

## Chapter 211

'Madam Vanderbilt had always been keeping a close eye on it.'

Maisie's eyes narrowed slightly. "I must attend this meal if those people from the Vanderbilts are really planning to lay their hands on Vaenna."

"Zee, do you want me to accompany you there? After all, who knows what they'll do." Kennedy was worried about her attending this meal alone.

Maisie was caught up in her thoughts for a split second

'Kennedy is right. They must have a purpose since they asked to meet me. I don't know what they might do. In any case, I must go prepared' 1

Maisie stepped into a high-end restaurant. She had tied her long hair into a neat high ponytail, was dressed in a black and white color-blocked dress with split ends, and had a pair of golden sequin earrings.

She attracted a lot of attention from the guests around the area when she walked into the hotel.

Seeing her extraordinary temperament, the waitress standing at the reception stepped forward and asked enthusiastically, "Miss, do you have a reservation for a private room or a carrel?"

"Private Room 203."

"Okay, please follow me." The waitress gave off a smile and brought her upstairs to the second floor.

Arriving at the door of Private Room 203, the waitress knocked on the door and opened the door for her. In the room, apart from Madam Vanderbilt and Linda, there were two middle-aged women and a man Maisie had never seen before.

Madam Vanderbilt smiled immediately when she saw Maisie entering the room. "You're here, Zee. This is your aunt. You should not have seen her in many years."

She introduced the middle-aged woman in a gorgeous dress sitting next to her.

Yanis Warren was Madam Vanderbilt's eldest daughter-in-law and Linda's biological mother. She had married Yorick Vanderbilt, the eldest son of the Vanderbilts, and had given birth to a son and a daughter for the Vanderbilts. Madam Vanderbilt valued her highly because of the grandson that she had given birth to.

"Oh, so this is Zee. She's grown into such a beautiful woman, and she really resembles her mother." Yanis' voice sounded very high pitched, and it was difficult to tell whether she was complimenting or slighting Maisie. Everything just sounded awkward

Maisie walked to the table, sat down, and her red lips curled slightly. "Aunt Yanis, you actually thought about asking me out for a meal as soon as you arrived at Bassburgh?"

"What are you talking about? No matter what, you're my niece. We're all from the Vanderbilts. We haven't seen each other for so many years, so it's only natural for your aunt to miss you."

“Oh, really? That’s really nice of you.” Maisie raised her eyebrows lightly.

I’ve never been in contact with any of Vanderbilts. Who would believe in her saying that she misses me?

Maisie then raised her head, exchanged a glance with the man sitting opposite her, and frowned. “And this is?”

“This shouldn’t be that so-called cousin of mine, right?”

Yanis smiled and introduced, “This is Mr. Zimmerman Sr.’s grandson who’s come from Coralia. You should know his grandfather. Grandpa Zimmerman used to be very close with us Vanderbilts. And this is Aunt Zimmerman.”

Mrs. Zimmerman took a glance at Maisie. Nobody could tell whether she was satisfied or dissatisfied by her look.

She then curled her lips and said, “Is she the daughter Stephen gave birth to with Marina? She does look rather pretty, but I wonder whether she’s a hardworking woman or not.”

“Hah, don’t all women become hardworking after they get married? Zee is also a highly-educated person. So how would the Zimmermans find such a beautiful and intelligent daughter-in-law back in Coralia?” Yanis explained.

Mrs. Zimmerman felt somewhat convinced after hearing this.

Seeing that her son was staring fixedly at Maisie, she also guessed what was on her son’s mind at that moment.

Maisie finally understood what was going on after listening to their nonsensical conversation.

‘Heh, this turns out to be a blind date for me?’

Maisie’s eyes turned a little indifferent. “I think Aunt Yanis must have misunderstood something. Isn’t this a family dinner? Why has it become a blind date?”

Madam Vanderbilt spoke up on behalf of Yanis. “Zee, your aunt knows that you have reached the appropriate age and haven’t gotten married yet. You should feel happy that she’s found you such a prestigious family from Coralia.”

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“Yeah, Zee, anyhow, the Zimmermans are quite reputable in Coralia. You don’t have to worry about anything if you were to get married to this family.” Yanis and Madam Vanderbilt chimed in with each other perfectly as if they could not wait to marry Maisie or the Zimmermans at this very moment.

