

Boss Your Wife's Asking for A Divorce Again Chapter 591

Chapter 591 Promise to Give It a Try

The size of the pair of slippers fit just right, and the woolen material inside was silky and soft, comfortable when it came in contact with the skin. With happiness written all over her face, Sonia smiled and could not help but swing her feet happily. "Thanks, Toby."

After being in her high heels for several hours, she could only endure the soreness and numbness in her feet. Now that she had put on this pair of slippers, it was as though her feet had a taste of freedom from its wretched cage, not to mention how comfortable this pair of slippers was.

No doubt, Toby is really attentive. Perhaps, I could try to trust him and accept him again. After all, he was hypnotized back then, so he wasn't himself. I'm so glad to have him now, seeing how he has saved me several times. Even the little things he does for me matter a lot.

Thinking of this, Sonia took a breath, shook her palms, and looked as if she had made a decision. At this moment, Toby took Sonia's high heels, put them in the box, and patted her hair lightly. "What's on your mind? You look so serious."

Sonia raised her eyes and looked at him. Her rosy lips parted, and after contemplating for a while, she said, "Toby, there's something I want to ask you. Are you certain that you'll love me forever and that you would not change your mind?"

Toby did not know why Sonia suddenly asked him this, but he simply nodded and answered without hesitation, "I am certain."

Upon hearing his words of affirmation, Sonia calmed down and, at last, shook her head again. "Funnily enough, I cannot bring myself to believe those words. To believe a person's love for another in one's lifetime seems infinite, but for several decades is more than enough. At this very moment, you might declare your love to me and claim to love me for a lifetime and beyond from the very bottom of your heart, but who is to say that your love will not fade in the future? Can you truly pledge your undying love to me without any deceit or turn for the rest of our lives?"

More often than not, when lovers were head over heels with each other, the world around them wouldn't seem to matter. They would let themselves be engulfed by the flames of love and pledge to each other their vows of unity. Momentarily, their earnest love often seemed to last for an eternity.

But only time could tell whether one's love was strong enough, and as time passed by, love would fade away, reducing them to nothing but strangers. By then, those vows that they poured their blood and souls into would be reduced into no more than just a joke.

For now, Toby loved her so much he could even take a bullet for her, but she knew better than to trust that his love would never change in the future.

After all, the nature of humankind was truly unpredictable. Who was to say in the hereafter, he would not encounter a different woman who could possibly satisfy him in ways she couldn't?

Sensing and witnessing the anxiety and void looks in Sonia's eyes, Toby suddenly spread his right arm and embraced her. At once, Sonia's body froze, and she was about to put up a fight to escape his embrace.

Suddenly, Toby whispered into her ear and said softly, "Don't move." Sensing the comfort and security from him, Sonia stopped moving.

Toby tightened up his arms a little bit and then answered, "I am aware of your concerns, so Sonia, I won't lie to you. I cannot promise you whether I am certain I can love you forever. Promising and pledging to love you all my life now does seem more like an empty promise. After all, now is not the future. Even if I were to claim so now, you would not likely believe me; thus, I can only claim that only time will tell. What I can be sure of is that I want to keep you by my side forever, just like my grandma and grandpa did."

Toby stared at her with dead seriousness. "My grandparents were deeply in love in their youth, and they managed to keep that fire burning until their old age. When my grandpa passed, Grandma could not bear to be apart from him and tried to reunite with him. In my late grandpa's will, he requested that my grandma continue to live well without him by her side and remain strong for her family to combat the pain and sorrow she felt. Only I know that though my grandfather is not physically beside her, he is always on her mind. Thus, Sonia, the chivalric love is still there, proven by my grandparents, so why don't we give it a try? Who knows, we might just end up like them?"

That was the exact answer Toby gave to Sonia to convince her. Instead of paying lip service that he would love her for the rest of his life, he was more willing to use a real love story to prove his sincerity.

Seeing the promise of hope in the man's eyes, Sonia was touched. His words made sense. Rather than settling for his confession of love that he would love her for the rest of his life, she felt that it was far better to walk the journey personally and fight to keep the love alive.

Perhaps, in the end, it could really work.

But...

Sonia bit her lower lip. "Alright then, let's give it a shot. But Toby, can you promise that after we are together, you will not be so easily hypnotized again?"

As she looked at him, she was on the verge of tears. Their tragedy began from the moment he was hypnotized.

Post hypnotized, he forgot that he had discovered that Tina was not Sonia. Deep seeded in his consciousness, he believed adamantly that Tina was Maple. Thus, during the span of their six years of marriage, not even once did he recognize her.

Hence, if this tragedy were to happen once more, she would not be able to bear the pain all over again.

She would rather have him cast her away naturally now than be made to believe his love for her.

“I’ll be able to resist it this time!” Toby nodded with full affirmation. “The concept of resisting hypnosis is that one must not be weak mentally. Tim’s senior is the world’s leading hypnotist. Now that I have him, surely I can’t be hypnotized that easily.”

Due to his experience of being under the influence of hypnotization for six years, when he finally woke up from his hypnotized state, he was no longer easily hypnotized like he was before.

Regarding this matter, Miles had said so himself. When Sonia saw that Toby showed no signs of lying, she felt at ease.

As long as he was no longer being hypnotized, his intention and love toward her were completely controlled by him without the accounts of others.

That way, there should not be a reason for her to worry about going through the whole nightmare that had happened six years ago.

“That’s good to hear.” Sonia nodded.

Toby stared at her brightly, his eyes filled with hope. “Sonia, you just proposed that we give it a try. Are you willing to get back together with me again?”

Sonia blushed deeply and turned her face to one side. “I said I was only willing to give it a try. I never said we would be in a union.”

“H-Huh?” Toby frowned slightly at her words. “Then... What do you mean?”

Sonia shut her eyes slightly, and after calming down, she opened her eyes again and turned to face him. “Toby, I am not going to lie. I do think of getting back together with you at times.”

Toby’s eyes lit up with excitement.

Sonia added, "However, I have yet to make up my mind on that matter. I want to be allowed time and space for myself to decide on this rationally and not impulsively. When I have made up my mind, I promise to give you the answer then. How is that?"

"Alright. I respect that but do not leave me hanging for more than a year, Sonia," Toby declared as he held her face in his hands.

"Certainly not that long. Give me half a month, alright?" Sonia chuckled and shook her head.

With a heart full of excitement and a rare glimpse of glee on his usually stoic face, Toby said, "Alright then, half a month it is."

Good gracious! For a second, I thought that she'd say at least a year and a half. Who would have thought she only said half a month? Half a month later, she would surely be with me again.

Toby excitedly hugged Sonia so tight that she felt as though all her air was pushed out of her lungs. Still, she was in a happy state. After a moment of thought, she decided against reminding him to let go.

They were interrupted by a knock on the pavilion door. It was only then that Toby snapped out of his happy daze and let go of Sonia before turning to the door. He was clearly unhappy with the intruder. "Who is it?"

To disturb him in his happy state was like asking for a punch in the face.

"Young Master Toby, it is me." An old-sounding voice came from behind the door.

Toby's irritated brows loosened when he heard the voice. "Oh, it's Mr. Franklin. Do come in."

Mr. Franklin, unaware of the state inside the pavilion, pushed open the door and was stunned by the scene before him. There in the pavilion, Toby and Sonia were in each other's embrace.

Good lord! They're actually hugging one another. Am I disturbing their private time? I must have come at a bad time!

Now, Mr. Franklin felt extremely guilty, as he must have thought of himself as the party pooper for disturbing the private time between Toby and Sonia.

He was one of those few who knew about Toby trying his hardest to win back Sonia's love.

Now, onto the real question, did he actually cause any delay in their progress upon his intrusion to their intimate moment together?

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Chapter 592 Old Mrs Fuller's Fury

Mr. Franklin's gaze uncomfortably shifted between the two. He then hesitated for a moment before suddenly bringing one hand up to cover his eyes. "Oh my! My old eyes can't see anything well. Don't mind me and carry on with whatever you are doing."

And with each word, he slowly took little backward steps toward the exit of the pavilion.

His words finally brought Sonia back to reality, and when she realized she was still being held by Toby, she quickly pushed herself out of his embrace. Her face was flushed as she stood there in silence.

It all happened so fast that Toby could only stare at the empty space near his chest where Sonia was just seconds ago. His eyes held a hint of regret as he pursed his lips and said, "Alright now, Mr. Franklin. Don't come in just to leave like that."

Upon hearing that, Mr. Franklin stopped shuffling backward before cautiously removing his hand from his face. Looking at the now-separated duo, he let out an embarrassed laugh. "My apologies, Young Master Toby. I didn't mean to intrude," he bashfully said.

"It's fine. Why have you come?" Toby asked while nonchalantly waving to urge him to get on with what he interrupted them for.

Seeing Toby's unconcerned attitude, Mr. Franklin could only let out a small cough to ease his nerves before he announced his purpose. "Old Mrs. Fuller wanted me to let you know that you may go ahead and rest in the bedroom that has been prepared."

"Sure. We'll be there soon," Toby said and nodded in return.

Mr. Franklin then gestured behind him and said, "I'll take my leave first then, Young Master Toby."

The man in question merely hummed in reply.

Done with the task he was entrusted with, Mr. Franklin then turned to leave the two of them alone to themselves at the pavilion.

After Mr. Franklin had left, Toby picked up the box with Sonia's high heels in it and said to Sonia, "Let's go. I'll take you to the room."

