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Chapter 231 You're So Full of Yourself, Coolest Girl in Town

Mikayla was a little embarrassed, but she nodded anyway. "Jack said he'll be coming with us, so I'm here to wait for you guys." "Jack came home?" Elise stared at her in confusion. Just as the words left her mouth, Jack emerged at the top of the staircase and made his way down. "I know I don't come home often, but that doesn't mean you have to be so surprised, Elise." Elise was at a loss for words. After a moment of pause, she said, "Are you done getting ready, Jack? Remember to dress down a bit. I don't want your fans recognizing you when we're there." Jack fixed his hair while he said narcissistically, "It wouldn't be surprising if people actually recognized me, though. After all, I'm just that handsome." Mikayla and Elise rolled their eyes at him in unison. "How can you be so full of yourself?" "You're so full of yourself!" The two ladies exclaimed in sync. They shared a smile a second after realizing that. "Our minds are so alike, huh?" Mikayla said jokingly. Then, she gave Jack an annoyed side-eye. Jack shrugged and said, "Don't put the blame on me. I might be narcissistic, but it's not like I don't look the part!

I can't possibly shy away when the heavens gave me such a flawless body to live in." "Stop! Jack, if you're going to act like this, I'll be leaving with Elise." Seeing her reaction, Jack immediately stopped fooling around. "No, wait for me! I'll be ready in a minute." With those words, he scurried upstairs to change into a low-key outfit. He also put on a face mask so that it was less likely for his fans to recognize him in public. "Mikayla, Jack, you two should go ahead. I'll head over there in a bit. Let's meet up at the venue." Jack was beyond thrilled to hear that.

He instinctively gave Elise a grateful look. How could Elise not know what he was thinking? She figured it out when she noticed how interested he was in Mikayla. "Sure, Elise. We'll get going, then. See you." Mikayla waved at Elise and left with Jack. When the two of them had left, Elise asked Stella, "Where's Alexander? Did he go to work?" Stella quickly

replied, "Miss Elise, I haven't seen Young Master Alexander since this morning! His car is still in the garage, though. I just don't know where he went." A hint of doubt passed her eyes. *His car is at home, but he's not?*

She immediately went upstairs to Alexander's room, but there was no one inside when she pushed open the door. There was no sign of the man at all. Elise went around the entire house to search for him but to no avail. Thus, she took out her phone and dialed his number, only to be replied by a woman's robotic voice, "Hello, the number you've dialed is out of reach..." Elise's forehead furrowed in a deep frown. Why's his phone turned off? And so, Elise gave Cameron a call, but the guy only answered, "Young Master Alexander hasn't come to his office.

I didn't see him either, but I'll let you know if I do. If there's nothing else, I'll be hanging up now." After ending the call, Elise couldn't help but feel a little disappointed. Come to think of it, though, Alexander's also a fan of H, so he'd definitely attend the fan meeting. He even promised to wait for me after the event. So, Elise pushed the unsettling thoughts to the back of her mind and returned to her room to change before heading out. She then hailed a cab to Jamie's office. After undergoing a makeover by a makeup artist and a stylist, she reappeared with a brand new look.

"Boss, you look absolutely stunning and cool in this get-up. Your fans will be so hyped to see you like this." Elise stared at her own reflection, feeling quite satisfied about how she looked. "It's a brand new start today. Hopefully I can finally be myself again from now on." "Everything will go well, Boss. Let's go." ... At this very moment, the largest stadium in Athesea was filled with people. Fans were holding LED sign boards of H high above their heads, and never ending waves of ecstatic cheers filled the air. A minivan slowly arrived at the entrance, and screams grew louder wherever it drove past.

"Boss, you have such passionate fans!" Jamie couldn't help but exclaim. Elise looked at her fans around her through the windows, feeling unbelievably moved. These people were from all over the world, but they were all gathered here today just for her. They were all strangers to each other who had traveled far and wide to see her. "Boss, you can just head

inside from the entrance. Our security system is very well-established here; there'll be more than 20 bodyguards around you at all times to ensure your safety." "I know. There's a huge crowd today, so tell everyone to stay safe."

When the car fully came to a stop, Jamie got down first and opened the door for Elise before she swiftly got down. The moment she did so, the surrounding crowd reacted enthusiastically. They couldn't stop cheering for H, and Elise waved at them with a smile on her face as she followed the bodyguards into the venue. Mikayla, who was standing amidst the crowd, spotted H immediately. She couldn't help but buzz with excitement as she said to Jack eagerly, "Look—it's really H! She's so pretty in person!" Jack followed her line of sight. A pleasant surprise filled his eyes when he laid eyes on Elise.