Maisie chuckled. “I even have kids. Are the Zimmermans so desperate that you welcome the kids that come in a package with the daughter-in-law of your choice?”

Yanis and Mrs. Zimmerman’s expressions changed upon hearing this. While Madam Vanderbilt responded immediately, “Zee, what are you talking about? Since when did you have children?”

“Whether I have kids, you’ll know more about that after you’ve confirmed the details with Father.” Maisie crossed her arms and leaned back slightly. “The children’s father is actually Mr. Goldmann. So no matter how prestigious the Zimmermans are in Coralia, how can they be comparable to Mr. Goldmann?”

Mrs. Zimmerman looked embarrassed in an instant. She glared at Yanis and the others. “Are you lying to my son and me?”

“Mrs. Zimmerman, don’t be angry.” Yanis calmed her down and looked at Maisie. “Zee, stop messing around. How would the Vanderbilts not know anything about the kids if you really have given birth to them? Don’t come up with excuses already.”

‘Mother did tell me that Maisie has indeed gotten together with the legendary Mr. Goldmann of Bassburgh, but Linda has also taken a fancy to Mr. Goldmann. Thus, if I don’t help her make this happen, how could I help Linda secure Mr. Goldmann?’

‘Hence, no matter if the story about those kids is true or not, I’ll make it happen anyway.’

‘Moreover...’

Yanis’s gaze landed on Mrs. Zimmerman’s son, Jimmy Zimmerman

‘He hasn’t taken his eyes off Maisie ever since she came in through the door. Hmph, he’s definitely a lewd one.’

“Since this is a blind date, then I don’t think there’s a need for me to waste time here. Besides, none of you are worthy of calling the shots when it comes to my marriage.” Maisie got up and was about to leave.

Linda stopped her hurriedly upon seeing this. “Maisie, don’t be furious about this. At least, join us for dinner first before you leave.”

“Yes, Zee, we’ll talk later. Let’s finish the meal first. The appetizers are about to be served. You’ll embarrass us elders big time if you choose to leave at this time.” Yanis could not afford to let this golden opportunity slip away from her grip. She must make Maisie marry Jimmy today!

They all wanted to keep her here so badly that their purpose was as clear as day.

‘All they want is to tie me together with this strange man. Heh, how nice of them. Is this what they refer to as one’s flesh and blood?’

‘But to me, kinship is only a relationship that can be used and bent for one’s own benefit!’

Maisie sat back in her seat and smiled. “That’s indeed true. I’d embarrass the elders if I were to leave just like this.”

“Glad to hear that, Zee. You’re still the most sensible one in the Vanderbilts.” Madam Vanderbilt was delighted deep down.

‘Anyway, she won’t be able to escape her fate today.’

After all the food was served, Yanis looked at Jimmy. “Jimmy, what do you think of Zee?”

“Great... She’s certainly great.” Jimmy stared at Maisie and could not bear to take his eyes off her.

“There’s no way that I’ll get to run into such a superb quality woman back in Coralia. Besides, which of those women around me is comparable to her?”

Maisie chuckled, raised her eyes, and looked at Jimmy. “Mr. Zimmerman does have quite a good taste when it comes to women. Do you have a thing for women who have given birth?”

How could Mrs. Zimmerman be gleeful when all Maisie talked about was her children?

But of all the people present, her son did not seem to care about it. “It doesn’t matter. We’re living in an open society now, where even divorced women can find themselves stepping into another marriage nowadays. So why should I care whether you have kids? I promise that I’ll treat you like a queen as long as you’re willing to be with me.”

“Oh? Really?” Maisie raised her eyebrows.

Jimmy was so enchanted by her that he was totally carried away. All he could do was smile at this moment. “Of course, of course.” 1

Seeing that her son had been intoxicated and was no longer in his right mind, Mrs. Zimmerman responded immediately. “You’re

not allowed to bring your children along if you want to marry the Zimmermans. What would the public think of my son if they were to find out that he’s raising those kids on behalf of another man?”

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‘She’s a woman that has slept with other men, and she’s still planning to bring her kids along when she moves into the Zimmermans? That’s impossible.’

But seeing how her son was reacting, Mrs. Zimmerman could only accept the fact that Maisie was a woman who had had children.

‘She still has to come over and serve me after moving into the Zimmermans.’

