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Chapter 841 Let Me Try

Matthew nodded and retreated. "I'll leave the rest to you."

A confused Brian decided to play it cool and checked on the patient with his stethoscope.

Looking forward to hearing some good news, the woman standing beside Brian asked, "How is he, Dr. Pierce? Is my husband alright?"

Brian nodded and answered, "He should be fine by now. All he needs is just some rest—" Before he could finish his sentence, the patient suddenly let out an obstreperous moan with a pale face, as if something was stuck in his throat.

At the sight of that, the three of them were shocked while she asked, "What's going on, Dr. Pierce? What's wrong with my husband?"

Meanwhile, Brian appeared to be equally confused as he had no idea what went wrong. Then, Crystal asked in surprise, "What's happening, Matthew? I thought he was fine."

Matthew replied, "I'm not done with the treatment yet. As the octopus' tentacles were attached to his blood vessels, it caused his skin to be detached from his body. Now that the octopus has been removed, his skin will try to merge with his body but for that to happen, blood will have to circulate around his body or it will lead to localized blood clot. This will either result in localized swelling or breathing difficulties."

Now that she understood the situation, Crystal glacially chuckled and answered, "Let's see how he is going to deal with the situation!"

On the other hand, Brian was overwhelmed by panic as all of his measures failed to work. As the patient's face reddened, his neck began to be covered in veins while his eyes protruded like he was about to die. Knowing that he would be held responsible if anyone died on his watch, Brian found himself on the verge of a breakdown because he didn't even know how to start treating his poor patient.

"Dr. Pierce, please save my husband..." The woman cried, feeling as anxious as her two sons while Brian's forehead was covered in cold sweat. Although he wanted to save the patient, he had no idea how to go about it.

It was at this moment when Matthew came over and spoke with a soft voice to offer his help. "Perhaps, you could let me give it a try."

The woman and her sons gazed at him before she looked at Brian in silence. However, Brian had a sour expression because if Matthew managed to save the man, he would be the one who cured the patient.

"Dr. Pierce, this is a matter of life and death. If the patient dies here, I wonder where that is going to lead you! Tsk-tsk!" Crystal casually noted.

In the end, Brian surrendered to his panic and answered, "Please do your thing, Mr. Larson..."

While the patient desperately struggled, Matthew placed his fingertip on the man's lower jaw and applied pressure on it. After that, the patient appeared to have a smoother breath as he seemed to feel a lot better.

When he saw what had happened, Brian was left with his eyes widened in disbelief. What?! That simple? Needless to say, he was aware of how complicated the situation was because the blood clot had to be first located before the subsequent treatment could be performed. However, that was exactly what he was unable to do.

On the other hand, Matthew was able to tell where the blood clot was with just a mere glance at the patient. Thus, he quickly made his move to treat the patient since he couldn't afford to make any mistakes. After all, since the blood pressure in that region was unusually high, one mistake could cause profuse bleeding and even lead to death. Nonetheless, everyone else in the ward was completely unaware of the potential danger should Matthew fail to perform his treatment correctly.

Soon, the woman and her sons looked at Matthew in surprise as they realized the man they were gazing at possessed extraordinary skills and that Brian was nothing compared to him.

Crystal shot a gaze at them with a cold smile. "So, I bet you guys now know who the one who truly treated your father is, right?"

While the woman wanted to say something, Brian gritted his teeth and answered, "Hmph! Well, he might have stopped your husband's pain, but I was the one who made the swelling subside! Thus, let's not get things mixed up!"

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Chapter 842 Charlatan

Upon hearing the man's answer, Crystal's eyes widened as she didn't expect Brian to be so shameless. Fortunately, the woman and her two sons were smart enough to know who was telling the truth, so she immediately slapped Brian in the face. "You can screw yourself with your nonsense! If you're really so good, my husband wouldn't be lying here for more than a fortnight! You're an idiotic charlatan with no sense of shame at all! Let me tell you something. I'm going to speak with the dean and hear his explanation for myself!"

"H-How dare you hit me!" Brian's expression changed.

"Why wouldn't I?" She laid a hand on him again while her two sons surrounded him intimidatingly.

"If you ever dare to touch me again, I'm going to call security!" Brian growled with a flushed face.

"Sure, I dare you to because I'm planning to call the cops too." The woman chuckled and added, "It's time for a charlatan like you to face the music for nearly killing my husband. We'll see you in court!"

Brian became worried when he heard the woman's threat. After all, neither of the parties would gain from the situation should they ever have to resolve their differences in court. While she would be barely affected by the lawsuit, he could find himself in trouble for disgracing the hospital, which could spell the end of his career. Therefore, he quickly pacified the angry woman. "Relax, Miss. There's no need to be so mad. Let's talk and see how we can sort this out."