She stroked her face at that and gave a simple "Okay".

They proceeded to leave the pavilion as they headed for the bedroom. After a few minutes of walking, they arrived at the room, whereupon Toby opened the door for her. "This is where you'll be spending the night. Rest well, okay?"

"Got it, and you too. I'll be heading in then," she replied as she took the shoebox from him.

Hearing the answer he anticipated, he nodded in acknowledgment. "Go on."

She gave a small wave to bid him goodnight, and just when she was about to turn around to walk in, he suddenly called out to her. "Sonia, wait."

Confused, she turned to look at him and asked, "What's wrong?"

His thin lips parted. "Don't forget that you agreed to get together with me. You have half a month to organize your thoughts."

The tense look on his face surprisingly made her smile. "I remember what I said," she reassured him.

It was obvious that Toby was worried Sonia would go back on her words if she were to forget ever making such a promise to him. Why else would he mention it even though all Sonia was doing was heading to bed?

"Good," Toby said upon hearing her answer. The strained expression on his face visibly relaxed as he loosened his grip on her wrist. With his hand in the pocket of his pants now, he said, "Get some sleep. I'll see you tomorrow."

"See you tomorrow, Toby," she smilingly said with a nod before going into her room.

Toby's own lips curled into a smile as he looked at the closing door. At that moment, a silhouette appeared from behind. "Young Master Toby."

The familiar voice made Toby's smile disappear in an instant. He turned around to look at that person before questioning, "Mary, what are you doing here instead of keeping Grandma company?"

"I'm here on Old Mrs. Fuller's behalf. She would like for you to pay her a visit," Mary said with a smile.

Mary's reply only made Toby raise his eyebrows quizzically. "Does Grandma need me for something?" he asked.

Without divulging much, Mary nodded. "Yes."

"Alright," Toby answered curtly as he started making his way toward his grandma's room with Mary in tow. It only took a short while for them to reach their destination.

Toby walked through the bedroom door that was wide open and was promptly greeted by the sight of Rose sitting on a couch with a towel in her hand. She seemed to be meticulously wiping at something with it.

Upon closer look, he realized that she was cleaning his grandpa, Norman's favorite tea set before he had passed away.

After all, Norman and Rose had been a pair of lovebirds the whole time they lived as a married couple. Everyone knew that it was an old habit of Rose to touch any of Norman's used items whenever she started to reminisce about him.

"Grandma," Toby called out to make his presence known. He then walked over to sit down on the couch across from his grandma.

Rose moved her gaze from the tea set, and she could tell something was different about Toby with just one look. "You punk, are you this happy because Sonia agreed to be with you?" she teased.

She was sure that something big must have happened for someone like Toby to not hide his joy. It was written all over his face.

He picked up another towel and began wiping down the tea set too. "We are not official yet, but we're getting there," he said.

"Oh? And how are you so sure about that?" Rose, who was confused by his confidence, asked.

The smile hanging on his lips only got deeper as he thought about the whole ordeal. He explained, "That's what she told me. She needs time to prepare herself for a relationship again, but she agreed to reconcile after half a month."

Upon hearing that, Rose was so surprised that even her hands stopped wiping. "Did Sonia really say that?" she asked again to make sure.

"Mm-hmm," he sing-songed with a smug expression on his face.

That made Rose purse her lips discontentedly. "God must have been blind to allow things to go your way," she grumbled.

The dissatisfaction in her voice made him frown as he asked, "Shouldn't you, my grandma, be on my side?"

Her hands then started rubbing and wiping again. "I'm just saying it as it is. With how you treated her six years ago, Sonia shouldn't even have to entertain the thought of forgiving you. You must have one hell of a luck to not only get her to forgive you, but also agree to a reconciliation. That is why I said that God must be blind."

When Toby heard the statement, his smile seemed to freeze. "From what I'm hearing, it feels like you're against us getting together," he said.

"That's not it." She shook her head in response and continued, "I'm supportive of her being together with you now. But if you're going to treat her like how you did six years ago, I want you to stay away from her. Don't hurt her anymore, Toby. Which is why I need to know now that you're not going to repeat what you did to her in the past."

He immediately nodded, and with a somber look, he announced, "Of course, I won't! I have not told you after all this time, but not only me but our whole family was hypnotized six years ago. I never meant to treat her that way!"

Toby would not have known that Sonia was Maple if he was the only one who had fallen for the hypnosis, but even Grandma, Tom, and Tyler did not realize the truth. That was when he knew something was obviously off.

Miles also confessed that his encounter with Rose and the rest had been planned from the start, which was when he took the chance to hypnotize them. That was how he managed to keep the fact that Sonia was, indeed, Maple hidden for six long years.

"Hypnosis?" Rose repeated the word in a grave tone, her eyes staring straight at Toby. "Is this true?"

"It's all true. Tina's hypnosis not only prevented us from recognizing Sonia, she also made me believe that she herself was Sonia. She hypnotized me into loving and staying loyal to her only. I wouldn't have woken up from the hypnosis if it weren't for the car accident I was involved in. I would probably still be hung up on that imposter," he finished his sentence coldly. His eyes were cast downward as though he was in deep thought.

Rose could only exclaim in surprise, saying, "No wonder you did a 180 from being such a gentle person to an extremely cold one six years ago! This also explains why I thought you had become your old self again after the accident."

Although it was a hard-to-believe story, Rose naturally trusted the words her grandson was telling her. Furthermore, she could have easily known the validity of his claim if she were to ask another hypnotist regarding this. There was no need to make up a lie like this at all.

Still, she was undeniably shocked that her grandson had to go through such a terrible thing and that she herself had been hypnotized without knowing.

Her anger flared as she heavily thumped her fist on the table. “Who was the one who did it?” she demanded. The air at the moment was so thick with tension it was almost suffocating.

But of course, Rose was a person who had lived more than half her life, and she had even been on the frontline during the war in her younger days. It was only natural that she would be intimidating when angered.

However, Toby was not put off by his angry grandma. He only put down the teacup he had wiped clean as his mouth coldly spat out a name as though it was venom. “Tina. She hired someone.”

Hearing those words from her grandson made her so angry she could only laugh. “That woman again!” Her eyes, filled with bloodlust, turned into slits as she said, “What a fine daughter the Gray Family has raised. Do you have any idea how much worse things could have gotten because our whole family was hypnotized by Tina?”

We’re lucky she only used hypnosis to do the things she has done so far. Just imagine if she had hypnotized you into becoming her puppet and had used you to cause havoc within Fuller Group, or even worse, the Fuller Family. Not even you would’ve been able to go against her if that’s the case!”

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Chapter 593 Tough Decision

A wave of fear suddenly washed over Rose after she said that. Toby, on the other hand, kept mum, his complicated emotions reflected on his face.

As ridiculous as it might sound, he indeed should be feeling grateful for the fact that Tina and her family had not gone overboard with their scheme. Otherwise, they would have had to rename their empire to Triforce a long time ago. Fuller Group would probably have ceased to exist.

Seeing that her grandson had no intention of answering her, Rose looked at him with a dissatisfied look on her face as she continued saying, “Toby, we can’t just forget about this. The Fullers never let an insult go unreciprocated. The only reason Tina could afford to hire a hypnotist was because we provided her with the finances to do so. And don’t even mention the number of times Tina and her family have attempted to try something with Sonia. There’s no more reason for you to still keep them on our side.”

With each country’s common business practices, it would not be easy to lay hands on another company without breaking a law of some sort. However, Toby Fuller was a man whose influence ran so wide and deep within the industry that he would have more than one way to get rid of the Gray Family. His contribution to the country would only result in the government turning a blind eye toward his actions.

Simply put, it wasn't impossible at all for the Fullers to demolish the Grays. What Rose did not understand was why Toby still chose not to do anything even up till this point.

Rose had never questioned Toby before, as she assumed that he, as the head of the Fullers, must have had his own reason for protecting them. But now that the cat was out of the bag, and she finally knew about Tina's hypnosis on the Fullers, she could no longer put up with the Gray Family.

Toby knew the exact thoughts running through his grandma's head right at the moment. He massaged the tense spot between his brows and glumly said, "I've thought about it before, Grandma. I, too, want to get back at them for what they did to Sonia and our family, but now's not the right time to do that."

When Rose heard Toby's justification, a frown appeared on her face. "And why is that?" she asked.

He looked at her and said, "It's because of Sonia's identity."

His brief reply only confused Rose more. "Sonia's identity? What about her identity?"

"Sonia... is the daughter of the Gray couple."

"What?" Rose was so surprised she unknowingly stood up.

Mary, who had been in the room all this time, couldn't conceal her shock as well. "Young Master Toby, you must be joking! Young Mistress can't possibly be their daughter."

Obviously still flabbergasted, Rose seemed slightly shaken as she quickly reprimanded her grandson. "Toby, watch your words!"

"I'm telling the whole truth. Sonia is the Gray couple's biological daughter that was stolen away by Henry Reed 20 years ago." With pursed lips, he continued, "Her real name is Rina Gray."

Upon hearing that, Mary couldn't contain her curiosity and asked, "But didn't Rina Gray already return to Gray Residence?"

"That one's an imposter. She's not the real Rina Gray—Sonia is. The imposter's name is Taylor Carey. She's someone Sonia and Zane found to impersonate Rina, and she was supposed to create chaos within the Gray Family before she, unfortunately, realized how wealthy they are. She's now planning to take Sonia's real identity because of her greed," Toby said while massaging his forehead.