“Oh, do you want me to abandon my children?” Maisie smiled.

“Zee, the Zimmermans don’t even care about the children, yet you still want to bring your children along when you marry Jimmy? Are you out of your mind?” Madam Vanderbilt sounded anxious.

‘Is this b\*tch planning to ruin the marriage arrangement? Keep dreaming!’ 1

Madam Vanderbilt quickly glanced at Yanis.

Yanis naturally understood what she meant.

‘Anyway, what’s been done can never be undone. We’ll make it happen today even if we have to achieve our goal through force.’

How the Vanderbilts supported each other’s play halfway through the meal could almost form a theatrical act. Jimmy took a

glance at Maisie from time to time. The woman looked more attractive the more he stared at her, so attractive that he could feel the fire burning more and more frantically within him.

Maisie ignored the blazing gaze and continued eating the food on her plate gracefully.

She was very cautious and had not touched any of the drinks that others poured her.

Madam Vanderbilt was extremely anxious.

'How can we spike this slut's drink if she's so vigilant?'

Fortunately, Yanis had already prepared for this situation. After all, it was just in case this was how things turned out.

All the perfectly sealed drinks placed in front of Maisie actually had invisible pinholes all over them. And because of this, those drinks were only placed in front of Maisie.

She had expected that this little vixen would definitely not drink the drinks that others poured her.

Maisie drank half of the drink in the bottle and noticed the sly and meaningful gaze that came from Yanis and Madam Vanderbilt from time to time.

She curled her lips coldly, put the bottle down, and added some food onto her plate.

Madam Vanderbilt also fetched some dishes for Maisie. "Zee, look at how little you're eating. You should eat more."

Seeing that Maisie started supporting her forehead as if she was drunk and then laid down on the dining table all of a sudden, Madam Vanderbilt pushed her. "Zee, Zee?"

"What's wrong?" Mrs. Zimmerman naturally did not know the intention that the Vanderbilts had.

Yanis quickly explained, "Oh, she's feeling a little uncomfortable. Lynn, help your cousin to get some rest in the other room."

Linda smiled and nodded. "Okay."

She then stood up and helped up Maisie. She was secretly smug when she saw Maisie left with her without putting up any fight.

"Why would she fall ill suddenly for no reason?"

Feeling Mrs. Zimmerman's dissatisfaction, Jimmy comforted her immediately. "Mom, don't say that. Anyway, she'll be my wife in the future. Do you want me to get married or not?"

"Okay, okay, okay. It's your call to make. I'll listen to you." After all, her son's life event was the important thing here. How could she not respect his choice?

Yanis looked at Jimmy. "Jimmy, you should go and take a look at Lynn. I'm afraid that she's too careless and can't take good care of Maisie."

Jimmy knew that Aunt Vanderbilt was helping him and could not keep his restless emotions calm anymore. He did not even want to eat his food. Thus, he hurriedly got up and said, "Okay, I'll go and have a look."

Linda helped Maisie to get into another room, which was reserved in advance by her mother, and she was waiting to hand this opportunity to Jimmy.

Although Jimmy was the grandson of the renowned Mr. Zimmerman Sr. of Coralia, his reputation in Coralia was not good. He was a local bully. Not only did he like gambling, but he was also a lecherous man.

Just because all the women in Coralia knew who he was, they refused to marry him no matter what.

After placing Maisie on the couch, Linda snorted. "When you give yourself to Jimmy, you'll be known as a slutty wh\*re. We'll see whether Mr. Goldmann would want a woman like you at that time."

'A woman that has been defiled by another man will never be as pure as me!'

## **Chapter 214**

When Linda turned around and was about to leave, Maisie suddenly opened her eyes, got up, walked forward, and stunned her.

Seeing that Linda had dropped to the floor and lost consciousness, Maisie dragged her onto the couch in the small private room." Heh, since you've planned to set me up, then don't blame me for giving you a dose of your own medicine."

It was fortunate that she had come prepared. She had stopped at a pharmacy and bought some special antidote that could nullify rape-date drugs while she was on her way here. She had also taken it while traveling here, and its effect would last for four hours.

The drinks placed in front of her had indeed been fully sealed, but it was a pity that she had noticed the tiny pinholes that were so subtly poked next to the opening of the bottles that they were difficult to detect.

