



Rekindled Heartache Episode 1

four years ago. The rain was heavy and the night was dark. A young woman looked at the coldly elegant woman standing before her. The older woman was holding an umbrella while the younger woman was getting soaked in the rain. You should know that the Dexter family will not acknowledge this child. The older woman's icy voice did not contain a trace of warmth. Stupid girl, don't forget who you are. You are not from the right kind of family. family. You and your child are not worthy of the Dexter name." Mrs. Dexter, this child is your flesh and blood, a member of the Dexter family. How can you treat him like this?" Zoe argued. Zoe used both hands to protect her slightly bulging belly. At this moment, she felt a coldness and helplessness that she had never felt before. her. That child is no relative of mine," Catherine Dexter spat. Her face was disdainful. A slut like you is not worthy of giving birth to a child of the Dexter family.

I am not a slut, Zoe protested. Her face was red and her eyes were teary. Your mother is a whore, and so are you, Catherine hissed. My mother is not a whore.

You don't know what you're saying. Zoe shook her head furiously. Zoe Fuller, there's only one ending for this baby, and that is death. Either this child will die in your womb, or he will die in the hospital.

I will never let him live. Catherine sneered in contempt. Zoe staggered backward, looking at the cruel woman in front of her in horror. You are a devil, Zoe exclaimed. That is not your

decision. When you give birth to this child, I will let you watch as he dies in front of you, Catherine said, her voice chilling in its calmness. No, don't, Zoe shook her head.

Staring at Catherine with horrified eyes, Zoe started panicking. How can you treat him like this? He is your grandson, your biological grandson. You're a madwoman. Suddenly, a scalpel appeared in Catherine's hand. Before Zoe could react, Catherine raised her arm and stabbed Zoe in the stomach with the scalpel.

Zoe's heart-wrenching scream tore through the night sky. Blood gushed out of Zoe's abdomen as she pitched forward and collapsed onto the ground. Zoe was lying in a pool of blood. Her face was deathly pale, and her eyes were glassy and unfocused.

It was a horrifying sight, but Catherine's lips just curled into a cruel smile as she turned her back on Zoe's bloody body and walked away. The rain pounded down on Zoe. She could feel the blackness closing in.

Her consciousness was fading. She fumbled for the phone in her pocket. Zoe whispered hoarsely into the phone, her voice fading. Save me, please Please save my child. And then Zoe's world went black. Present day. Five o'clock means it's quitting time.

Courtney closed her laptop and looked over at her co-worker Zoe. You finished for the day? She asked. Zoe stretched her back and smiled at her friend. I was just putting some final touches on this design, but I'm done. Zoe pulled out her thumb

drive and dropped it in her bag before she closed her laptop and started quickly packing up her things. I'd ask you to happy hour, but I'm sure you're off to see your son. It's okay, I get it. Courtney stated with a grin. Your date is much

cuter than anyone I'll see at the bar. That he is. Zoe agreed with a smile. Her face was brimming with happiness. This was the best part of Zoe's day. I'm heading out. I'll see you tomorrow,

Court, she announced. Zoe quickly walked towards the exit of Taylor Interiors. She wanted to get to the hospital to spend as much time with her son as possible before visiting hours ended.

Watching Zoe's back, Courtney couldn't help but sigh. Her friend was under so much pressure. Being a single mother was hard enough. And to add to the hardship, Zoe's son had leukemia. The financial and emotional strain on Zoe was immense.

Her son was currently undergoing chemotherapy, but he needed a bone marrow transplant. And, so far, a matching donor hadn't been found. Zoe and her family had been tested, but none of them matched.

Courtney said a quick prayer that a miracle would come into Zoe's life. Zoe squeezed her way out of the elevator at St. Mary's Hospital Courtney said a quick prayer that a miracle would come into Zoe's life. Zoe squeezed her way out of the elevator at St. Mary's Hospital and headed straight to room 1023. She pushed open the hospital room's door with a huge smile, only for her face to immediately fall. The room was empty. There was no sign of Zoe's son. She immediately became anxious. Zoe quickly went back out the door. She grabbed a nurse passing by and asked, excuse me, where's the patient from room 1023? He's my son, Max. Um, the young nurse looked at Zoe awkwardly. I'm sorry, I'm an intern nurse. I just

started here this week. I don't know your son. I'll ask the charge nurse. Don't worry. The young nurse walked quickly to the nurse's station, Zoe following close behind. Zoe let out a breath she didn't know she'd been holding when they arrived at the nurse's station and she saw a

young bald child wearing a small blue and white striped gown. He was sitting on a tall stool with his two short legs dangling in the air. He was holding a tablet in his hand and was concentrating on drawing for the nurse beside him. Max, if you're sweet to

me, I'll share my candy. The nurse held up a candy bar and waved it in front of Max. Max looked at the nurse reproachfully. Nurse Luna, you shouldn't give me candy. My mommy said that if I eat candy,

my front teeth would fall out. If I don't have teeth, I won't be able to find a girlfriend as Max's words made Nurse Luna's heart bloom with joy. She hugged Max and said,

It's okay. I will marry you if you can't find a girlfriend. Nurse Luna, you are lying. Max laughed. You and all the other nurses only want to marry the handsome doctor, he responded. Nurse Luna shook her head and denied it.