Rose finally understood the situation after hearing Toby's explanation. With Mary's help, she took a seat on the couch again as she asked, "So, this... Taylor Carey. She betrayed Sonia?"

"Yes, and not only that, she did all sorts of underhanded things after finding out that Sonia is the real daughter to the Gray Family. She has had Sonia knocked unconscious before. She also got rid of the birthmark on Sonia's body that could have proven that she was Rina."

Toby's words made Rose silent for a long time before she eventually let out a sigh mixed with a myriad of emotions. "Who would have thought that Sonia is their biological daughter? A lot of people from our circle were aware of the incident even though the news of Rina's kidnapping by Henry Reed was never publicly announced. Everyone thought he had drowned her after taking her away from her family. I can't believe that he has been raising her this whole time."

"Indeed." Mary melancholically nodded.

All of a sudden, Mary gave a big slap to her thigh as she seemed to recall something important. She then said, "Old Mrs. Fuller, I just thought of something. Henry Reed's wife, Mrs. Lina Reed, fell really sick when their child was a few months old 20 years ago. After that, her mental health seemed to have deteriorated when she attended events because she would keep mumbling something about missing her child. She used to bring her child everywhere, but she stopped doing that for a while around that time. That was when the servants started a rumor that she must have acted that way because her child had passed away."

Rose nodded when she heard Mary's words. "I've heard about this from you before. Henry's father was an old comrade of my father's during the war, which was why I paid extra attention when you told me this. I even had someone go check up on how the Reed family and Lina were doing and whether the child was really gone."

"That's right, and the person you sent came back with the news that Mrs. Reed had regained her health, and the child too was alive. The reason Mrs. Reed was in bad shape was that her child had fallen sick. The rumor only started because it was known that her child has had a weak body ever since birth and that it'd be hard to raise and take care of the child. There didn't seem to be anything odd when news came back that Mrs. Reed had gotten better at the same time her child's health had improved, but now that I think about it..." Mary said before ultimately ending her sentence without finishing her words.

Toby, who had been quietly listening, completed Mary's thoughts instead as he squinted his eyes in concentration and said, "The child that Sonia's mother had could really have passed away. The healthy child that you heard about must have been Sonia instead."

"My thoughts exactly," Mary added.

Rose let out a sigh again. "I think I get the whole picture now. Henry must have kept Sonia alive because his own child had passed away, and Lina was mentally unwell because of that."

"That's probably the case," Mary said.

Rose then turned to look at Toby and said understandingly, "No wonder you haven't done anything to the Grays despite everything that has happened. You are in love with Sonia, who is one of them. You have too much to consider before you can make a move on them."

He could only stay silent at that.

She then asked again, "You've been hiding the truth of Sonia's birth for so long. Do you not plan on letting her know?"

"Indeed," he said while nodding. "The Reeds and Grays are old rivals. The Gray family has attempted to murder Sonia so many times; their relationship is probably beyond repair. How do you think Sonia would feel if we were to tell her that the ones who have been trying to get her killed are, in fact, her biological parents?"

Upon hearing that, Rose furrowed her eyebrows, and the look on her face gradually changed. "I wouldn't be able to accept it if I were to find out that the one who pushed my father to death and tried to kill me was my biological father all along. I wouldn't be able to handle it both mentally and emotionally," Rose admitted as she put herself in Sonia's shoes.

"You're right. This is the exact reason I'm still keeping Sonia in the dark about this. She was taken in and given the best care by the Reed Family when she was but a young child. Despite what has transpired between the families in the past, the fact is, Sonia considers the Reed couple her real parents. She has known that Titus Gray is the reason for Henry's death all this while. Don't forget that all the hardships she was put through were because of the Grays. She definitely holds resentment toward the Gray Family," Toby said solemnly as his eyes cast down.

"If I were to tell Sonia the truth behind her identity now, it would completely destroy her perception of the world. It could even lead her to start rejecting and denying herself. If she were to know that the Grays are related to her by blood, she wouldn't have the heart to do anything to them anymore. But at the same time, she can't just turn her back on the Reeds, who have been there for her throughout the years. I'm afraid that she would come to the conclusion that the only way for her to cut her ties with both the Reed and Gray family would be by ending her own life."

Mary carefully listened to Toby and gave his words a thought before nodding and agreeing. "Young Master Toby is right. Young Mistress is someone who would do that."

Rose could only let out another deep sigh. "This is a tough situation. Sonia still isn't aware of the truth, and she holds grudges against the Gray Family, which she is related to. And yet, we can't possibly let her harm the Gray couple lest she carries the guilt for the rest of her life. No matter the circumstances, they are, indeed, her biological parents."

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Chapter 594 The Best Way

"That's right," Toby said as his hand moved to massage his temple instead. "I can't do anything to Titus and his family too. What if I were to kill him, only for Sonia to find out about her birth one day? How would she see me then? She may loath the thought of being the Gray couple's daughter, but no one can choose their parents. The day I kill her parents will be the day I destroy my relationship with her. She'll choose to leave me."

So this was the true reason Toby had been putting up with the Grays.

If it wasn't for his fear of losing Sonia, he would have brought the Grays to ruin himself a long time ago. He would carry out his revenge on behalf of Sonia, and she would be able to get what she wanted without dirtying her hands.

Alas, Sonia just had to be the Gray couple's biological daughter.

Even if she refused to accept them as her parents, he would become a murderer who had killed her blood relatives if he really were to have the couple murdered.

While she might not hate him for his actions, she definitely would start pushing him away.

The complexity of the situation made Rose rub her forehead as she felt a headache creeping up the back of her head. "If that's the case, neither you nor Sonia can do anything to the Grays then," she deduced.

"She definitely can't." In a grave tone, he continued, "Furthermore, Sonia and I found something out on our trip to Kosovo."

Rose knew that her grandson was going to say something serious by the looks of it. "What is it?" she asked as she stroked the cane she was holding in her hand.

"Henry Reed did not commit suicide because of what happened to Paradigm Co., nor was it because of the disappearance of Jessica Reed and Sandra Brenner after they took the money. He was drugged. Titus had the mother-and-daughter duo feed him a drug that weakened him mentally," he said.

Rose was hit by one surprise after another, and she quickly asked, "Did something like that really happen?"

"It did." Fatigue could be heard seeping through his replies. "Sonia's hatred for the Gray Family only got deeper after knowing this. She wants Titus to be sentenced to death as revenge for Henry's murder. But if she does succeed at doing so, she'll never have another day where she's at peace because she'd be her own father's murderer."

After hearing that, Rose quietly pondered for a bit. "So what we have to do now is to hide Sonia's birth from her while stopping her from doing anything to Titus?"

"That's right," Toby said with his head raised.

"But how will Sonia ever repay and avenge the Reeds? As long as she doesn't end her relationship with the Reed and Gray Families, she'll live a life of vengeance forever." Rose, at the moment, was exasperated.

With pursed lips, Toby uttered, "There's only one way, and that is to wait for the day Titus dies."

"And how long will that take?" Rose asked with a frown.

"We don't have to wait for long," he said as he gently shook his head. "A few more months at most. His kidney failure is now at the critical stage, and he hasn't found a compatible donor for a kidney transplant. The chances of him dying from this are pretty high. And when the day does come, all Sonia has to do is buy the ownership of the Triforce Enterprise that Titus cares about so much, and rename it to Paradigm Co. This should be enough revenge on behalf of Henry and the rest of the Reeds."

"So all we have to do within the next few months is to plan out what we intend to do to the Grays, correct?" Rose needed to make sure that was a workable solution.

Toby hummed approvingly before saying, "That's all we can do for now. The day Titus dies will be the day the Gray Family falls into shambles. Even if Sonia were to find out about the truth, the most she'll do is shut herself away for a short while. Not the best outcome, but still, it'll be better than getting stuck and being immobile between the two families."

"You have a point," Rose said after contemplating. "Go ahead and do it your way, since you have it all thought out."

Toby wiped down the last teacup in his hand and put it back onto the tea tray. He then said, "I will, Grandma."

She let out another grievous sigh as she thought about the absurdity of the whole situation. "Who would have imagined that the life Sonia lives would be such a hard one?"

"It's true that no one would have expected this." Toby leaned back into the couch.

The Reeds and the Grays were already each other's nemesis for 26 years. For Henry to bring up and raise his rival's child like one of his own was definitely as unbelievable as it was absurd.

Honestly speaking, Toby was thankful for the fact that Henry had taken Sonia away from the Grays. She would not have become who she was today if she had been under the care of the Gray couple. She probably would be another Tina.

Once that discussion was over, he poured himself a cup of tea before bringing up the reason he came to Rose's room. "Alright, Grandma. It's pretty late now. Did you need me here for something?"

She turned to look at him as she said, "It's nothing important. I only wanted to talk to you about the company shares. Tyler's coming of age is just around the corner. What are your plans for it?"

He gave it a thought and eventually said, "I will return him the five percent that Dad gave him, but only after he reaches age. As for the rest of the business, I will discuss it with him further when he comes back. Don't worry. I won't take advantage of my own younger brother."

"Right, you know what to do," she said after hearing his words. "Well then, you may go back to your room. Your old lady here needs some rest too."

Upon hearing that, Toby got up from the couch and said, "I'll be out of your hair then." He then looked over at Mary and reminded, "Mary, please take good care of Grandma."