She drew the curtains, and the interior of the private room instantly dimmed. She then noticed the sound of someone opening the door coming from the outside, so she quickly hid behind the couch and moaned softly. "Don't turn on the lights."

When he heard her voice, Jimmy immediately retracted the arm that he lifted originally to turn on the light and smiled. "I know, I know. You prefer it this way, huh?"

Maisie was extremely disgusted, but she suppressed her emotions and chuckled. "Mr. Zimmerman, I'm waiting for you on the couch. Come, I... I'm going to faint already."

"Alright, alright, alright, don't worry, my precious little girl. I'll come over and pamper you immediately." Hearing this seductive voice, Jimmy could no longer hold it in. He groped his way to the couch and touched someone as expected.

"Hey, it seems that you're also a lascivious one, huh? Come here, let me take good care of you."

Then the sound of clothes being taken off and dropped on the floor echoed.

Some unbearable voices then followed those sounds.

Maisie groped and crawled her way out of the private room cautiously.

The man was busy enjoying himself, so how would he notice that someone had already snuck out?

Maisie walked out of the private room, closed the door gently, and turned the sign on the doorknob to "Do Not Disturb".

After doing so, the corners of her lips curled upward coldly.

'I wonder what expression Madam Vanderbilt and Yanis would give off if they were to run into this scene.'

After more than 20 minutes, Maisie calmly returned to the private room that they ate in. Yanis and Madam Vanderbilt were instantly taken aback when they saw her,

"Zee, why are you"

"What's wrong with me? I was just feeling a little uncomfortable. Didn't Linda send me away to rest already? Where is she?" Maisie asked in a pretending manner.

Seeing that her daughter and Jimmy had not returned, Yanis could no longer sit still. She stood up abruptly and ran out of the private room.

Madam Vanderbilt and Mrs. Zimmerman seemed to have realized something, so they quickly got up and went out too.

Maisie's eyebrows were slightly raised. It was only natural for her to want to catch up to them for the drama.

Yanis broke into that private room, turned on the light, and heard the sound that came from the inside of the room. How could she not know what that sound was?

Her face turned pale as soon as she entered the room.

Jimmy had defiled her daughter!

As the light was turned on abruptly, it took Jimmy a while to get a good look at the woman that was with him. He was so frightened that he pulled away from the woman and wrapped his clothes around his body. "It's you? Why is it you!?"

"You... You actually..." Yanis stepped forward and slapped Jimmy. "You've ruined my daughter!"

Mrs. Zimmerman rushed in and saw the scene where her son got beaten. She dashed toward Yanis and pushed her away. "What do you mean, huh? What do you mean by my son ruined your daughter? This is clearly your daughter's act! She's the one who seduced my son!"

"Mom, this b\*tch entrapped me!" Jimmy could not accept the fact that he had been served a chicken's liver when he had ordered foie gras

## Chapter 215

“This... This should have been Maisie. How did it become...” Madam Vanderbilt staggered.

‘Didn’t we drug that sl\*t?’

Maisie walked in and covered her mouth slowly. “Ah! What is this?”

“Maisie, you b\*tch! It’s you, isn’t it? You’ve ruined my daughter!” Yanis stepped forward, wanting to slap Maisie, but Maisie managed to evade.

Maisie hid beside Mrs. Zimmerman nimbly. “How can you blame me for this? Linda was the one who told me that she’s been admiring Mr. Zimmerman for a long time while sending me over. She even knocked me out. I was already in another private room when I woke up.”

“Bullsh\*t! You’re clearly,”

The unconscious woman who was lying on the couch gradually opened her eyes and woke up. She then saw so many people standing in the room and felt a torrent of pain throughout her whole body. She immediately lowered her head, only to find herself naked. Her expression changed in an instant as she grabbed her clothes to cover her body. “Why... Why am I here...”\*

She then saw Maisie and the man who was sitting next to her, butt naked. Linda remembered something and shrieked hysterically, “Maisie, you b\*tch! You’re the one who set me up!”

Maisie gave off an innocent look. “Since when did I set you up? If you want to talk about setting up others, weren’t you guys the ones who wanted to set me up in the first place? I have not been feeling well ever since I drank those drinks that you guys served on the table. You’re the one who helped me over here and told me that you fancy Mr. Zimmerman...”

