

## Chapter 464 Headlines And Scandal

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No matter how much Mark desired to be close to Cecilia, he had to stop his actions.

He murmured, "I'll go see Olivia."

Cecilia had intended to check on Olivia as well. But Edwin had witnessed their intimate moment earlier, making Cecilia feel somewhat embarrassed.

Sensing her unease, Mark gently caressed her back and said, "I'll go."

Cecilia nodded.

As Mark entered the children's room, he discovered that Edwin had already bathed his sister, Olivia.

Her bottom was dusted with baby powder, leaving it soft and smooth.

Edwin cradled Olivia by the bedside, gazing at her with affection.

She had smooth and tender skin.

He adored her immensely, as Olivia's presence had transformed his life for the better, eradicating the loneliness he had experienced alongside Cecilia when he was younger.

But things had changed significantly since Olivia's birth.

It was almost akin to parents introducing a pet to their children.

With these thoughts in mind, Edwin couldn't resist caressing Olivia's face and said in a coarse voice, "Good girl, I'll take care of you from now on."

Oblivious to his words, Olivia babbled contentedly.

Mark approached the bed.



Due to the earlier incident, Edwin felt somewhat awkward and quickly said, "I've already bathed her. You can take her now."

Mark looked at his son.

Edwin had donned a set of blue pajamas adorned with a charming bear motif.

Mark affectionately touched Edwin's head and said, "Olivia will sleep in your room tonight."

Edwin had no objections. He was determined to care for his sister.

Mark leaned against the headboard and took a fairy tale book.

Olivia, on her own, crawled into Mark's arms, placing a foot on his abdomen and resting her face on his arm as her eyes drooped shut.

Mark lovingly tucked her in and looked at Edwin.

Awkwardly, Edwin said, "I'm not a little girl. I don't want bed time stories."

He then pulled the quilt and lay beside Mark.

However, as Mark began reading the fairy tale book, Edwin couldn't help but listen, drawn in by Mark's captivating storytelling voice.

Edwin believed that this would surely work on his mother, just as it worked on his sister.

Olivia lay quietly in Mark's arms.

In the soft light, Mark appeared gentle.

After reading a page, he turned it gently with his slender fingers, the subtle sound luring them to sleep.

Gradually, Edwin drifted off to sleep, facing away from Mark with his face buried in the pillow.

Mark paused his reading, gazing silently at his son.

Olivia opened her eyes, taking in her father and then her brother.

After a moment, she handed the fairy tale book to her father and nestled back into his arms.



Mark smiled, kissed Olivia, and felt a rush of tenderness.

He imagined that Cecilia might have been just like this when she was a child. Waylen probably couldn't help but adore his sister, much like Edwin and Olivia.

With school in the morning, Edwin couldn't actually care for Olivia.

Mark dimmed the lights and carried Olivia to his room, where she slept soundly, taking up a significant portion of the large bed.

After taking a shower, Mark returned to the bedroom.

Cecilia was leaning against the headboard, quietly engrossed in her book.

Mark gently dried his hair. But seeing no response from her, he lowered himself and took the book from her hands.

She looked up at him, sensing that he had something to discuss.

Mark looked at Olivia and asked Cecilia in a hushed tone, "Shall we talk in the study?"

Cecilia took the book back from him and absently traced the book's edge with her fingers before she asked quietly, "What do you want to discuss?"

Sitting beside her, Mark gently gathered her hair behind her ears.

They were so close that Cecilia found it difficult to resist his proximity.

Mark said softly, "A few days ago, my mother asked me when we were planning to have our wedding ceremony. Cecilia, I'd like to hear your thoughts."

In fact, they didn't necessarily need a grand wedding.

Mark wanted to start by getting their marriage registered and then hold a small, intimate ceremony.

He felt they didn't need a large audience. He wanted the wedding to be simple yet meaningful surrounded by only family and close friends.

However, this was his perspective. He wanted to hear Cecilia's opinion.



Cecilia was no longer the naive girl she once was.

When he broached the subject, she understood what he meant--he wanted to remarry her.

Cecilia couldn't help but think about something. She had met Elaine earlier, and Elaine had mentioned that Cecilia and Mark weren't a real legal couple now, which led her to pursue Mark.

If Cecilia were to agree to marry Mark solely due to Elaine's comments, it would make her seem petty.

Cecilia was lost in thought.

Not content with her absent-mindedness, Mark playfully pinched her waist and, in a hoarse voice, asked, "What's on your mind? Aren't you ready to commit to me entirely now?"

Cecilia understood his frustration.

However, she wasn't ready to rush into getting married again. It all felt too hasty.

Recalling their past, Cecilia believed that she and Mark should allow their relationship to develop naturally and give it some time.

Additionally, she was determined to be more cautious this time, especially with Olivia being so young. She didn't want Edwin to be disappointed again.

To her surprise, Cecilia discovered a dazzling diamond ring in Mark's bathrobe pocket.

She took it out and admired its exquisite, costly appearance.

Sliding it onto her finger, it looked stunning on her slender hand.

Mark gazed at her silently.

Cecilia, wanting to convey her intentions, moved closer, sitting on his lap with her arm around his neck.

She then removed the ring from her ring finger and placed it on her middle finger.



Was this the fundamental difference between men and women?

Cecilia bit her lip, raising her hand to admire the diamond ring on her finger.

She thought that in a year or so, she and Mark could officially register their marriage.