Mary only smilingly replied, "Don't worry about it, Young Master Toby."

At the end of the conversation, he put down the cup he was using and finally left for his bedroom.

Coincidentally, his room was right across Sonia's.

He stood in front of his door after reaching his room. Instead of making way into the room to rest, he threw a few glances over at her door.

No traces of light could be seen peeking through the gaps between the door and the doorframe. She must be asleep, he thought.

He had no intention of waking Sonia since she was already asleep, and so he opened his bedroom door and made his way into his bedroom.

After a night of rest, Sonia was woken up by the ringing of her phone the next morning. Her delicate brows first furrowed at the noise before her hand crawled out from underneath the covers and made its way to the head of the bed.

After she felt the familiar feeling of her phone on her fingertips, she swiped at the screen based on her muscle memory. She then moved the phone to her ear, and with sleep still evident in her lazy voice, she murmured, "Who is this?"

The caller was quiet for a while, but a frivolous voice soon rang out from the speaker. "Sonia, are you still in bed?"

Sonia forced one eye open when she heard the voice. "Zane?" she asked.

Teasingly, he said, "Bingo. I thought that you wouldn't recognize my voice since you're clearly not awake now. I must be somewhat of an important person to you, for you to know it's me."

While listening to Zane, Sonia rubbed her forehead and lay on her back. She then stared at the ceiling after managing to open both her eyes. "Enough. Stop messing around. Why did you call?"

"I bring good news." Calling from his office, Zane, who was dressed in a suit, proudly crossed his pair of long legs and said, "The investigators assigned by the government are heading our way. They are currently doing their investigation in Norfolk, and they will arrive in Seafield soon."

Her eyes shone when she heard the words she had been waiting for. "How long will it take for them to reach Seafield and start investigating Triforce Enterprise?" she excitedly asked.

Despite it being a voice call, Zane put up one finger as though Sonia could see him. "About a month," he announced.

Sonia could only grab onto her phone tighter and exclaimed in excitement, "One month! This is great news!"

After waiting for such a long time, she was finally only a month away from taking her revenge on Triforce Enterprise and the Gray Family!

"Thanks for letting me know, Zane. This is, indeed, very good news!" she exclaimed.

Zane casually waved his hand and replied, "You don't have to thank me. We both want the same thing. The Grays are our enemies, so I, of course, have to let you know

anything that could help us achieve our goal. I also have some other good news for you.”

At that, she sat against the headboard and asked, “What’s the other news?” The sleep in her voice was already replaced by anticipation.

His face and voice turned mysterious when he told her the other information he had. “The investigators were in Fredburg some time ago. They had thoroughly checked Lindorff Co., and it was so corrupted that their chairman was detained, and the company had to be closed down for further investigation. I’ve heard that the government has the intention to put the company up for auction.”

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Chapter 595 Good News From Zane

“Auction?” Sonia’s eyes shone with interest as she repeated the word. “Lindorff Co. is the one in the machinery industry, yes?”

“That’s right. It’s similar to what you’re doing at Paradigm Co. If you can win your bid on Lindorff Co. during the auction and merge it with your company, Paradigm Co. will be a new force to reckon with in the industry.” Zane then smiled and asked, “How’s the news? Good enough for you?”

“It’s great news, and I’m tempted by the offer. But in case you forgot, let me remind you that I’m broke,” Sonia said with a frown.

“Isn’t that but a small matter to worry about?” Zane sloppily asked as his legs swung. “There’s a rumor that the government allows companies to use company shares as credit for the auction. I suggest you use some of your shares to get funds in return. Not only will you have the government as one of Paradigm Co.’s shareholders, you will also have their backing in the future. That way, you won’t have to constantly worry about being on the receiving end of some hanky-panky business.”

Surprised by the favorable conditions of the auction, Sonia sat up straighter than ever. “That’s too good to be true!”

Zane nodded in agreement at that. “It indeed is. It’s not something that we can come across often. It’s first-hand news to me, but once words get out and far, for sure will be a number of private businesses that will want to join in on the bid. I mean, who wouldn’t want to catch this big fish that’s blatantly swimming in front of their eyes? Which is why, Sonia, you have to grab onto this opportunity. Lindorff Co. could easily be taken away by other private businesses if you don’t look out and act fast,” he said.

Upon hearing this, she could only bite her lower lip in resignation. “I know what you mean, but unfortunately, I can’t buy Lindorff Co. There are too many companies that are

better than Paradigm Co. out there. Paradigm can't possibly win against the hundreds of thousands of competitors we have."

"You don't have to worry about this. Companies that wish to take part in this auction first have to send in their application, and if the officials were to find out anything problematic with these companies that registered upon inspection, they would be disqualified immediately. I'm predicting a disqualification of at least 80 percent of all the companies in just the first round," he explained.

It was not a well-kept secret that every business had, in some ways, done something against common business practices at some point in their existence.

The authority wasn't looking for a company that was completely free of underhanded dealings; they wanted someone that had not done anything that had crossed the line of being justifiable.

The small glimmer of hope Sonia had earlier went away in a poof as she understood Zane's words. As she massaged the tip of her eyebrows, she gloomily said, "Paradigm Co. will definitely be eliminated as well then. Asher had done a good deal of suspicious ventures under the company's name before. Tax evasion was anything but taboo when he was in charge of Paradigm Co."

Indeed, if it wasn't for her quick move at getting a loan from the bank to pay off the remaining unpaid taxes, Titus would probably have reported her to the authorities.

By then, Paradigm Co. would have been destroyed before she even had the chance to manage it.

Getting rid of all the bad eggs within the company was one of the things she was thankful she did every time she recalled the time she had gotten her new position in Paradigm Co.

"As you said, all that happened was when Asher was in charge. You're the boss now. Paradigm Co. has been free from corruption these past few months, correct? In my honest opinion, I think Paradigm Co. stands a pretty good chance against other companies. The first thing these investigators inspect is not the business itself, but the background of the person in charge. As long as the head of the company is not problematic, the rest of the body should be safe too," he leisurely said as he swung his legs and crossed them on his desk.

His reassurance made her slightly regain her confidence. "Really? You think so?"

"I know so. Why would I lie to you? Anyway, just fill in your application to join the auction. I'll send it in for you, and I'll let you know the result as soon as I can." His head was busy bobbing up and down as he told her that.

A smile then unconsciously appeared on Sonia's lips. "Alright. I'm sorry for the trouble. I will definitely repay you if things work out the way we want."

As Zane listened to her, an assistant of his came into the office. He knowingly brought his legs down from the desk and said to her, "I'll wait for the day then. I have a meeting now. We'll talk again some other time. I'm hanging up."

She let out a low hum in agreement before bidding her farewell. "Bye, Zane."

Her excitement didn't go away even after the call had ended. She tightly held onto her phone with a face full of exhilarated smiles.

Sonia had thought that Paradigm Co. would have to go through a long waiting period before it could stand amongst the other giants again. Who would have known that an opportunity like this would present itself in the most appetizing way right in front of her eyes?

She just knew it in her guts that this was an opportunity she couldn't miss, and with that thought in mind, her beautiful almond eyes narrowed in determination.

At that moment, a knock came from the direction of her bedroom door before Toby's deep, melodious voice rang out. "Sonia, are you awake?"

Sonia took a deep breath to calm her still-tingling nerves, and only when she was composed did she look toward the source of the voice. "I'm up."

"Come out for breakfast then. The food's ready." Toby had slowly removed his hand from her door as he said that.

Her soft voice then answered from the other side of the door. "Got it. I'll be out soon. You can go ahead without me."

He didn't say anything more, and she did not bother continuing the brief conversation. After that, she got out of bed and went to freshen up in the bathroom.

She wasn't worried about not having anything to change into as one of the servants had passed her a fresh set of laundry just last night.

In just a short time, she had washed herself, changed into clean clothes, and had her makeup done. Thereafter, she finally headed toward her bedroom door.

After opening the door, she walked straight ahead without sparing a single glance at Toby, who had been waiting for her all this time. "Sonia," he called with his eyebrows raised ever-so-slightly.

Hearing a male voice unexpectedly saying her name got her stopping dead in her tracks as she whipped her body around to see who it was. Only then did she see Toby leaning against the wall right beside the bedroom door. She couldn't help but ask him strangely, "What are you doing here? Didn't I tell you to go ahead without me?"

"I was waiting for you," he said as he took long strides toward her. "But you were walking straight ahead without even looking at me."

Embarrassed, Sonia tousled a lock of her hair and apologized. "Sorry. I thought you left. I didn't look because I didn't know that you've been waiting for me."

"I'm not blaming you or anything. Let's go to the dining hall," he said after he was done teasing her. He then took his hand out of his pocket and held her hand in his.

She instinctively wanted to pull away, but his grip on her was strong enough to restrict her from doing so. With a serious look on his face, he said, "Sonia, even though we're not back together, we, technically, are a couple. So please, don't reject my advances."

Her eyes dropped as she listened to his sincere pleas, and she said, "Sorry. I understand. I'll try to get used to it soon."

"That's good then. Let's go." And that was all he said before he smilingly walked with her along the corridor.

Breakfast was already served when they reached the dining hall.

Toby pulled a chair for Sonia to sit in, and to his pleasure, she did not reject his gesture this time. Seeing how the seat for the head of the household was still empty, she asked, "Where's Grandma?"