“Nonsense! I didn’t. It’s obviously you—”

“Then tell me, why are you here with Mr. Zimmerman?” Maisie squinted her eyes and said solemnly, “If you hadn’t said that you like Mr. Zimmerman, I would have been the one being intimate with Mr. Zimmerman right now. But since you told me that you like Mi. Zimmerman, it’s wrong for me to insist on fighting for Mr. Zimmerman’s love. Besides, I was still unconscious at that time.”

“No, I...” Linda could not even tell how she had become the woman who shared an intimate moment with Jimmy.

‘After I sent Maisie to the room, I suddenly felt a sting at the back of my neck and lost consciousness.’

Thinking of that, she shouted in a panic, “It was you! You’re the one who knocked me out!”

“I was out cold too, so how could I knock you out?” Maisie bit her lip, pretending to be wronged as tears were welling in her eyes. “Grandma and Aunt Yanis should know about my condition too, shouldn’t they?”

Madam Vanderbilt and Yanis looked extremely embarrassed at this moment. They, of course, knew what Maisie would go through after drinking the spiked drink. After all, they were the ones who had spiked the drinks!



Looking at how they were at a loss of words and their flushed cheeks, Maisie was delighted and hoped that this scene could be played in a loop.

“Mrs. Zimmerman, it seems that I can no longer become your daughter-in-law. I know you’re not satisfied with me either. After all, I’ve given birth. The Zimmermans are still considered a reputable family in Coralia. I’m not worthy of your family,” Maisie said to Mrs. Zimmerman. “But take a look at my cousin Lynn. She’s still an innocent young lady, at least a lot purer when compared to me. Not to mention that she’s hardworking, sensible, and well-behaved. It’d be Lynn’s blessing if she could become your daughter-in law.”

Madam Vanderbilt and Yanis almost died of anger.

What they wanted was to bring Maisie and Jimmy together, but their scheme had ended up making a match out of Linda and

Jimmy instead.

Jimmy could not reconcile with how things turned out when he heard this. “Mom, I won’t marry this woman. I don’t give a f\*ck on how long she’s admired me for. She’s nowhere near worthy. Just look at her. How can I marry her?!”

“That’s enough!” Mrs. Zimmerman rebuked him sternly. “You’re the one who’s ruined Linda’s innocence. And sure enough, we Zimmermans should only accept such an innocent girl. Since you’ve deprived her of her virginity, she should be allowed to be married into the Zimmermans.”

Maisie’s gamble had paid off.

‘Since the Zimmermans are an esteemed family in Coralia, it’s only natural for them to be overly demanding. Thus, instead of choosing a daughter-in-law who’s given birth to children, why not choose the innocent one?’

## **Chapter 216**

“No, Mrs. Zimmerman

“You don’t think my son is good enough for you?” Mrs. Zimmerman stared at Yanis, who was looking utterly disappointed

“Yes, Lynn is lucky to be marrying a Zimmerman. Too bad I didn’t have such luck.” Maisie tried to stifle a laugh, but her eyes betrayed her.

Madam Vanderbilt almost fell to the floor because all her plans had been ruined, and Linda had even lost her innocence.

Yanis felt the same. She wanted Linda to marry someone with status and power in Bassburgh, but now she had been taken by

Jimmy Zimmerman.

It was all because of Maisie.

Yanis stared at Maisie with hatred in her eyes.

Maisie noticed that, but Yanis wasn't the only one hating her, so she couldn't care less. She was just giving them a taste of their own medicine!

The high-ranking executives looked up when Quincy opened the door to the solemn meeting room.

Nolan, who was sitting in the main seat, looked cautious.

Quincy nodded at the executives and walked quickly to Nolan to pass on a message.

Nolan's face dropped. "Why did you wait to inform me about this?"

"I didn't know your meeting would take so long-" Quincy was helpless. Kennedy was rushing him, and Ms. Vanderbilt hadn't been back for a while already.

Quincy knew how important she was to him and how he wouldn't be able to recover if anything happened to her.

Nolan put down the folder and got up. "That's all for today."

He loosened his tie and left in strides with Quincy while looking solemn. The executives exchanged looks after being left without an explanation.

Nolan got Quincy to find out where Maisie was and went over immediately, but when he got to the hotel, he saw Maisie walking out calmly.