However, the woman didn't bother to look at Brian as she turned her attention to Matthew with a polite response. "Thank you so much, Mr. Larson. I'm sorry for my foolishness and disrespect earlier, so please forgive me."

While her two sons also apologized, Matthew waved his hand and replied, "It's alright. The patient has almost recovered anyway, and I'll write you a list of ingredients so that you can prepare the medicine he needs to take. By then, he should be up and about again." He then shifted his gaze to Brian. "By the way, would you please give me a little privacy, Dr. Pierce? I have something I'd like to ask the patient about."

Brian was stunned by Matthew's response, finding it weird that Matthew would tell him to leave on his own turf. Nevertheless, he reluctantly decided to do as told in the end without any objection.

"What is it that you want to ask my husband about, Mr. Larson?" The woman stood beside the bed. "He's been unconscious for days, so maybe I could answer your question instead."

Nonetheless, Matthew shook his head with a smile and took three needles before he inserted them on the patient's forehead and shoulders. Then, the unconscious man slowly opened his eyes as everyone watched in awe and disbelief. At that moment, the woman and her sons couldn't help but feel amazed by Matthew's extraordinary medical skills.

Soon, Matthew looked at the patient and asked, "Do you remember visiting anywhere with water before you fell ill? I'm talking about the kind that we see in the wild, like a lake or river."

The patient appeared confused, seemingly still trying to get used to his current state. A few moments later, he gasped for breath and replied, "I-I like fishing. Before I fell ill, I went to the mountains in South Suburb. There is a lake there called 'Cadmus Lake', which was where we fished."

Matthew jotted down the location and asked, "Is there anything else?"

"I was busy during that period of time, so that was the only place where I went fishing." The patient shook his head. "The rest of the places I visited had no water at all."

After that, Matthew continued to ask the man for a few more details until he narrowed the coverage and understood what was roughly going on. Then, he wrote his prescription and gave it to the woman as she gratefully thanked him for his help.

Meanwhile, Brian stood outside the door alone, feeling left out as neither one of them wanted to talk to him. When she returned to the ward, she glared at him and clicked her tongue, yet he was too timid to refute her.

Upon leaving the hospital, Crystal asked in surprise, "Matthew, that man said he went to Cadmus Lake with his friends, but none of them fell ill except for him. So, I bet the lake has nothing to do with his illness, right?"

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Chapter 843 The Conundrum at Cadmus Lake

Matthew thoughtfully looked at Crystal for a moment before he corrected as he slowly shook his head, "No, the problem traces back to Cadmus Lake!"

As she was taken aback by this revelation, she asked, "Why?"

He did not elaborate any further. The case in hand had something to do with the voodoo clan in Orleans. In truth, he would rather Crystal stay out of the matter entirely because the situation was somewhat similar to the one that happened to Leanna's best friend.

The centipedes that plagued Leanna's best friend for years had turned her into a live bait for other insects to nest within her body and Matthew's current patient happened to share the same affliction.

These centipedes were free-range, and unless one intentionally consumed them, they would not attack without any instructions from the one who raised them.

That being said, such a presumption wouldn't necessarily apply to patients whose bodies had naturally lured these centipedes.

In particular, this patient had gone fishing with a few of his friends, but he was the only one being poisoned, which showed that he was essentially a worm bait.

Matthew presently glanced at the time and saw that it was premature for him to visit Cadmus Lake. Therefore, he proceeded to check on two other patients—one of whom had centipedes attacking his system and the other a strange ailment.

After having diagnosed them, Matthew quickly worked to attend to the patient with the strange ailment and cure him, but he paid extra attention to the other one suffering with the centipedes.

It was after Matthew had run a thorough check on that patient that he discovered yet another distinct source for these centipedes—Pinehills, which was nestled within the South Suburb, and on the map, the locality of which happened to be in close distance to Cadmus Lake.

Upon realizing this, he abandoned his plans to head over to Cadmus Lake tonight. Given how close the region was to Pinehills, it could only mean that the centipedes raised here were the work of two persons who definitely knew each other.

If Matthew were to visit Cadmus Lake as planned, he would have to concurrently confront those two persons. More to the point, the information he currently had now was from the diagnoses, so there was no telling whether there were other Orleanians involved.

With that in mind, he decided that he would curate an elixir for his own protection before confronting these centipede-raising folks.

When he got off work that night, he immediately returned to Lakeside Garden to start on the elixir.

Meanwhile, Crystal had been hoping that Matthew would buy her dinner, but she did not insist when she saw that he had something important lined up.

Since she was left without any evening plans, she returned home dejectedly and had only just arrived when her best friend texted her, 'Up for clubbing tonight, Crystal? There'll be a couple of hot guys joining us!'

In the past, Crystal would have immediately agreed to it, but ever since she met Matthew, she had lost interest in parties and raves. Her response now was brief and straightforward as she texted back, 'No, thanks!'