He proceeded to take the seat beside her while he poured her a glass of milk. "Grandma doesn't eat here. She takes her breakfast in her room," he replied.

"I see." She nodded understandingly and stopped asking questions.

"Go ahead and eat," he urged while pouring himself a cup of coffee.

Sonia only hummed in response before picking up the cutlery and started cutting her food into bite-size pieces. After her first bite, she looked at Toby, who was enjoying his cup of hot coffee. Her mouth then opened and closed as though she had something to say regarding what she was seeing.

He put down his cup and caringly asked, "What is it?"

"Um..." She hesitated for a while before saying, "It's better to not drink coffee too early in the morning. It's especially bad for your stomach to drink your coffee black. Also..."

Her face suddenly turned red by the end of her sentence. She then chose to keep the remaining words to herself.

“What else?” he asked as his sharp eyes narrowed curiously.

Her face only got redder as time went. “It’s nothing. Check online if you want to know. I’m going to eat now.” He could barely hear her with her head lowered and her voice as soft as a whisper.

She then started to robotically cut into the omelet on her plate. Toby, who had his curiosity piqued as he looked at her, eventually took his phone out.

He wanted to know exactly what it was she was hiding from him. Seeing him holding his phone only made her head drop lower. The flush on her cheeks had spread all the way to her ears by then. While Sonia was busy turning herself into a tomato, Toby had already found the information she was hiding from him.

Just like Sonia said, coffee in the morning was supposedly bad for the stomach.

It was a fact that he had known for a very long time. In fact, coffee taken black was harmful to the stomach no matter the time it was consumed. However, it was something he never minded due to his coffee-drinking habits.

Toby’s thumb continued swiping upward as his eyes moved down. When his eyes landed on one of the health disadvantages of drinking coffee, his pupils suddenly dilated as his eyes became dim.

Ah, right. So this is what you mean by the cons of drinking black coffee...

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Chapter 596 Provocation in the Parking Lot

After all, what was written there was ‘second con of men consuming coffee in the morning: reduction in sperm count and lower stamina’!

At once, Toby put down his phone before turning to look at the woman next to him.

Her face was as red as a tomato, and for now, she could only try her best to keep her head low. In fact, she was hiding her face so low that her face was almost touching her plate.

With that, Toby had confirmed that what she was about to say earlier was regarding the reduction in sperm count and lower stamina.

Otherwise, her face wouldn’t be so flushed.

Besides, the other cons listed wouldn't be the cause of her embarrassment.

"You..." His lips trembled for a second as if he was about to say something.

Suddenly, Sonia put down the fork and knife that she was holding before standing up. "Oh, I just remembered something! I need to use the washroom."

After that, she pulled her chair before getting out of the restaurant like she was escaping from someone.

Looking at the back of her figure, he let out a low chuckle.

Hearing his laugh, Sonia covered her face before speeding up her steps.

Once she reached the washroom, she shut the door before leaning her back against it. At that moment, she seemed very disoriented.

In fact, she had never felt so awkward in her entire life.

If she knew better, she wouldn't have told him to look up the cons of drinking coffee in the morning.

That would have saved her from the embarrassment that led to her escape.

Removing her hands from her face, she took a long breath in an attempt to regain her composure.

After some time, her heart which had been pacing wildly had returned to a normal rate.

Then, she went to the basin before turning the tap water on to splash some cold water on her face to lower the heat on her face before leaving the washroom to return to the restaurant.

After returning, she believed she would definitely have to endure his suggestive looks.

Hence, the probability of Sonia feeling awkward again was high.

Despite this, she could only bear it. After all, she was the one who started the topic. Since they were both adults, she should be fine with him laughing over that.

At that thought, she took a deep breath in before pushing the restaurant's door open.

Seeing that, he put down the utensils he was holding before pulling her chair for her. "You're back."

She hummed in acknowledgement before walking over to take her seat with her slightly lowered.

Just as she was about to pick up her utensils, he suddenly draped his arm over the chair that she was sitting on before leaning close to whisper, "Don't worry. I'll try to control my coffee intake. I won't let you be at a disadvantage."

After saying that, he let out a low chuckle before removing his arm and straightening his posture.

Meanwhile, she was stumped after hearing what he said. The fork and knife that she was holding fell on the plate, and the blush that had gone down resurfaced on her cheeks.

"Toby, y-you... What are you talking about?" Biting her lower lip, she looked at the man in front of her with anger.

At that moment, she couldn't believe he would say what he said.

As she wasn't stupid, she knew what he meant exactly.

Because of that, she felt both embarrassed and furious.

Looking at Sonia, who was flushed with embarrassment, Toby smirked. "You don't have to be shy. When we get together in the future, these things will surely ensue."

"Who said that I want to have things ensued with you?" Glaring at him, she scolded, "If you continue on with this nonsense, don't blame me for extending the time!"

The moment Toby heard that, his face fell. At once, he seemed serious as he quickly apologized, "I'm sorry. I won't tease you anymore."

Jokes on that. After his long, persistent efforts, he had finally swayed her. She had already agreed that she needed half a month's time to sort things out. After that, she would get back together with him.

If his unnecessary comments would cause the reconciliation to be delayed, he would be punishing himself.

Seeing that he was finally going to end that topic, Sonia finally felt relieved. She then humphed before saying, "Eat up."

"Alright." With a nod, he called for a server, "Excuse me, can I get a new cup? I'd like to pour some milk."

Hearing that, she paused her movements for a moment without saying anything.

After all, he was just pouring milk without saying anything else.

After breakfast, it was already 8.30 a.m.

After going to Rose's room to bid her goodbye, she left the old manor with Toby.

He then drove and sent her to Paradigm Co.

The journey to the company took an hour.

When he brought the car to her designated parking lot, he noticed that there was already a car occupying her lot.

Looking at the vehicle, she frowned.

The entire company knew that this was her designated parking lot. Even if her car wasn't parked at that moment, there'd be a yellow sign showing that it was a private parking.

However, there was a black Japanese car blatantly parked on her spot at this very moment—even the yellow sign was cast aside. Who was the uncultured person?

Why didn't the manager of the parking lot deal with that?

Looking at her gaze that was fixated on the car, Toby squinted before asking, "That's not your car, right?"

She hummed in response, "No. I don't know whose car it is. However, if they can access the car park, it must be someone in Paradigm Co."

Nonetheless, the higher-ups and shareholders of Paradigm Co. had their own designated parking lots, so they wouldn't take up someone else's spot. As for the other employees, there were public parking lots that they could use, so they wouldn't drive to the area of reserved parking.

Therefore, the owner of this vehicle must be an employee or higher-up of Paradigm Co. who had differing opinions on her. That was why they decided to go against the rules and take up her parking space.

Frankly, she thought that it was the latter because a normal employee of the company wouldn't dare to do so. For that reason, it could only be the higher-ups.

Thing was, which one of them?!

"The car owner is provoking you." Toby turned to look at Sonia, who was in the passenger's seat as he said that.

With a stern expression, she nodded. "I can see that too."

"Did you offend anyone lately?" he continued to ask.

Shaking her head in denial, she replied, "I have no idea. I didn't really have any beef with any higher-ups. There had been some difference in opinion with Asher's group of people, but they wouldn't do such things. They would've done it if they wanted to instead of waiting until now only to pull such a childish trick to provoke me."

"So... It's an unknown enemy." With a steady tone, he said, "I'll accompany you upstairs."

"There's no need!" Unbuckling her safety belt, she continued, "I know you're afraid that I won't be able to handle this, but I believe I am capable enough to do so. Not to mention, it's someone from Paradigm Co. As the biggest shareholder of the company, of course the boss, I, should deal with a subordinate who dared to cross the line myself. I will handle this on my own."

After saying that, she gave him a serious and determined look.

At once, he let out a soft laugh. "I knew that you'd say so. Fine, you may go ahead yourself. However, if things get out of hand, give me a call."

"Okay." After replying with a nod, she opened the door to get out of the car. Then, she waved to him as she stood outside. "You can go back now. Drive safe. I'll see you!"

"See you!" He mimicked her nod before reversing the car and leaving.

Seeing that his car had gone, she lowered her hand that was previously waving at him as the smile on her lips faltered. Walking to her parking lot, she pulled out her phone with a cold expression as she made a phone call.

It didn't take long before the towing company sent someone over.

Pointing at the car that was occupying her lot, she said coldly, "Please tow this car away. You can just leave it by the street outside."

It was her parking lot.

As the biggest shareholder of Paradigm Co., people would think that she was an easy target to bully if she allowed someone else to provoke her by parking their vehicle at her spot.

If word got out, how could she be able to manage Paradigm Co.?

The employees of Paradigm Co. would think that she was a boss who didn't have any authority and couldn't lead the company.

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Chapter 597 Who Would've Thought That It Was Her

"Alright, Miss Reed. We'll move the car immediately." As soon as the leader of the car towing team heard Sonia's request, he quickly gave out the order.

Not long after, a small team of people arrived and started working on her request.

While she stood by the side to observe, she made a phone call to Daphne.

In no time, Daphne picked up. "President Reed."

"Miss Daphne, do you know whose car is occupying my parking lot?" Sonia asked with her eyes still fixated on the Japanese car.

The car looked rather new and it seemed to have been recently purchased.

Furthermore, she was feeling very uncomfortable seeing the Japanese car as it refreshed her memories of when Tina ran over Toby and herself. At that time, Tina was driving a Japanese car too.

