "Thank you so much." Meredith was touched.

Meredith brought the piece of good news to Nia as soon as she returned to the hospital.

Chapter i lo

At the news that she had a chance to perform

At the news that she had a chance to perform on stage, Nia was over the moon.

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Chapter 177 Seeing the bright smile on her face, Meredith could not help but pull into a smile too. Holding her small hand in hers, she said, "You'd need to be a good girl and eat more so that you have the strength to perform on stage, okay?"

"I will make sure to eat well, Mommy. Don't worry."

"That's my girl."

"Mommy, will there be a lot of people who will be watching me? Will there be other children? Will there be a lot of pretty lights on the stage? Oh, what about flowers?"

"Hmm..." Meredith paused before going on, "we will be performing in a mall and there will be a lot of kids shopping there, and I think there will be a big crowd. And of course, there will be pretty lights and flowers on stage. So, what do you think? Are you feeling

nervous?" "Nope." Nia shook her head. "That's good then," said Meredith, "let's get some rest. We can practice later using the piano app on my phone, okay?" "Okay." Nia nodded softly and shut her eyes.

At the news that his grandmother had arrived in town all the way from Delmas Town, Josiah's brows were knitted into a frown. "Why the sudden visit?"

"Ma'am did not say anything," Wesley shook his head but pulled into a slight smile, adding, "but this has always been how she is, isn't it? Ma'am always does things her own way." Seeing how Josiah was not saying anything, Wesley asked curiously, "But Sir, why are you so reluctant to see her? All she would ask from you is to go shopping with her, get facial treatment, and lunch together. You can always treat it as taking a break from work."

"Don't you already know her favorite hobby?"

"What is it?"

"Urging me to give her grandkids." Startled, Wesley could not help but giggle, "You're right."

"Forget it. What time does her plane land? I'll go pick her up." "In an hour's time. It'd be just about right if you leave for the airport now." "What are we waiting for then? Hurry up and get the car ready." Getting up from his chair, Josiah rushed out the door.

By the time he arrived at the airport, his grandmother was already waiting for

him.

At the sight of Josiah, she put on a straight face and started complaining, "You brat, how could you make an old woman like me wait for you? Where are your basic manners?"

Looking at her, Josiah replied, "Firstly, I am busy. Secondly, you could've taken the Shelby's private jet and they'll be drivers that will send you straight to my place. Thirdly..." "Alright alright..." Annoyed, Josiah's grandmother cut him off. "You think that I'm troublesome, don't you? Fine, I'll leave then." Josiah's grandmother did take the private jet but she wanted to know how important she was to Josiah. But all she got was Josiah who was as cold as ice.

Seeing how his grandmother was about to leave, Josiah hurriedly went up to her and said, "Grandma, it's my bad. But I'm here now, aren't I? I came rushing to the airport as soon as I got the news that you were visiting."

"All I see is that you think that I am troublesome."

"I'm not." "Boy, I'm warning you. Keep up this cold attitude of yours and I swear that I'll move here to Jehovah City." Softening his tone, Josiah pleaded, "I'm sorry, grandma. Let me treat you

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to dessert, go shopping with you, hmm? We can go to the movies too...what do you say?"

Chapter 178 "You're going to spend the whole day with me? Alright then, don't go back on your words."

"I won't." Josiah knew he had dug his own grave but he could only swallow down the bitterness.

"That's my boy," Putting her arms in Josiah's, she said, "come on now. Let's go have some dessert, then go shopping, and then we'll go to the movies at night. Oh, did you know about the new romantic movie that is showing? I heard the reviews are really good. The female lead was diagnosed with cancer and the male lead cried so hard..." Inwardly, Josiah was rolling his eyes, thinking to himself, 'A good movie indeed!' After Nia got her injection, Meredith took her to the performing venue. Meredith and Nia changed into a white-laced dress that was sponsored by the parent and child shop. Taking a close look at Nia, the owner lady praised, "Such a pretty little girl. You look exactly like Snow White." Every girl had a dream of becoming a princess, Nia was no exception.

Nia was overjoyed by the owner's compliment. "Thank you, ma'am. You too, look pretty yourself."