However, her tranquility was interrupted when her phone rang. The caller was her agent.

"Hello, Susan. Why are you calling so early in the morning?"

After a moment of silence, Susan said, "Cecilia, take a look at what's trending on social media."

What was happening?

Cecilia hung up the phone and opened Twitter with curiosity.

The headline was sensational.

"Affluent families are intricate. The romantic entanglements of the Fowler daughter are publicized."

"Rivals in love become sisters-in-law."

"Senior or husband? What enchantment did she use in captivating Mr. Evans?"

Each word seemed to be directed squarely at her.

Cecilia's complexion grew ashen.

She wasn't naive. She knew that someone was deliberately targeting her.

She had a strong suspicion of who was behind it.

Cecilia clenched her teeth. She was certain that Elaine was the culprit.

As Cecilia raised her gaze, she noticed Mark walking in the bedroom. She asked, "You saw it as well, didn't you?"

Mark, holding the phone, replied, "I can ask Peter to suppress it."

Cecilia shook her head and said, "It's too late for that. Some of these topics have gone viral. Letting the gossip fester is the quickest way for it to die



down. You know better than anyone, Mark."

Mark looked at her with understanding.

In fact, he had the power not only to bury the trending topics but also to deal with the person behind the farce.

It would be like dealing with an ant.

He walked over and gently stroked her head. "Let me handle it."

Cecilia gazed up at him with affection in her eyes.

"Mark, we shouldn't try to suppress it. It's time to let others know about us. We haven't done anything wrong. We love each other, and we aren't breaking anyone's relationship. The seniority issue is a matter for the Fowler and Evans families to settle; it's not relevant to anyone else. I think... When we get married in the future, or when Edwin and Olivia grow up, they should be able to proudly announce that their parents are Mark and Cecilia."

After a brief pause, she continued, "Mark, I'm not ashamed of us."

Mark was concerned about her well-being. However, he felt proud for her courage and strength.

He hugged her but knew this wasn't the right time for intimacy.

He decided to call Rena, as it involved her as well.

In the early morning, Rena's voice was composed when she answered the call.

Rena assured him, "Uncle Mark, let me handle this matter."

Mark had great faith in Rena's capabilities.

After their conversation, he said to Cecilia, "Rena will deal with it."

Cecilia ran her fingers through her hair.

She suddenly said, "Mark, whether you believe it or not, I no longer harbor any resentment towards Harold."

Back then, Cecilia had genuine affection for Harold. The reason she no longer held any grudge against him was that their love had never been



She knew that Cecilia didn't want to directly confront the person responsible.

Rena also found such actions tiresome.

She quietly ordered, "Compose a statement for me. I was never in a relationship with Harold. From the beginning, Harold was only engaged to Cecilia."

Wendy couldn't help but comment, "Mrs. Fowler, this is a clever move."

This approach not only protected Cecilia's reputation but also spared Harold, who had passed away, from further judgment.

Rena smiled. "We shouldn't trouble the departed. No matter how many wrongs he may have committed, after death, those misdeeds should be forgiven."

As Wendy was about to leave, Rena halted her with a request. "Hey, in the afternoon, commission someone to write a captivating story about Miss Shaw and Mr. Kent. It needs to be intriguing. And then make sure to hype it up."

Wendy grinned and assured her, "Got it, Mrs. Fowler."

Rena continued with her breakfast, and soon Elva was brought to her by the nanny.

Rena took care of her daughter gently.

Cecilia's situation was of minor problem to Rena.

The story of Mark and Cecilia's love had become the talk of Duefron in a single day, and the involved parties were honest about it.

With Rena's assistance, the issue didn't escalate.

At dusk, Cecilia called Mark.

She said in a hushed tone, "Rena is still more clever. I really can't match her."

Mark, sitting with documents in front of him, smiled and replied, "You don't have to compete with Rena. Cecilia, I..."



Before Mark could finish his sentence, Cecilia interjected, "But I want to be stronger. I don't want to hide behind you every time, relying on you to protect me from trouble. Mark, I've grown up. I can also be of assistance to you."

Mark fell silent for a while, struggling to convey his emotions.

Sensing the gravity of the atmosphere, Cecilia playfully teased, "Mark, I hope you'll enjoy your golden years."

Mark's emotions swirled between anger and amusement.

He loosened his tie with a chuckle and retorted, "Weren't you content last night?"

Cecilia blushed and didn't want to prolong the conversation. She promptly hung up.

She was currently in her office.

After ending the call, she spotted someone standing across from her--it was Elaine.

Cecilia regarded her silently.

Slowly, Elaine approached and sneered. "Sometimes I envy you. You stole Mrs. Fowler's boyfriend, and she's even helping you."

Cecilia couldn't help but laugh. "Is this your doing, Elaine? Aren't you afraid of my retaliation?"

Gritting her teeth, Elaine replied, "You won't."

Cecilia was genuinely surprised by her confidence.

Elaine's voice grew colder as she continued, "I know you're counting on me to put on a rivalry show. You are counting on me to win a prize with this film, but have you ever thought about whether you have the capability for that, Cecilia? You're just a worthless woman. You don't deserve Mark's love."

Cecilia had no intention of being polite with Elaine.

"Whether I deserve it or not isn't up to you, and your petty schemes won't change that."





Cecilia paused and added softly, "As for the prize, let's see whose abilities come out on top."

Elaine was about to say more, but her phone rang.

After answering, her complexion turned ashen, and her lips quivered.