H had always mesmerized her fans with her voice alone, so he didn't think that she'd be so beautiful in person. "She's indeed very pretty. She looks so young too! She doesn't look like a singer with years of experience at all." In response, Mikayla patted his shoulder matter-of-factly. "H debuted when she was 15, so she should only be around 18 or 19 now. Don't you know that?" Jack felt a little embarrassed; in truth, he actually didn't know much about H. "I didn't know that, but I do now that you've told me." "It's fine! We should head inside too. But why isn't Elise here yet?"

Mikayla decided to give Elise a call as she spoke, but she was stopped by Jack. "You don't need to call her. It's so crowded here anyway, so the signal is probably bad too. She'll definitely head inside if she's here, so let's just wait for her inside." Hearing that, Mikayla put away her phone and went through the entrance with Jack. Meanwhile, Elise went to her dressing room backstage to take a break. Without missing a beat, the director came over to check up on her schedule for the day. After they were done with that, Elise took a look at the time.

There's 10 more minutes before showtime. I wonder if Mikayla and the others are here yet. As that thought flooded her mind, her phone buzzed with a notification. It was a text message from Mikayla asking where she

was. Elise quickly replied, 'I'm already here. See you later!' Then, she kept her phone away. *Since Mikayla and Jack are here, Alexander should also have arrived.* "Boss, it's time to stand by," Jamie came and informed her. Elise got up and made her way toward the waiting area. Round after round of energetic cheers came from the stadium; they hadn't stopped once even before Elise made her appearance onstage.

"Alright, alright. I'm sure everyone here can't wait to see our star of the day—H! Well then, what are we waiting for? Let's welcome her onstage together!" The host's friendly interaction fired up the crowd, and they cheered in unison, "Ten... nine... eight... seven..." When the final second came, Elise ascended up the stage from below on a trap door, slowly coming into view before her audience. The surrounding screams and cheers amplified at once.

As Elise took it all in, she couldn't help but feel deeply overwhelmed. She walked toward the host and he quickly passed her a microphone. "Here, H. Go on and introduce yourself to the fans." Elise took the microphone and she looked around at her fans, who had filled every seat in the stadium. She said, "Hello everyone, I'm H. It's great to see you all!"

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Chapter 232 Do You Know Who H Is? ,Coolest Girl in Town

Her surroundings erupted into wave after wave of earth-shattering cheers and claps. The audience's reaction was huge. Elise couldn't help but feel influenced by her fans' positivity as she stared at the crowd around her. "It's been a while!" "Welcome back!!!" the crowd cheered in unison three times in a row. It was as if they were a thousand voices in one. "Alright, alright. I believe H can already feel how happy you are to see her here. As a loyal fan myself, I'm very excited to see H back on stage as well. As such, is there anything you would like to share with us today?"

Elise faced the camera with a smile as her eyes swept across the thousands upon thousands of fans who were here with her today. She said candidly, "First of all, I'd like to thank you all for coming here to see me. You guys honestly touched my heart. I mean, how lucky am I to be loved by so many people in the world? Thank you all for giving me endless surprises and love, and thank you for waiting for me all this while! Hopefully, I'll be able to return one day in the future to release more music for you all. Thank you!" The stadium once again erupted into applause.

"Of course, there's nothing we want more than for you to continue making music. After all, fans are still waiting for your new song to drop. To be honest, in these three years of your hiatus, H, I've been looping the same few familiar songs of yours on my phone. I wonder if we'll have the honor of hearing them live today. What do you say?" The host turned to Elise while the crowd cheered her on. Elise gave a soft smile and nodded. "Definitely!" The audience cheered ecstatically, and even the host was visibly excited to hear that. "Well then, what are we waiting for?

Let's all sit back and enjoy the music!" With the host's words, the entire stadium quietened down at once. "Now, H will be bringing us a medley of three songs. The stage is yours, H!" The host then left, and Elise was now the only one left onstage. She stood in the middle, trying to find Mikayla's seat. After skimming the audience, she finally spotted her friend in the crowd. Her lips curved into a sweet smile as the stage lights gradually dimmed. The background music played, and Elise's dulcet voice filled every corner of the stadium through the speakers.

Her fans eventually started singing along with her softly. Elise sang three of her hit songs in one go before ending the performance. "Well, I was the only one singing on stage earlier, and I felt like something's missing... Why don't I pick a lucky winner from the audience to join me in my next song?" Just as Elise spoke into the microphone, her surroundings exploded into squeals. "Pick me!" "H, look here! Pick me!" "Pick me!" Her fans in the front row screamed eagerly, and Elise simply smiled casually as she said, "I'll just pick someone at random, then. How about the person in the sixth seat on the third row?"