After such a long time, there still hadn't been any news on Tina or her whereabouts.

"Your parking lot?" On the phone, Daphne replied with a confused tone, "My apologies, President Reed. I didn't go to the parking lot this morning, so I wasn't aware that a car was parked in your space."

"I see." Sonia nodded, signifying that she understood. She then continued, "Then... Please find the car park manager and inquire about this situation."

"Alright, President Reed," Daphne replied.

After ending the call, Sonia pocketed her phone before she continued to watch the process of the car being towed.

When the Japanese car had been moved onto the tow truck, she walked over and placed the sign saying to not park back at her parking spot.

After that, she paid the towing team before making her way to the lift.

It didn't take long before she had arrived at her office.

At this moment, Daphne was already waiting at the doorstep of her office. Seeing that Sonia was walking over, Daphne started reporting the schedule for the day.

After that, she started telling Sonia what she had gotten from the car park manager. "President Reed, the manager said that the owner of the car is a woman who claims to be your younger sister. That's why the manager didn't chase the car owner away."

Hearing that, Sonia halted her footsteps before turning over to ask, "What did you say? Younger sister?"

Could it be Jessica?

"Yes, that was what the manager said." Daphne nodded before she continued, "He even said that the woman showed him her passport. The name stated was Jessica Reed. Hence, the manager thought that her name was really similar to yours, so he believed that she was your sister and didn't stop her as he was also afraid to offend you."

In this case, it wasn't the manager's fault.

The person to blame was the woman who pretended to be her sister.

"So it really is Jessica!" At once, Sonia clenched her fists tight as her expression turned sour.

Just as she was wondering if Jessica was the one who claimed to be her younger sister, her guess turned out to be correct.

"President Reed, do you know Jessica Reed?" Daphne looked at Sonia with curiosity. Seeing that Sonia did not have a positive look on her face, Daphne asked, "President Reed, does the woman named Jessica have anything against you?"

"Do you remember the fact that my dad had another daughter besides me? A younger daughter?" Sonia did not give Daphne a direct reply. Instead, she replied with a question.

Nodding her head, Daphne said, "I do. I heard President Lane bring it up before. So... Does that mean Jessica Reed is really your younger sister?"

"Yes." Sonia hummed. "She's the daughter my father had with his second wife."

"I see." Daphne was struck with a realization. "I thought that a liar was pretending to be your sister. However..."

With a frown, Daphne continued, "I heard from President Lane that your sister and your stepmother had taken all of the money from Paradigm Co. and left six years ago. Now

that she has made an appearance here at Paradigm Co. again, do you think she's plotting something?"

Hearing that, Sonia pursed her lips without saying anything.

Frankly, she strongly agreed with what Daphne had said.

Jessica was sent to the Republic of Mesania by the Lazulis. Therefore, she should be living there right now.

However, she returned to Seafield instead and even came straight to Paradigm Co. Now that Jessica had even occupied her parking lot to provoke Sonia, Sonia was convinced that something was fishy.

"Check out where Jessica is. Since her car has been left in the parking lot, she should still be in Paradigm Co. After you find her, bring her to me." Sonia's expression was as cold as ice as she gave out the order.

Initially, she intended to go to the Republic of Mesania and bring Jessica back so that she can properly apologize in front of their father's grave.

Obviously, it was unexpected that Jessica would come here herself before she went over.

In this case, this surprise saved her some time and effort.

"Noted, President Reed. I'll work on it right away." After nodding, Daphne left to carry out her task.

Sonia then continued to walk forward until she arrived at her desk. Just as she sat down, her phone vibrated. A notification from Messenger came through—it was from Toby.

Immediately, her frown was relaxed as she tapped open the message to view it. 'Have you found out who was the provoker?'

Frankly, she saw that coming.

With a smile, she replied by text, 'Yes. It's Jessica.'

On the other end of the line, Toby had just gotten out of the lift and was heading to his office. Seeing her reply, he paused his steps.

Jessica?

Who would've thought that it was her?!

He then started typing away. 'She came back?'

After rubbing her temples, she replied to him, 'Yes. There wasn't any news prior to this though. She started picking on me as soon as she came back, so she probably has something in mind for the future. It's not entirely a bad thing anyway. She had never visited my father's grave. It's time she pays back.'

Seeing that, he laughed. 'Alright. Make her pay everything back.'

Seeing how supportive he was, Sonia smiled as well.

At this moment, the door of her office was knocked on.

Looking up, she said, "Come in."

She was expecting it to be Daphne, but it was Asher's assistant instead.

"President Reed." The assistant gave Sonia a bow.

Putting down her phone, she asked coldly, "Does President Dafoe need something from me?"

Sonia figured the assistant wouldn't be here if Asher did not instruct so.

Standing by the door, his assistant replied, "President Reed, President Dafoe wants you to join the meeting."

"What meeting is going on at this time?" Sonia suspiciously furrowed her brows.

After all, every meeting had to be scheduled beforehand.

However, there wasn't any meeting scheduled for today.

Now that Asher was asking her to join a meeting, something must be going on.

"President Dafoe said that Paradigm Co. has yet to hold a shareholder's meeting after you came back to the company for such a long time. This meeting will be held to choose the new chairperson. He said that the position of the chairperson has been empty for a long time since there's only a president and a vice president. President Dafoe believes that this is not in the best interest of Paradigm Co.'s development. That's why he thought it would be great to select the chairperson now."

Leaning back, Sonia said with a half-smile, "I see. However, President Dafoe is wrong about one point. The candidate for the chairperson doesn't have to be chosen at a shareholder's meeting. All the while, the person with the most shares becomes the chairperson, so I'm the most suitable person to hold that position."

It was a fact that the person with the most shares would always be the chairperson. If the person holding the most shares didn't become the chairperson, the position would be left empty instead of letting anyone with lesser shares to hold it. It was a rule in the business field.

She was supposed to be the chairperson and not the vice chairperson. However, Charles mentioned that she didn't know much about business previously, so people below her might not be happy with it if she suddenly became the chairperson. In worse cases, they might even come together to overthrow her.

To avoid that, she humbly became the vice chairperson so that she could learn more and earn recognition from the shareholders. That way, they wouldn't have their guards up against her so badly. When she was good enough, they wouldn't be appalled by the decision to have her as chairperson. By that time, they wouldn't be able to bring her down even if they might not like her. After all, she was no longer someone who didn't know much in the field.

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Chapter 598 Candidate of the Chairperson

Sonia had already planned to hold a shareholders' meeting and become the chairperson after the factories were built and the machines were sent over from Kosovo prior to this.

In that course, she could justifiably take over the other half of the power in management from Asher which was unlike the current situation—she was the biggest shareholder, and yet she had to be enduring Asher's competition.

However, the factory had not been completed, and Asher was already holding a shareholders' meeting to elect a chairperson.

Nevertheless, this situation might be a good thing. Since Asher wanted her to have the position of the chairperson so quickly, she ought to fulfill his wish.

At the door, Asher's assistant lowered his head in fear after hearing what Sonia said. "President Reed, there's no use telling me that. It's better if you talk to him in person."

"Sure. I'll speak with him." After saying that, Sonia stood up.

She knew that it was a futile effort to continue talking to the assistant, so she didn't want to trouble the assistant either. After grabbing the notebook on her table, she spoke up again, "Lead the way."

“This way, President Reed.” Seeing that she agreed to join the meeting, the assistant heaved a sigh of relief. Immediately, he made a hand gesture signaling Sonia to go in the correct direction.

Walking over, she passed her notebook to him.

The assistant was quick to take it in his hands for her.

After dusting her jacket that was hanging on her shoulder, she walked outside mightily in her high heels.

In no time, she had arrived at the meeting room’s door.

Then, the assistant went ahead and held the door for her.

As she entered the room, she could see that the shareholders and the higher-ups of Paradigm Co. were all present. It seemed like she was the last to arrive.

When the shareholders and the higher-ups saw her coming in, they halted their conversations before greeting her. “Vice President Reed.”

No matter what, she held the most shares of Paradigm Co. despite the fact that she was just a vice president.

Hence, they had to be respectful to her.

Giving them a nod in response, Sonia walked to her own seat before sitting down.

Meanwhile, Asher’s assistant who had been following her went forward and returned the notebook to her by placing it on the table in front of her. Immediately after, he left and stood behind Asher.

Glancing past everyone in the meeting room, Asher had his eyes lingering on Sonia for an extra two seconds before looking away.

Nevertheless, Sonia managed to catch that hint of his scheming eyes.

Out of instinct, she straightened her body as she squinted her eyes.

What does his gaze earlier mean?

What does he have up his sleeve?

She knew that things couldn’t be so simple since Asher held a shareholders’ meeting at this time of day.

After all, Asher's shares didn't even sum up to the second-highest amongst the shareholders—he was at least the third or fourth. Therefore, he could only hold the president position. With his sly methods and the fact that the second and third highest shareholders didn't have high capabilities, no one would go against Asher.

To sum it up, the shareholders' meeting today was just odd and fishy.

First and foremost, Asher knew that he wouldn't become the chairperson, so the meeting wasn't beneficial to himself at all as it would only push Sonia to the chairperson's position instead.

Not to mention, he wouldn't be oblivious to the fact that the first thing she would do when she became chairperson was to retrieve the management powers from his hands.

In that case, why would he call for the shareholders' meeting?