The most handsome person in our hospital is obviously our favorite patient, Max. I only want to marry you, she teased him. Max pursed his lips and smiled. Zoe couldn't help

but laugh. Hearing her laughter, Max and Luna stood up. Mommy! Max saw Zoe and slid down from the stool. He ran straight to her. Slow down, Zoe said with a laugh as she bent down and hugged Max

tightly. Luna, thank you for taking such good care of Max, Zoe said gratefully. Because of the hospital's sweet nursing staff, Zoe could go to work and not worry so much about Max. The nurse smiled.

Zoe, it's our pleasure. Taking care of your son is our responsibility and Max is so sweet and cute, he's easy to look after. Zoe laughed. That's why I easy to look after. Zoe laughed. That's why I have to thank you all the more. Are you the only one on duty today?

Where are the other nurses? Zoe inquired. Luna grinned. She pointed down the hall to a group of nurses peeping around the corner. They are all gawking at the new brain surgeon who just started here. They're not wrong. The man is gorgeous, Luna informed, blushing. The group of nurses reluctantly walked back to join them at

the nurse's station. He left? Luna asked them. Yes, he went into surgery. One young nurse replied glumly. She looked like she was in love with the brain surgeon. Another nurse sighed. I mean,

even his voice is sexy. I was assisting him the other day and he said, hematoma in the brain, prepare for surgery, and I wanted to have his babies. He's one of Phoenix's most eligible

bachelors. He was promoted to a professor when he came to our hospital. He has a bright future ahead of him, a third nurse added. I also heard that his family is loaded and has a lot of political influence.

He recently bought a penthouse downtown, Luna told the others. Wow, all the women sighed. It was as if their admiration for this handsome brain surgeon had no limit. Anyway, everyone, stop daydreaming and get back to work, Luna told the nurses.

It's not like any of us stand a chance with a man like that. I'm sure he only dates women like him, gorgeous and from the right kind of family. The right kind of family. Zoe hadn't been paying much attention to the nurse's conversation,

the last thing on her mind being men and romance, but Luna's words stopped her cold and reminded Zoe of her past. Not being part of the right kind of family is what had almost gotten Zoe and Max you

Episode 2

Zoe stifled a yawn as she finished her meeting and walked out of her boss, Tallon Taylor's office. She hadn't slept well last night. Nurse Luna's words yesterday about being part of the right kind of family had dredged up memories that Zoe preferred to keep buried, and she had tossed and turned all night. When Kourtney saw Zoe approaching, she leaped up and handed Zoe's phone to her. Oh, good.

There you are. Zoe, your phone has rung more than 10 times in a row. Someone needs to talk to you, Courtney told her. Is it the hospital calling? Zoe asked her anxiously, dropping her drawings on the desk and quickly taking the phone from Courtney.

No, no, don't worry, I checked. If it had been the hospital, I would have come and gotten you, Courtney assured her. Zoe unlocked her phone. She let out a long sigh of relief. It was just Linda.

She was her younger sister, Ziva's best friend. She quickly called Linda back. Linda picked up on the first ring. Oh, Zoey. Thank God you called back.

Linda, what's going on? Is something wrong? Did something happen? Zoey asked worriedly. It's Ziva.

She fell down the stairs and almost killed herself. Linda told her frantically. Linda's words exploded in Zoey's mind like a bomb. But don't worry, Zoey, Ziva will be fine, Linda added, trying to reassure her. Linda's two sentences made Zoey feel like she was on a roller coaster.

Zoe patted her chest to try to settle her rapidly beating heart. She nervously asked Linda, how badly is Ziva hurt? We already took her to the hospital, the doctor said her injuries weren't a big problem, but Ziva has broken her leg and had a slight concussion. Zoe was irritated. What?

And this is not a big problem? Which doctor said that? She asked. Ziva's attending doctor said that, Linda replied. Forget it, which hospital are you guys at?

I'll come over right away. Zoey said, already starting to pack up her things. Saint Mary's, Linda answered. Okay, I'm on my way. Zoey hung up and quickly filled Courtney in on what had happened and asked her to tell the boss why she'd left early.

Once Zoe was in her car, she called Linda back on the speaker. Something didn't feel right. Okay, Linda, tell me, what's really going on? Zoey said firmly. Going on?

What do you mean Zoey? Linda replied awkwardly. Tell me the truth, Linda. The full truth. Zoey emphasized, what did you mean earlier when you said that Ziva killed herself?