Quincy was surprised. It didn't look like anything had happened.

Was Kennedy overreacting?

Nolan was sitting in the back seat, and when he saw that Maisie was fine, he calmed down. He had been over-anxious. This woman was never going to let anyone bully her.

Just when he was going to get out of the car, a man suddenly walked toward her and said something to her.

Seeing that the man was trying to hold Maisie, the air around Nolan dropped a few degrees.

Maisie never expected Jimmy to be so clingy. She smiled, removed his hand, and calmly said, "Mr. Zimmerman, please be respectful. There's no need for an explanation since Linda would be a better fit as the daughter-in-law of the Zimmermans."

"That woman wouldn't be a fit. She was the one who kept messing up. Zee, it was love at first sight with you, I truly love you."

Jimmy wasn't going to let this beauty walk away from him. If it weren't for Linda, he would have had her already.

Love at first sight? Love?

Maisie's eyes were smiling. Jimmy was only interested in her beauty.

"Why would you cling on to a woman who already has children?" Maisie said that with her last bit of patience and left.

Jimmy tried to stop her again. "I don't mind that you have had children. Zee, I'm truly,"

An arm suddenly grabbed Maisie and pulled her into his arms. She bumped into the man's chest, surrounded by the light smell of cologne. She was stunned.

### **Chapter 217 Why was Nolan there?**

Jimmy was stunned. He questioned unhappily, "W-Who are you?"

"The father of her children."

Nolan stared coldly at him. This useless man wasn't going to steal his woman.

Jimmy opened his mouth, but nothing came out. He was probably frozen by the coldness the man exuded.

Maisie laid in the man's arms and put her arms around his neck. "Honey, what took you so long?" The anger that consumed Nolan when he saw her with this man disappeared when she hugged him and called him 'honey'. He didn't even want to question her about what was going on anymore.

Nolan put one arm around her waist and held her chin up with the other, "I wouldn't know that someone was trying to steal my woman if I didn't show up."

Maisie raised her brows and played along. "Bring me home then."

'Home...'

Nolan smiled.

It was nice to hear this woman say those few words.

"Zee

Jimmy wasn't done yet, but he retreated when Nolan stared at him.

That man was overwhelming. Who was he!?

In the car...

Seeing that Nolan wasn't going to let go, Maisie frowned. "Are you not going to let go?"

"You're going to push me aside after using me?" Nolan raised his brows. Was he going to be used just like that? It would be dumb not to take advantage of the situation.

Maisie bit her lip. She didn't want to look at Quincy, who was driving because she was sitting on Nolan's lap. That was a pretty compromising position.

"Who was that man?"

Seeing that Nolan was reserved and sounded like he was questioning her, Maisie didn't answer politely. "Someone the Vanderbilts wanted to matchmake me with."

The hand around her waist suddenly tightened.

Maisie felt as if her energy was sucked out of her. She slumped on his body, stared at him angrily, and said in a low voice. "What are you doing?"

"Do you think I agreed to that?" Maisie looked down, looking cold. "Madam Vanderbilt wanted to let Linda win you over and wanted to marry me off as soon as possible. It's your fault."

She wasn't happy that she was put on the spot. Madam Vanderbilt, Yanis, and Linda treated her that way all because of him.

If she hadn't been careful, she would have fallen into their trap.

Nolan looked down at the angry face of the woman in his arms, thinking about her family trying to set her up. His face dropped...!

His lover was treated terribly. It was time for the Vanderbilts of Coralia to face a little 'setback'.

"Maisie, no one is going to be Mrs. Goldmann other than you."

Maisie paused and turned her face away. "I never said I was interested."

Nolan's lips curled. "Am I supposed to find a stepmother for our children then?"

Maisie didn't reply.

No way! She would rather find a stepfather for them!

Linda was escorted back to Coralia by her mother. Even if Linda wouldn't marry, losing her innocence to Jimmy was reality. –

Madam Vanderbilt wanted Linda to marry into money, but seeing that it didn't go the way she intended, she ignored Linda, who was crying and throwing a fit.HR

After a few days, the hot spring travel agency owned by the Vanderbilts in Coralia was suddenly seized. Madam Vanderbilt's eldest son, Yorick, was apprehended by the police for questioning related to corruption and money laundering.