"What a sweet -talker you are." Tapping the tip of Nia's nose gently, the owner added, "Good luck with the performance later." "Thank you, I will do my best." Nia nodded happily. Keeping in mind of Nia's health condition, the owner had agreed for Meredith and Nia to perform earlier. Covering Nia's face with the same type of face veil that she used, Meredith reminded Nia gently, "Darling, don't be nervous once you get up there, okay? It's okay even if you forget the notes. I'll help you, and I'll protect you." Nodding, Nia replied, "I'm not nervous at all, Mommy. And I won't forget anything."

Meredith did not expect her three-year-old to be this brave. She thought that Nia was braver than she was back then.

There was not a big crowd at the mall, but not too small either. There were

roughly two hundred people in the mall.

The sight of Meredith and Nia dressed in all white, sitting in front of the piano, managed to garner a lot of attention. Meredith had chosen a piece by a Polish composer, titled 'A Maiden's Prayer'.

As soon as Nia started playing the intro, there was a wave of cheers and sounds of exclamation from the crowd. No one expected a three-year-old to play the piano so well.

Nia's fingers danced across the piano keys swiftly and elegantly.

As Nia's accompaniment, Meredith was a little nervous and was also worried that Nia would forget the notes as this was her first time performing. But her worries vanished when she heard Nia's intro.

Meredith thought to herself that Nia was so gifted and amazing. If only she was healthy.

Josiah's grandmother held her bag in one hand and was walking arm-in-arm with Josiah next to her. Behind them were a few assistants who were carrying her shopping bags. Josiah took a quick glance at his wristwatch and asked, "Grandma, we've had dessert and shopped for quite a while. What do you say if we go back and get some rest?" "It's fine. I'm not feeling tired," replied Josiah's grandmother. "But I..." Carefully, Josiah said, "...I have a meeting in an hour's time, and it's an important meeting..." "Goodness me! Is that an angel?!" Josiah's grandmother was not listening to him at all. Patting his arm and standing on her toes, she pointed to the stage and said, "Look, such an adorable little angel!"

Josiah had never taken interest in street performances. However, with his height, he could easily see the mother and daughter who were playing the piano.

At first glance, Josiah thought that the lady dressed in white with a face veil on her face looked rather familiar but he did not think that it was Meredith.

After all, it was a parent

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and child performance, and Meredith's daughter was supposedly lying on the hospital bed.

Chapter 179 He only confirmed that the lady was indeed Meredith the moment he noticed the hands that were dancing around the piano keys were covered in scars. Squinting his eyes to take a careful look at the child next to her, Josiah realized that she was Nia.

The mother and daughter's hands were moving across the black and white keys in harmony. They would even exchange glances with each other. It was a scene that warmed the hearts of many in the crowd. Hitting his arms excitedly, Josiah's grandmother exclaimed, "Did you hear that? That song sounds absolutely lovely. The little angel sure is gifted." Josiah replied, "Yeah." "Sigh, if only had a great-granddaughter as talented as her." She then started shaking Josiah's arms. "Josiah, hurry up and give me a great-grandchild, hmm? Please, I'm begging you." His grandmother's words only made him feel even more suffocated.

It was obvious that the child had inherited Meredith's gift in music. It was a pity that the child...was not his.

He was suddenly reminded of the paternity test results.

"Grandma, let's go now." Josiah turned around, wanting to leave.

Josiah's grandmother immediately stopped him from leaving. "What's wrong? Why are you leaving when it's such a good performance?" "We're not even related to the kid. What's there to see about it?" Josiah sounded annoyed. "Even if the child is not ours, she is indeed gifted. If you know nothing, then leave. I'll stay and watch."

"Okay, I'll really be leaving then."

"Leave and get as far as you can away from me." Josiah's grandmother waved her hands at Josiah without even looking at him.

Josiah was not worried about his grandmother as she had the driver and other assistants that would keep an eye on her. However, right when he turned around and was about to leave, he heard his grandmother say, "That lady looks a lot like

Meredith, doesn't she? Josiah, come back here, quick. Don't you think she looks like Meredith?"

Josiah looked toward Meredith who was on stage. Her side profile was facing the crowd and only her eyes were visible. But those pretty eyes of hers were quite rare.