The younger woman sighed. Okay. It's like this. Ziva didn't fall down the stairs. She deliberately threw herself down the stairs.

She wanted to injure herself, but she didn't want to die. Linda explained. Is my sister insane? Zoe angrily shouted. She fell in love with a brain surgeon that works at Saint Mary's Hospital, but he always ignores her.

Ziva wanted to get admitted to the hospital so he would have to pay attention to her. Linda explained. Brain surgeon? Was this the same handsome brain surgeon that the nurses had been talking about last night? Zoe, I told her I thought she was crazy, but you know how Ziva is.

She wouldn't listen. Linda added. What was she thinking? Zoe shouted trembling with anger. She could have died.

Ziva doesn't need a brain surgeon. She needs a shrink. She's nuts. The moment Zoe entered Ziva's hospital room, she angrily threw her purse onto the bedside table and glared at her sister. Her arms folded around her chest.

Ziva's leg was in a cast, and there was a large bandage on her forehead. Ziva, you have some serious explaining to do, Zoey told her harshly. Hey, sis, it really hurts. Ziva's eyes were red as she looked at the furious Zoe. She was trying to look pitiful to gain sympathy, but Zoe wasn't having it.

Good. You deserve it for doing something so stupid, And that too, over a man. She looked at her sister's battered body. Her head hurt, but Zoe's mouth scolded. To risk your life over some guy?

It's absurd. As she spoke, Zoe grabbed the water pitcher off the table. You're out of water. I'll go and get you some more. Zoe walked out of Ziva's room.

She didn't care about the water pitcher. Zoe was just so angry she needed a moment alone to calm down. She turned right and walked down the hall to the nurses station to ask for more water. While she waited for the nurse to fill the water pitcher, Zoe took some deep breaths to soothe herself. Seeing the visitor's coffee station nearby, Zoe walked over to fix herself a cup.

She was going to need caffeine to deal with her sister. Stirring in the sugar, Zoe glanced up and froze. She was staring at a man's back. He was tall with broad shoulders and dark hair. He wore a white doctor's coat, and his hands were casually in his pockets.

Zoe stood frozen as she watched the man round the corner and disappear from view. No. It couldn't have been him, Zoe thought. Why would he be here in Phoenix? He lived in Scottsdale.

Zoe shook her head. No. This was just her mind playing tricks on her because Zoe had been thinking about Blaine after what Luna had said last night. She needed to get a hold of herself. Zoe finished making her coffee and after thanking the nurse for the water, walked back to her sister's room.

Entering the room, Zoe set the water pitcher down on the counter, her back to the bed. Any dizziness or nausea? A deep male voice asked. Zoe's heart stopped. It was him.

She would know that voice anywhere. Her chest tightened and she forgot to breathe as she turned around. My stomach is better. Ziva smiled as she answered the doctor's question. She glanced over at Zoe by the door.

Sis, why are you just standing there? Come on in. Blaine was busy checking Ziva and didn't turn around. He bent over and aimed a small light into Ziva's eyes. Any double vision?

He asked. Maybe a little. Ziva nodded and replied. Seeing the dazed Zoe still staring at Blaine's back, Ziva jokingly called out again, sis, what are you doing? What are you staring at?

Blaine still did not look back. Gathering herself, Zoe finally spoke. Ziva, are you thirsty? I got more water. Blaine stiffened when he heard Zoe's voice.

He seemed stunned for a second. He turned around and locked eyes with Zoe. His dark eyes made shivers run down Zoe's back. Blaine's eyes looked black, but she knew they shifted with his mood from various shades of gray to almost black. Her heart was beating wildly.

She had thought that she would never be looking into Blaine's eyes again. Zoe was sure her face reflected her emotional upheaval. Blaine seemed remarkably calm by comparison. Blaine's eyes showed his shock only for a moment before returning to normal. It was as if Zoe's sudden appearance hadn't affected him.

It had been 4 years. Perhaps he saw her as barely more than a distant memory, now a stranger from his past. You're Ziva's sister? Blaine asked her. That voice, Zoe had always loved Blaine's voice.

He could have been a radio host if he hadn't been a surgeon. His voice was deep, rich, and, oh, so seductive. Yes, Zoe answered, trying to hide the nervousness from her voice. I am her older sister. Blaine turned back around to continue examining Ziva.

Your sister may need to stay in the hospital for observation for a few more days. Okay. Thank you, Zoe politely replied. She tried to sound as cool and calm as Blaine, but Zoe feared she was failing miserably. She walked over to set her coffee down on the side table.

Ziva watched her sister curiously. Zoe, this is doctor Blaine Dexter, my attending physician. Zoe didn't realize how much her hand had been shaking from nervousness until she tried to set her coffee down and hot liquid spilled all over the back of her hand. She silently screamed inside as a burning pain shot through her hand. Zoe quickly hid her hand behind her back as she turned around, but then suddenly she felt a cool touch.

It was Blaine and he was holding Zoe's