Moreover, Asher's gaze just now showed that the meeting was held just for her.

Just as she was deep in thoughts regarding Asher's scheme, he suddenly clapped. "Alright, since everyone is here, let's start our meeting. Everyone knows that a good business always needs a good leader as not having one won't be beneficial for the company's development. Because of that, I'm suggesting that we elect a chairperson today."

People who were on his side naturally nodded to show their support.

Meanwhile, those who were on her side frowned as they heard that.

Hearing that, one of the managers of a department raised his hand and said, "President Dafoe, do we have to elect the chairperson? Isn't President Reed the chairperson already? She's the biggest shareholder of the company. Aside from her, who else is suitable for this position?"

"That's right. This meeting is meaningless," Someone added in support.

Hearing the higher-ups and shareholders speaking up for her, Sonia showed a faint smile.

On the other hand, Asher's face darkened when he saw her smile. "Sonia, my dear niece, do you think that you should be the chairperson too?"

Picking up the cup of tea in front of her to take a sip, she replied coldly, "President Dafoe, I don't think that this question should be directed to me. Don't you have an answer in your heart already? But if you really want to hear my opinion, I'll tell you now. The chairperson position is mine. I own 51 percent of Paradigm Co.'s shares, so shouldn't I naturally be the person in charge of the company? What do you think?"

Frankly, Asher expected Sonia to answer more tactfully. However, she gave a very straightforward answer.

“After managing Paradigm Co. for the past few months, I see that you’ve become more pompous. I bet you don’t even know how to be modest anymore.” He put on a pretentious smile as he looked at her.

With a smile, she replied, “Humble? President Dafoe, I told you earlier that I am the biggest shareholder of Paradigm Co. It is a fact that can’t be changed even if I’m humble. Since that’s the case, I shouldn’t be humble and just cut straight to the chase. After all, there’s no need to beat around the bush, so I should just say what I think. However, from the looks of it, do you not want me to become the chairperson?”

Her words were nothing short of straightforwardness, making everyone turn to look at him.

Of course, Asher’s people naturally knew that he didn’t want her to become the chairperson.

On the other hand, those who supported Sonia wanted Asher to explain why he didn’t want her to become the chairperson.

Asher just hadn’t expected that what she said earlier would land him in such a difficult spot.

At this point, he couldn’t use what he had originally planned to say; he could only reply with dissatisfaction, “What are you talking about, my niece? Of course, I do not mean it that way. You’ve misunderstood me. You said it too, you are the biggest shareholder. Why would I have the thoughts to stop you from becoming the chairperson?”

Though the truth was otherwise, he could only lie through his teeth now.

Such words could only be hidden in his heart as they weren’t suitable to say out loud.

Otherwise, he would be the one getting the short end of the stick. If he were to anger her, she could always become the chairperson by force with the highest shares she held. With that, she could get rid of him easily.

At the moment, with the shares he held, he was no match to her.

Therefore, he couldn’t do anything to provoke her. If she truly took the position by force, his plans for the future would be futile.

“Oh?” Hearing Asher’s pretentious words, Sonia didn’t expose him. She simply said with a scoff, “So, you want me to become the chairperson? In that case, you held the meeting today for me?”

At once, a gleam of anger flashed in his eyes, but he remained smiling. With an insincere smile, Asher said, "Not entirely, dear niece. Even though I hope you can become the chairperson, it is based on your true ability whether you will get the position or not in the end. After all, there's another candidate for the position who won't just sit back and watch you become the chairperson."

"What did you say? Another candidate for the chairperson?" At once, Sonia's expression changed as her brows were furrowed.

Boss Your Wife's Asking for A Divorce Again Chapter 599

Chapter 599 Candidate for the Next Chairperson: Jessica Reed

The other shareholders and executives present, including Asher's own men, were left shocked by the unexpected turn of events.

"There is another candidate for the chairperson position? President Dafoe, what could you possibly mean by that?" one of the attendees asked before another continued the questioning.

"Well put! President Dafoe, who other than President Reed would be qualified for the position?"

As those who held no more than 10 percent of the company's shares were normally ineligible for the position of the chairperson, even the shareholders who had the second and third most shares would not even dream of becoming the next chairperson as they knew it was an automatic disqualification on their part.

As of now, the only person in the room who had more than 10 percent of the shares was none other than Sonia.

Just who was this second candidate that Asher mentioned?

Could this person actually be holding just enough of Paradigm Co.'s shares to make him or her a candidate?

However, what Sonia and the shareholders had should have been all the shares available. Where on earth could this extra 10 percent come from?

Furthermore, Paradigm Co. had not been selling its company shares. Thus, there shouldn't be anyone who would have an extra 10 percent to compete with Sonia.

Asher looked at the confused attendees for a moment before his eyes suddenly shone.

Sonia, on the other hand, pursed her lips as an uncomfortable thought hit her.

Could Jessica be the other candidate?

Sonia had been observing the faces of everyone in the meeting room when Asher dropped his announcement and judging by how clueless they were as she was, she could only come up with the conclusion that the other candidate was not someone from within the room. It must be an outsider, she thought.

Also, Jessica had made an appearance in Sonia's company today. Her sudden appearance only further convinced Sonia that Jessica was the other candidate Asher had in mind.

After connecting the dots, Sonia turned to look at Asher with narrowed eyes as she spoke up, "President Dafoe, since you are suddenly mentioning there is another candidate for the position, I'm sure everyone here is curious to know who it is. Why don't you bring that person here so that we can get to know that person?" She then turned toward everyone else and asked, "Don't you all agree with me?"

"She is right. We want to know who—other than President Reed—qualifies for the position!" someone quickly agreed.

Despite the commotion the crowd was gradually making, Asher stayed calm while he put down the teacup in his hand. "I will have that person come in since that is what everyone wants. Oh, President Reed, just a heads up, it is your blood-related sister. I'm sure you know who it is," he casually said.

Sonia's pupils dilated as her hands unconsciously clenched into fists upon hearing his words.

It was as she had expected.

Sonia never expected Jessica to join hands with Asher—it seemed like Sonia had underestimated her sister.

Confused, the other attendees of the meeting asked, "Sister? Since when did President Reed have a sister?"

However, the ones who were puzzled by the situation were the shareholders and executives that had only joined Paradigm Co. in the last 6 years. The old-timers, on the other hand, showed only the least bit of surprise at the news.

In fact, they had known that Sonia was not an only child all along. Though they might not have known what her name was, they knew that the sister was Henry's second child.

Besides that, all they knew about Henry's second child was that she embezzled the company's funds with her mother—which ultimately led to Henry's suicide 6 years ago.

If Asher had not used his personal savings, on top of getting a loan from the bank just in time to save Paradigm Co. when it was on the brink of destruction, Paradigm Co. would have ceased to exist right there and then.

Those who knew the story behind Paradigm Co.'s revival could not help but feel uneasy at this moment. They then started voicing their dissatisfaction.

"President Dafoe, could Mr. Reed's second daughter be the candidate you are talking about? How can she even be considered for the position?"

"Exactly my thoughts. Did you forget about what had happened 6 years ago, President Dafoe? That woman and her mother were the reason why Paradigm Co. was in such shambles then. Someone like that can't possibly be the face of our company. Also, she doesn't hold any shares of the company!"

"That's right!"

At that moment, both Asher and Sonia's men joined forces as they opposed Asher's decision in making Jessica a candidate.

The ones under Asher were especially fervent as they had zero ideas of what had led him to make a choice like that.

They were reacting in a way that it was hard for Asher to not feel the anger they were holding back.

However, he was unaffected by the commotion Sonia's people were making, as all he did was throw his men a glance implying that they should calm down, and he would give a proper explanation at a better time.

After acknowledging Asher's gaze, his men immediately quieted down. They obediently held back the questions they had regarding Jessica being the other candidate for the position.

Seeing that, Asher nodded in satisfaction where he then waved at his secretary who stood behind him.

Seeing his cue, his secretary promptly nodded in response before walking toward the door to the meeting room and opening it.

The clear clacking of high heels against the floor could soon be heard reverberating throughout the space as it gradually loudened.

With her lips pursed, Sonia coldly stared at the door, and soon enough, Jessica finally appeared by the entrance. Clad in a women's suit with her hair tied back into a ponytail, she looked every bit like a female boss. However, she failed terribly at concealing the

excitement and zeal in her eyes, and that had immediately ruined everyone's first impression of her.

After Jessica entered the room, she casually looked at all the people in the meeting room before landing her eyes on Sonia. A smirk appeared on Jessica's face as soon as she saw Sonia, but it only lasted for a while as she quickly looked toward Asher. As soon as she did that, the smirk on her face turned into a genuine smile.

"Uncle Asher," she called out warmly.

Sonia's face instantly fell when she heard that.

Uncle Asher?

Jessica actually has the nerves to call him that?

Did she not know how bad Asher's and Henry's relationship was when Henry was still alive?

But then again, Jessica wasn't someone who would care about the details. After all, she was someone who did not mind poisoning her own father!

"Jessica, my dear niece, you are finally here! Come. Take a seat beside me," Asher laughingly said as he moved to pull the chair beside him for Jessica.

Their interaction would have easily convinced people who did not know better that they had a good relationship.

Asher was seated directly across Sonia, and now that Jessica sat beside him, she too was face-to-face with Sonia.

"Sonia," Jessica called out with a smile. "Did my return surprise you?"