It was no wonder his grandmother recognized her. Staring at Meredith, Josiah replied, "Grandma, Meredith's been dead for almost four years now. How would that lady be Meredith?" "You're right," Josiah's grandmother nodded as a look of disappointment was written all over her face. "I really thought that she might be Meredith. How I hope that she is still alive, then the little angel would be my great-granddaughter!" "Grandma, are you going or not?" Josiah could not hold back himself and his tone sounded slightly annoyed. "What's with that attitude of yours." Josiah's grandmother kicked Josiah in his shin and addeti, "How dare you give me an attitude when I didn't even scold you for losing Meredith!"

"Every time that I mention Meredith and you'd get unhappy. Let me tell you, Josiah Shelby, I am more upset than you are!" Josiah's grandmother yelled furiously. Right then, Meredith and Nia's performance came to an end. Both of them exchanged a look at each other and held their hands together before getting up from the chair. Josiah put his arms around his grandmother's shoulders and quickly turned his grandmother to face him. Walking her out from the crowd, he softened his voice and begged for forgiveness. "I'm sorry Grandma, it's my bad. Please don't be mad anymore."

"I still want to continue watching the performance. Don't push me!"

"The performance had already ended. It's time for us to go home now." Josiah forcefully brought his grandmother to the mall's entrance. After seeing her getting into the car, he then said to the driver, "Send grandma back home first. Drive safely."

Still Loving You Nonetheless by Snow de Eira Chapter 180

Chapter 180

"Yes, Sir."

"Josiah Shelby, why are you forcing me to go home?" "Grandma, you must've been tired from all the walking. Get some rest at home. We'll watch a movie together once I get back."

"You…" Josiah's grandmother was furious. Pointing at him, she seethed, "Just you wait, Josiah Shelby!"

At the sight of the car leaving, Josiah tried to ease the tight knot between his brows before reaching for his phone to make a call.

As soon as the call was answered, Josiah said bluntly, "Grandpa, I have to ask for a favor. Please send someone over and bring Grandma back to Delmas Town..."

Right when he walked backstage on the performing stage, Josiah saw Meredith taking a small bundle of cash from the owner.

Patting Nia's head, the owner lady praised, "You were absolutely amazing out there, Nia. You can keep this princess dress as a gift from me." "Can I really?" Nia pulled into a wide grin. "Of course, honey. The dress looked really good on you too."

"Thank you, ma'am. I really like this dress too."

"Not a problem, sweetheart."

"Thank you so much for everything, ma'am. We'll be leaving now."

"Alright. Hope to see you around."

As Nia was not allowed to leave the hospital grounds for too long, Meredith hurriedly left the mall with Nia after bidding goodbye to the owner lady.

Riverside Avenue was located right outside the mall. It was evening then and the river was glistening and glimmering from the evening rays of sunlight. The view was breathtaking.

Nia who had spent most of her time in the hospital was especially fascinated and stunned by the picturesque view in front of her. Gasping in awe, she said, "Mom, look at the sunset!"

"Yes, darling, a sunset." With Nia on her back, Meredith too took a closer look at

the scenic view.

The view was stunning.

"Mommy, can we watch the sunset?"

"Mm…" Meredith paused before replying, "okay. We will go back to the hospital after seeing the sunset." "Okay." Nia nodded happily.

Meredith crossed the roads and came to a stop at Riverside Avenue.

The weather was fair today. Meredith suddenly realized that it was a happiness to be able to take a walk with Nia while watching the sunset.

How she wished that this could go on forever.

"Nia, do you love me?"

"Of course." Laying on her mother's back, Nia nodded her head softly.

"Mommy loves Nia very much too.

"Nia, if there is an afterlife, please don't be my daughter anymore, okay?"

"Why?"

"Because I failed to protect you and take good care of you. You should find yourself a rich family and spend the rest of your days laughing and in happiness, instead of having

to take injections and take medication every day." She turned to look back at Nia and said, "Promise me, won't you, Nia?"

"No," Nia shook her head, "I still want to be your daughter. I want to stay with you and daddy and grandma."

She added, "I'm not afraid of taking injections and eating medicine." Meredith was touched by Nia's words. She felt tears welling up in her eyes and her sight was slowly blurred. "Mommy..." Nia was slowly getting sleepy as she found it comfortable laying on Meredith's back, but she went on, "you said once...that we should be braver, be more optimistic. Once I get better...we can then be happy for the rest of our days."

"Mm." Nodding her head as a tear rolled down her cheeks, Meredith said, "But I don't know what I can do to make you get better, I don't know anymore..." "Mommy, I'll be good. I'll take the injections and eat my medicine."