## **Chapter 218**

The incident got into the news.

Madam Vanderbilt watched her son's arrest. Their properties in Coralia were involved, and their business almost collapsed. She had to ask her other son, Stephen, for help.

"Stephen, he's your brother. You have to help him!"

Stephen was anxious upon seeing his mother crying and begging. "He was caught money laundering. How am I supposed to help him?"

"I told him not to get involved in this, but did he listen? Now he's caught. How am I supposed to help him?"

Stephen was helpless.

He had started his business in Bassburgh because he wanted to leave the family and build something of his own. His mother had always paid more attention to his brother, but he knew what his brother was doing in Coralia.

Madam Vanderbilt lost her focus but seemed to remember something. "Isn't Zee in a relationship with Mr. Goldmann? Can you ask Zee to speak to Mr. Goldmann and get him to speak up for her? This whole thing will be settled!" 1 Stephen laughed "This is the only time you would remember this granddaughter of yours?"

Madam Vanderbilt said sadly, "I'm your mother. Do you want to push me over the edge?"

Stephen's expression turned numb. Yes, she was his mother. What choice did he have?

"I'll speak to Zee."

When Maisie saw the news about the Vanderbilts, she knew it was Nolan who was behind it. Nolan was efficient enough. How would he possibly find out about her uncle's money laundering?

However, the Vanderbilts were probably running around like headless chickens because of this. She knew her grandmother would seek her father's help.

Maisie got a call from her father soon after. She seemed to have guessed when she picked up the call.

"Zee, I need to talk to you about your uncle." Maisie blinked. "You want me to help him?"

Her grandmother really asked him to speak to her, and that was why he called.

Stephen paused and spoke slowly. "Zee, I know you don't like your grandmother and the others, but they're your father's family. Can you help me just this once? Don't worry, I'll send your grandmother home after that so that she won't trouble you anymore."

Stephen didn't want to get his daughter involved, but since it involved his mother, he hoped that his mother would remember what Zee had done after that day.

Maisie was quiet. She never saw the Vanderbilts as family. What happened the other day didn't show her the warmth of a family but the coldness instead.

However, something came to her mind. She pressed her lips together, gnashed her teeth, and said, "Alright, just this once."

Maisie got to the office, knocked on the door, and entered when she got permission.

Nolan was writing, but he looked up at Maisie, who came to see him willingly. He raised his brows and said, "What's going on?"

"I need your help." Maisie walked to the desk and quietly said, "I need your help... in getting Yorick out of prison."

Nolan raised his brows again and stared at her for a long time. "You came to ask for help on their behalf?"

Was she feeling sorry for them despite how they treated her? “No,” Maisie looked straight at him, “It’s for my father.”

## **Chapter 219**

Maisie pressed her lips together and added, “We just need to get Yorick released. The travel agency and everything else isn’t my concern.”

She could help get her uncle out, but she would never forget what Yanis and Madam Vanderbilt had done to her.

She was only helping for her father’s sake, and she would stay out of the rest.

Of course, if they never change their attitude, it would be a different case.

Nolan got up, walked to her, leaned forward to match her height, and looked at her. “I can get him out, but...”

He pulled her into his arms. “What do I get in return?”

Maisie took a deep breath. She knew this man would take advantage of the situation.

She blinked. A kiss was a kiss, and a few more kisses wouldn’t make a difference.

She took the initiative, which was rare, but he put his finger to her lips, his eyes burning. “You’re not going to get rid of me so easily.”

Maisie slapped his hand away. “What do you want?”

“You,” he answered with the same expression

1

Maisie’s face flared, noticing his slight change in emotion. When she wanted to say something, he pressed his lips onto hers.

The next day...

Madam Vanderbilt received a call from Yanis and was delighted when she found out that Yorick had been released.

However, Yanis said something, and Madam Vanderbilt sat down on the couch hard and said, “What? We’re not allowed to operate anymore?”

“We’ve been ordered to stop. We can’t do anything about it. Mom, we can’t carry on with the business. The Zimmermans seem to be backing out of the marriage with Linda because of this.”

Even though Yanis loved her daughter, she felt annoyed whenever she remembered that Jimmy had ruined her daughter.

Unfortunately, they couldn’t change the past.

They could marry off the daughter, but after the situation in the family, the Zimmermans wouldn’t want to be involved anymore.