Sonia couldn't be bothered by her existence so she chose to not answer her and only frowned in response.

Jessica—who was easily provoked—was immediately angered by Sonia's silence.

She would rather Sonia retort than give her a cold shoulder like this.

Sonia's silence only made Jessica feel like she was unworthy. It was as though she was trash that Sonia would not even want to spare a glance at.

"Hmph! Stay on your high horse all you want. We'll see how much longer you get to keep your act up," Jessica scoffed. Her expression changed the next moment as she turned to Asher and said, "I will be in your care then, Uncle Asher."

Asher's eyes darted at Sonia as he swiftly replied, "Don't worry, Jessica. I will get you the position you deserve. And even if I can't get you in, I will make sure that she can't have what you don't."

Asher's reassurance got Jessica so excited that she could hardly stop herself from shaking. "Thank you in advance for your help, Uncle Asher!"

Surprisingly, Asher's eyes held a glint of disdain as he briefly looked at Jessica. However, the emotion quickly disappeared as he said, "Sonia, as I said earlier, I am not against you being the chairperson. But now that your sister is here, you will have to show us what you got if you want the position. It all depends on both of your performances from this point on."

"I have a question for you, President Dafoe." Sonia's cold voice rang out as her fingers slowly tapped on the surface of the table. "What makes you think that Jessica has the right to compete with me for the position? Does she have what it takes? Does she even have the shares to qualify for the position? Aren't you being a little too impulsive to let someone like her compete with me? You are making me doubt your capabilities as the company's president, President Dafoe. I might just disregard your contributions to Paradigm Co. in the past, remove you as a shareholder, and arbitrarily take over as the chairperson!"

Sonia had always had the power to do so but had constantly restrained herself as Asher was undeniably Paradigm Co.'s messiah when times were tough for them.

She would have gotten rid of him years ago if she had not let her conscience stop her.

Boss Your Wife's Asking for A Divorce Again Chapter 600

Chapter 600 Asher Dafoe's True Colors

Asher's expression immediately tensed up when Sonia mentioned bringing in an arbitrator to settle their dispute.

He was visibly starting to feel nervous because he knew that losing his shares meant losing his influence and position in the company. It would be equivalent to getting banished from Paradigm Co.!

"Sonia, you..."

Right when he was about to say something in an attempt to calm Sonia down, Jessica angrily interrupted as she loudly banged the table and cried, "Don't go overboard, Sonia!"

Everyone's heads whipped in Jessica's direction at her sudden outburst.

“Oh? What did I do?” Sonia asked with her eyes narrowed.

“Stop playing innocent! Uncle Asher is our relative—not to mention, an elder. You should show him some respect. Your attitude is an embarrassment to the Reeds!” Jessica reprimanded. The way she pointed at Sonia made it seem as though Sonia had done something unforgivable.

Sonia could not help but let out a scoff at her sister’s answer. “Our relative? Jessica, you even had it in you to murder your own father. I doubt you really think of President Dafoe as an elder that you respect.” She then turned to Asher and reminded him, “President Dafoe, please don’t ever let down your guard around her. She did not hesitate to push her father to his death. You know it will be much easier for her to plan your death if she wanted to.”

As soon as Sonia said that, a guilty look flashed across Jessica’s panicked face as she shouted, “You better stop spouting nonsense! Who are you accusing of murder?!” Jessica’s heart felt as though it could stop at any time at that moment.

Did Sonia know something?

No, she couldn’t possibly have known about the poisoning. Sonia must be talking about the embezzlement incident that made their father take his own life.

Her eyes had started rolling around nervously at this point. Right. The embezzlement. That must be it. Stop panicking, Jessica. You can’t give yourself away now, Jessica convinced herself.

Unbeknownst to Jessica, Sonia had been observing her the whole time she was having inner turmoil with herself. Seeing Jessica’s reaction only made Sonia clench her fist tighter.

It seemed that what Nancy had said about Jessica being the one who poisoned Henry was true. Otherwise, Jessica wouldn’t have reacted so anxiously if she was innocent.

Sonia remembered how Jessica had reacted fairly calmly when Sonia had talked about the embezzlement and suicide back when they were in Kosovo. All Jessica had mocked in reply was how their father had ended his life because he didn’t have the mental and emotional capability to endure a little bit of setback.

Her reaction now could only mean one thing—she did poison their father.

It was hard to believe that someone could actually do something so cruel to their own parents. Just you wait, Jessica Reed, Sonia promised to herself. I’ll make you pay for your actions.

“I’m spouting nonsense, you say?” Sonia let out another scoff. “Jessica, you know what you did. You know exactly how big of a part you played in Dad’s death. I won’t get into it, but mark my words: you won’t live another day in peace now that you have me as your enemy.”

Jessica disgruntledly rolled her eyes and retorted, “That’s your threat? Okay then. I’ll wait and see what tricks you have up your sleeves. But first, we are all here to discuss who will be taking the chairperson position!”

“No need for a discussion!” Sonia announced. She had her head held high as she coldly looked at Jessica. “Anyone but you can have the position. Need I remind you again? You have neither the power nor shares to qualify as a candidate. What exactly are you putting on the table to claim that you have what it takes to go against me?”

Unexpectedly, Jessica smiled as she swayed her arms and said, “Who said I don’t? I’ll admit that I have no experience in running a company, but I have Uncle Asher to lead me through the process. As for my shares... I am Dad’s biological daughter, aren’t I? That means that I’m entitled to half of what you have! Lawfully speaking, I should have 25.5 percent of your 51 percent. Now tell me, am I still unqualified for the position?”

Opinions were divided by Jessica’s words, and another discussion broke out among the attendees.

“That’s true. The previous chairman did not leave a will regarding the distribution of shares due to his sudden passing. The second daughter should have half of what President Reed has.”

“I have to agree with that.”

Naturally, the ones who agreed were all Asher’s men.

The soft mumbles made Asher and Jessica exchange satisfied gazes as things were finally going the way they wanted.

At the same time, the ones who disagreed also started to chatter.

“Even though Mr. Reed did not mention to leave all the shares to President Reed, he also never said that the shares have to be split with the second daughter.”

“That’s correct.”

Jessica jumped and glared at the people who still opposed, and before Sonia could say anything to her people, Jessica quickly interjected, “Dad never said anything about giving me his shares, but as his daughter, I am a rightful successor of what he has left behind. Also, I am not wrong for trying to get back what originally belongs to me. The only reason I don’t have any of those shares is because I left Seafield too soon 6 years

ago. You know that the law would naturally assign me half the shares if we were to take this to court.”

Asher, too, started to persuade Sonia as he sipped on his cup of tea. “Jessica’s right. Why don’t you just concede and let her have what is rightfully hers, hmm? I’m afraid that it will earn you a big smear to your reputation if word were to spread that you have claimed all of your father’s inheritance for yourself and that you refuse to share it with your own sister.”

Despite hearing those words, Sonia still calmly looked at both of them before suddenly letting out a laugh.

When Asher saw her reaction, his eyebrows instinctively knitted together. He was suddenly hit by a feeling of foreboding.

He then slowly set his teacup back onto the table, and as calmly as he could, he asked, “Dear Sonia, what are you laughing about?”

“Oh, it’s just that... You had me wondering about the reason you were so enthusiastic about holding this meeting at first. It’s not like it will benefit you in any way if there was a new chairperson in the seat. I think I know why now,” Sonia said before pausing momentarily.

She then leaned forward and rested her head in the palm of her hands that were propped on the table. “I don’t know how you managed to get in contact with each other, but I’m sure you both have come to an agreement of some sort. Let’s see if I can guess it correctly,” she said in a mocking voice.

“You,” she said with a finger pointing at Asher. “You will aid her in taking away all my current shares and then—manage Paradigm Co. on Jessica’s behalf. And as for you...”

This time, Sonia was pointing at Jessica. “Your role in this is probably to cause trouble for me so that I will be too distracted from properly managing the company, am I right? And when it gets bad...” Sonia glanced at Asher. “You will completely take charge over Paradigm Co., and maybe even rob Jessica of her shares if things somehow go your way. Did it get it right?”

Asher stiffened for a while before he could find his tongue again, where he then incredulously looked at Sonia and managed to utter a word. “You...”

Was she really so observant that she had managed to accurately read his mind?

Seeing him looking like a deer caught in the headlights, she sneered and sarcastically cheered, “Bingo. But I have to applaud you, President Dafoe. It is a wise move for you to use Jessica in exchange for the things you want. Not only is she an idiot, but she is

also a fairly useful idiot that you get to bend at your will. It is a pity that you are so ambitious that you held no cards back. I could see through you in a glance.”

As Asher heard that, his grip on his teacup only further tightened as he thoughtfully stared at Sonia.

Jessica, on the other hand, couldn't contain her rage any longer as she suddenly yelled at Sonia. “Did you just call me an idiot?!” At that moment, she would have loved to carve a piece of flesh off Sonia's body if she could.

However, that short sentence alone had managed to show all of Jessica's worst sides.

Everyone in the room, no matter if they were Sonia or Asher's men, turned to scornfully look at Jessica.

Was this woman stupid or something?

Sonia was just talking about how Asher was using her to ultimately get Jessica's shares if she had managed to claim half of it from Sonia.

And yet, Jessica was so caught up with being called an idiot that she had completely missed the point of the conversation.

It was almost laughable that someone like this actually had the audacity to say that she wanted to be the chairperson.