When Mikayla heard the number, she instinctively exclaimed with her ticket in her hand, "That's me! She picked me!" Jack said in encouragement from the side, "Get up there, then! Go and meet your idol." "Let us welcome our lucky fan onstage," Elise said, and a light focused onto Mikayla all of a sudden. She wasn't used to being put under the spotlight like this, but she still stood up excitedly and made her way to the stage under the envious eyes of the audience. Elise took the initiative to go up to Mikayla when she saw her. Mikayla was so nervous to meet H that she couldn't speak, but Elise reached out and wrapped her in a hug as the singer whispered in her friend's ear, "How are you feeling?

Are you excited?" Mikayla jolted at the sound of that voice. She pulled away from H in disbelief, staring into the eyes of this unfamiliar face. For some reason, she felt like she knew this pair of eyes... "Are... Are you..." Elise smiled and took Mikayla's hand. "This next song is for my best friend. I was a little surprised and shocked when I heard that she's my fan. She told me that her biggest dream is to one day be able to meet her idol, so I feel like I have to fulfill her humble wish today. So, this song is for you, best friend." Immediately, the music started playing, and Elise sang into the microphone as she faced Mikayla.

Mikayla was stunned by the sight before her. The look in her eyes was filled with astonishment as she stared at Elise. *I can't believe it—the singer that I've idolized for so many years is my best friend? How's this possible?* Perhaps she was overthinking, or maybe this was all a hallucination. She stood on the spot and pinched her thigh as hard as she could. The sharp pain that shot up her skin made her realize that this wasn't a dream. It was real. She stared at Elise, her mouth slightly agape in an upward angle. The next second, she took the initiative and held Elise's hand, immersing herself in her best friend's singing.

So this is what she wanted to surprise me with! What a huge surprise indeed! After the song, Elise and Mikayla shared a meaningful look as they locked eyes. "Thank you so much for coming onstage with me! I have a small gift for you." Just as she was done speaking, a stage worker brought out a brand new CD. It was a song that Elise had recorded just

for Mikayla—it was the one and only copy just for her best friend. "This is for you." Mikayla took it and said, "Thanks!"

She pulled Elise in for another hug and whispered, "Thank you, Elise!" Elise let go of her with a smile and watched as she got off the stage. Mikayla was still quite jittery when she left the stage. She clutched the CD tight in her hands and went back to her seat, unable to hide the emotions she was feeling. When Jack saw her excitement, he couldn't help but ask, "How was meeting your idol in person?" Mikayla chuckled bashfully without answering his question. Jack frowned slightly and said again, "Look how happy you are! You're even more excited than someone who's just won the lottery."

However, Mikayla simply ignored him again with her eyes fixed on Elise who was on the stage. She still couldn't recover from the shock from earlier. Seeing that she wasn't responding to him, Jack was a little disappointed. The endless cheers for H around him wasn't helping either. He became even more annoyed. "I really don't know what magic she holds over these people for them to act so crazily." Unexpectedly, Mikayla was very upset once she heard that.

"Shut up, Jack! Are you the only person that's allowed to make your fans go wild?" Jack threw his hands up helplessly. "That's not what I meant. It's just that these fans are really too... crazy." Mikayla broke into sniggers, but she immediately followed up in a mysterious tone. "Do you know who H is?" Jack was baffled. "What do you mean?" Mikayla tilted her head and gave it some thought. I'm afraid I'm the only one who knows H's true identity. She said again, "Like I said, do you know who H is?"

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Chapter 233 Are You Really Elise? ,Coolest Girl in Town

Jack stared at Mikayla fixedly. He had a feeling that whatever she was about to say was going to be outrageous, so he couldn't help but ask, "Who?" Mikayla replied matter-of-factly, "She's Elise." "What?" Jack's jaw dropped. However, Mikayla simply nodded solemnly. "Yes, Elise is H, and H is Elise." Jack whipped his head toward H who was on the stage. It was no wonder he had a faint feeling that the woman looked a little familiar. Nonetheless, little did he expect that she'd be Elise! How's this possible? Elise is just a yokel from the countryside—she's a country bumpkin! How can she be H, the hottest celebrity from three years ago? "That's impossible," Jack blurted out offhandedly. At the same time, he instinctively recalled inside, Who was the one who had put the music score for my new song in my office back then? He'd looked through the CCTV footage after that. He remembered seeing Elise enter his office during that period of time, but he never thought of putting the two together. Now that he knew Elise was none other than H, everything finally made sense. The song was written by Elise, and she'd placed the score in his office. She was also the one who had written the clarification post on Twitter.