“Mom, why not let Hector take over Stephen’s jewelry business since he doesn’t have a son?” 2

Yanis continued. “We’re a family. The company shouldn’t be passed on to girls who will one day marry, or it will then belong to outsiders.”

Madam Vanderbilt had always planned to do that. Now that their businesses in Coralia were in trouble, only Stephen’s jewelry business could be considered.

Madam Vanderbilt went to the study to speak to Stephen about this.

After Stephen listened to what she had to say, he immediately flew into a rage. “Mom, have you gone mad!? You want me to give the company shares to my nephew?”

“I’m not mad. Vaenna is a Vanderbilt family business. You’re not going to pass the company to Maisie, are you?” 1

Madam Vanderbilt wasn’t going to let that happen. “Maisie will marry one day. She can’t be a Vanderbilt forever. You should give the company to Hector instead of her. He’s your nephew!”

Stephen held his fist and squared his jaw.

Madam Vanderbilt tried to persuade him. “Stephen, are you going to disobey me now? I know you love your daughter, but she has M 1. Goldmann now. She won’t lose anything.

“She won’t run out of money and luxury when she’s with Mr. Goldmann. Vaenna Jewelry is all the Vanderbilts have now.”

Seeing Stephen staying quiet, Madam Vanderbilt continued. “Don’t think about it. Listen to me. Maisie won’t miss this one company.”

## **Chapter 220**

“Mom, Vaenna Jewelry was founded by Zee’s mom. I can’t give it to my nephew.”

“Why can’t you?” Madam Vanderbilt shook with anger. “Marina hasn’t been around for so many years. The company is yours now. There’s no need to care how a dead person feels about how you manage it.

“Furthermore, Marina wasn’t a good person when she was alive. Look how she treated you. What’s holding you back?”

Maisie stopped outside the study and heard Madam Vanderbilt insult her mother. She walked into the study with a heavy expression. “What did you mean by that?”

Stephen was stunned. Had she heard everything? Madam Vanderbilt didn’t expect Maisie to be back. She gnashed her teeth. “Why are you back?”

“I’ve gotten Uncle Yorick released and wanted to congratulate you, but I wasn’t expecting to hear you insult my mother.”

Maisie crossed her arms and raised her brows. “Maybe I shouldn’t have helped.”

“He’s your uncle.”

"I get that, but other than that, I don't seem to have anything to do with you, Vanderbilts." Maisie walked toward Madam Vanderbilt and said calmly, "I helped Uncle Yorick for the sake of my dad, not because of anyone from Coralia."

Madam Vanderbilt looked terrible. "Zee, I'm your grandma, your elder. Being disrespectful toward an elder is rude."

Guilt-tripping wouldn't work.

Maisie smiled. "After what you did to me with Aunt Yanis, trying to force me to marry Jimmy, why would I respect you?"

Stephen's face changed. "What!?"

He knew how bad Jimmy's reputation was, but he would never have expected his sister-in-law and mother to try and force Maisie to marry a man like that.

Madam Vanderbilt wasn't expecting Maisie to mention what happened the other day, so she looked horrified. "Nonsense! You're not the one marrying Mr. Zimmerman. Linda is. Are you not satisfied yet?"

"That's enough!" Stephen was out of patience. "You're my mother. I respect you, but if you really did that to Maisie, you've broken my heart. Whatever happens to the Vanderbilts is your business, but I'll never give Vaenna Jewelry to Hector."

Madam Vanderbilt didn't expect the son of his to defy her for his daughter, so she said furiously, "Alright! If you really want to go against my words, I'll just leave."

Stephen's eyes turned dark after she left.

Maisie's eyes shifted upon seeing that her father was sad. "Dad, I won't agree to you giving Vaenna to Hector."

Maisie knew that Madam Vanderbilt would try to get Vaenna. Since they were in a crisis, Vaenna would look like a piece of juicy meat.

Her father would know what Madam Vanderbilt was thinking.

Stephen paused and slowly spoke. "I know. I wouldn't give it to your cousin either. Don't worry."

Maisie nodded at her father's answer. "I believe you."

Stephen didn't expect his daughter to believe him. He had to cherish this. 1

He was going to take good care of Vaenna until Zee was ready to take over. At Soul Jewelry Studio..