Then, she put her phone down and sat on the couch with her arms wrapped around her legs in boredom.

Just as she spaced out, Joseph came in and chuckled at her state. "What's on your mind, Crystal? You look like you're in a trance!"

Crystal had been daydreaming about Matthew until she heard her grandfather's question and blushed furiously. "Grandpa, I was waiting to have dinner with you! I would have starved to death if you hadn't arrived home!"

She reached out and pulled at Joseph's arm childishly as she said this, which made the old man chortle in delight. "Very well, then. I'll bring you to any restaurant you like for dinner."

Half an hour later, Crystal linked arms with Joseph as they arrived at an upscale Italian restaurant in town.

Joseph grew reluctant at the sight of the building as he protested, "My goodness, Crystal, why can't we have something a little easier on my palate instead of all this over-the-top gourmet food?"

She whined coquettishly, "I really want to have dinner here, Grandpa, though!"

Exasperation seized him when he heard this; he had never been able to say no to his granddaughter.

They then entered the restaurant and staked out a table by the windows.

At that moment, someone had accidentally caught a glimpse of Crystal from a distance away, which caused his expression to stiffen. The person was none other than Tate, who was currently seated at one of the tables with a girl outside the restaurant.

Sitting across him was Minerva and a foreigner who sported a head of golden hair and piercing blue eyes. With a tall build and dashing good looks, the girl next to Tate couldn't help but sneak glances at the man.

However, if Matthew and Sasha were both here, they would have instantly recognized the foreigner as Peter, whom they had met before.

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Chapter 844 Peter the Fraud

Peter was Penny's boyfriend and Penny happened to be Sasha's best friend. Upon her return from abroad, Penny and him were joined at the hip and she wouldn't stop bragging about him when she met up with Sasha.

Back then, he had wanted to leave a good impression on Sasha, which was why he had spun several lies in the process. One of which was his claim that he was an executive working in Carlson Group and that he was a resident at the Grand Pavilion.

However, the perfect image he had created for himself crumbled when it was revealed that he was a foreign tutor working in a bilingual kindergarten under Carlson Group. As soon as the truth broke out, Penny couldn't dump him fast enough.

Alas, it was a small world and Peter had somehow managed to weasel his way into Minerva's heart. In fact, she had been the one to arrange the dinner this evening, hoping that Tate could give her a wise word or two after personally meeting Peter.

Presently, she leaned against Peter and beamed as she asked smugly, "So, Tate, what do you think of this fish that I caught? An excellent candidate for your future brother-in-law, right?"

Tate appraised Peter with admiration as he replied approvingly, "Not bad at all. He's definitely a hundred times better than that loser!"

Minerva knew that Tate was referring to Matthew, and she grew even more triumphant as she quipped, "Well of course! I mean, look at me. As if that wretched woman could ever compete with me in the first place—she and that loser are a perfect match if you ask me!"

Tate guffawed and turned to look at Peter in askance. "Peter, I hear that you're part of the management in Wayne Group?"

Peter nodded with a hint of arrogance. "That's right and I just returned from abroad. Wayne Group first hired me as an honorary advisor, but they promoted me to the position of project manager soon after that. At this rate, I could very well make it as a general manager next month! As you know, Mr. Wayne and I are close associates outside of work."

Tate was ecstatic to hear this. As he was back for a while now, he liked to think that he had a good grasp of the dynamics of Eastcliff's upper-crust society. From what he knew, Timothy Wayne was a formidable figure in Eastcliff; he was probably only second to Billy Newman. No family in the Ten Greatest Families of Eastcliff could even hope to compete with Timothy's wealth and power.

Naturally, there was a gap between Leanna and Timothy in terms of their social standing as well. Tate had been holding a grudge against her ever since she had taken it upon herself to teach him a hard lesson, but he knew that he was not powerful enough to seek revenge against her.

However, now that he was associating himself with Peter, he began to feel a twinge of hope. If he had Wayne Group to back him up, his revenge against Leanna would become feasible.

At the thought of this, Tate suppressed the urge to grin like a maniac. He inched forward in his seat and asked Peter at a closer distance, "Do you think I could get into Wayne Group, Peter?"

Upon hearing this, Peter faltered slightly. He was only a fraud, so it wasn't like he could actually decide on Wayne Group's human resources. However, he quickly regained his composure and answered softly, "With your credentials from abroad, Tate, I think you can enter Wayne Group without any problem. There's no question when it comes to your capabilities."

An elated Tate pressed, "So, do you think you could pull some strings and get me into the company?"

Peter shook his head ruefully. "I'm sorry, Tate, but I don't have the privilege to do that for you right now. As you know, I'm just a project manager at the moment, and if I were to get you into the group, you would probably just end up as my assistant..." He paused, feigning pensiveness before adding, "However, maybe when I am promoted to a general manager next month, I could bring you in as the new project manager. Do you get what I mean?"

As he was overjoyed by this information, Tate was practically kissing up to the other man as he replied, "Yes, I get it. You really do have things planned out, Peter!" He couldn't begin to describe how happy he was. If he could become the project manager at Wayne Group, the money that could come from it would surely surpass the fortune his father had amassed!

Peter, on the other hand, let out a quiet breath of relief. Thank goodness Tate isn't a very bright guy. If he had insisted that I get him into the company, then I'd have exposed myself! He took a sip of wine to calm his nerves before he casually asked, "Your sister mentioned that you guys are still staying at the Grand Garden, is that right?"

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Chapter 845 She's Probably a Sugar Baby

Tate and Minerva grew a little flustered at the question. While they told everyone that they were staying at the Grand Garden, the truth was that they could no longer set foot in the premises after the last incident had ended on a really sour note.

Nevertheless, they had an image to maintain in front of others and he was quick to respond as he replied, "Oh, yes, we've been staying at the Grand Garden since our return. The nearby lake house happens to be ours and my sister and I absolutely love swimming in our backyard pool."

Peter's eyes brightened as he thought, Finally, a worthwhile hustle!

However, he kept his voice light as he said, "I've stayed at the Grand Garden for a while back then, but that was when I first came back. I didn't have much money then and I was staying at the Grand Pavilion. My place was just over two hundred square meters, but I stopped living there in the end; the house was a little small for my taste."

Upon hearing this, Tate and Minerva exchanged a glance; they were already on the edge of their seats. If Peter's idea of 'small' was two hundred square meters, then that would mean he was living in a much bigger house at the moment! Could he be staying in a private villa?

Minerva's eyes lit up with excitement as she asked, "So, where are you staying now, Peter?"

Peter flashed a self-effacing smile. "I'm staying at one of Mr. Wayne's villas right now, but I'm looking to buy a house in Lakeside Garden by the end of the year. After all, I'm sure the both of you would understand how different it is to have a place of your own as opposed to staying at someone else's house."

His plans had clearly exceeded Tate and Minerva's expectations. Both of them gasped in delight and thought, Lakeside Garden! He's planning to own a place in Lakeside Garden! If Peter were to actually go through with his plans and own a villa there, we can finally stand up to the Cunningham Family!

A second later, Tate shot his sister a meaningful look before she practically hurled herself at Peter as she chirped, "You're amazing, Peter. I think I'm liking you even more!"

Peter, on the other hand, merely chuckled as he returned Minerva's affections, but all that filled his mind was how he could con her money out of her.

At that moment, Tate was glancing into the restaurant when he caught sight of Crystal and Joseph, both of whom had only just entered the establishment.

A shadow passed over Tate's face. He had been holding a grudge against her since she delivered several harsh slaps across his face the last time.

However, after having been taught a lesson by Leanna, he did not step out of his house for a while and thus did not have the chance to seek revenge. He certainly didn't think that he would run into Crystal here in the restaurant. What a small world, indeed.

Across from him were Minerva and Peter, who were becoming heated in their interaction.

"Tate, the both of you should carry on with dinner. Peter and I are going for a walk!" Minerva announced excitedly. Then, she took Peter by the arm before dragging him away from the restaurant.

Meanwhile, Tate looked mutinous as he glowered at Crystal through the window. His date, who was next to him, grew alarmed as she urged, "What's wrong, honey?"

He gave Crystal one last baleful look before he recounted the bad blood between them. When his date heard his explanation, she shot Crystal an equally hostile look and pouted. "Oh, is that what she looks like? Given her audacity, I thought she'd turn out to be some gorgeous siren or something. I mean, just look at her with all that designer stuff! How could a lowly nurse like her even afford all those things in the first place? She's probably a sugar baby, and judging from how she's so friendly with the old man, he's likely her latest victim!" After she took a pause from her scathing commentary, the woman turned back to Tate with

a comforting smile. "You shouldn't have to worry about someone like her, honey. She's not worth your time!"

An insidious gleam flashed in Tate's eyes when he heard what his date had said. Contrary to what the woman might believe, Crystal's beauty still had an effect on him. Although he thought that Crystal was in love with Matthew before this, she was just a sugar baby looking for someone to fund her luxurious lifestyle from the looks of it. That means I probably have a shot with her!

After a long moment of thought, Tate addressed his date flatly, "Why don't you return home first? I still have a couple of things to attend to later, but I'll head over to your place as soon as I'm done."

His date left begrudgingly after that. When she was well out of earshot, he clenched his jaw and called up a few of his buddies to come over. He was ready to take down Crystal tonight and would make sure that she was completely humiliated!