After silently doing so much behind his back, didn't that mean that he had indirectly become incredibly indebted to her? "Are you sure that she's Elise?" "Yeah, I'm sure. There's no mistaking it. Think about it—the VIP tickets she gave us aren't sold to the public. How did she get them, then? It's definitely because she's H, so getting her hands on these tickets was just a walk in the park!" Even when Mikayla put it that way, Jack found it difficult to believe that Elise was H. "Does Alexander know about this?" Alexander was also a fan of H, and he was also here at the event today. Wait—where's Alexander? Jack looked around and realized the seat that belonged to Alexander was empty. Why didn't he come today?

In fact, Jack wasn't the only one who was looking for Alexander; Elise was also searching for him as she stood on the stage. However, she couldn't seem to spot him even after glancing through the crowd. Her hands instinctively balled into fists. The next agenda of the event was an interactive session. She initially set up the fun game with the intention of telling Alexander a snippet of the truth through the activity, but now that Alexander wasn't even around, was there still a point in having the

session? In the end, she straight up told the staff members to cancel the session altogether.

Up until the fan meeting event ended, Elise didn't see a sign of Alexander. "With that, our fan meeting today has come to an end. Thank you everyone for coming! Next, we have a lucky draw activity. One of you lucky fans will receive an exclusive signed album of H..." As the host began his concluding speech onstage, Elise slowly left the stage. Without even changing out of her performance outfit, she frantically looked for her phone and gave Alexander a call. "Hello, the number you've dialed is out of reach..." Elise had a bad feeling once she heard the robotic female voice in her ear.

Her heart dropped to the pit of her stomach. *Alexander, why didn't you come today? Where are you? Why's your phone turned off?* Her assistant hastily ran up to her and asked, "H, some of your fans would like to take photos with you. Are you okay with that?" Elise snapped out of her worries and immediately put away her phone while feigning nonchalance. "Sure, let them in." With that, a group of fans rushed over, holding their phones up to take photos of Elise. There were also some who went up to her for photos together. By the time her fans dissipated, an hour had already passed.

Elise almost felt like a smiling machine from posing toward cameras nonstop for such a long time! *Phew. I'm glad it's finally over.* When she was about to leave the stadium, Jamie kindly escorted her to the minivan. "You've worked hard today, Boss. It's great that everything's gone smoothly. However, I got a lot of calls asking if you're interested in taking brand endorsement or advertisement deals. I've already rejected all of them." Elise said dejectedly, "Alexander didn't come today." Jamie quickly replied, "Perhaps he was busy! Boss, you don't have to take it personally."

Elise responded lightly as she turned her head to watch the view outside. Jamie could obviously tell that she wasn't in a good mood, but he didn't know what to say in consolation. So, he could only change the subject and talk about other things to shift her attention elsewhere. "Boss, your influence is really off the charts! Out of the ten trending topics on Twitter, eight of them are about your fan meeting today. Go and take a look at

their posts—everyone's asking for you to make a comeback." Elise looked away from the window and finally took out her phone to tap into Twitter. Jamie was right—she was occupying a majority of the trending topics on Twitter. A number of fans also sent her direct messages, asking her when she was planning to return.

Elise simply scrolled briefly before she turned off her phone with a smile. "Jamie, what do you think? Is it time I make a comeback? At least I wouldn't disappoint them if I do that." The car screeched as it came to an abrupt stop the moment she said that. Jamie said in a panic, "No! Boss, if you return to the entertainment industry, what happens to the company? Back then, you said you'd only leave it to us for a few months, but it became two years. Then, you dragged on for another two years, but now you sound like you're going to leave it to us for even longer."

Jamie sounded like he was about to cry. Elise quickly tried to calm him down. "There, there. I wasn't being serious. I currently don't plan on making a comeback just yet." He felt better once he heard that. "That sounds better! That's right, Boss. Are you putting that makeup on today?" Elise glanced at her reflection. She'd planned to come clean with everyone today, but since Alexander wasn't there, she'd almost forgotten about that. Since I've already made a decision, though, I'm going to face everyone today with a brand new me no matter what! "No need. Let's just head back."

"Alrighty." When Jamie sent Elise back to the Griffith Residence, Mikayla and Jack were already home. Mikayla crashed into her arms the second she got down from the car. "Ah!!! Elise, it's really you!" Jack stared at the "unfamiliar" face by the side. He couldn't help but ask in disbelief, "Are you really Elise?" Elise looked at the two people in front of her. With a smile, she said candidly, "What do you think?" It was the same voice, the same tone of speech, and the same expression. Who else could she be other than Elise? "But your face... How's this possible?"

Jack recalled the time he first saw Elise. He made fun of her for being ugly and called her a country bumpkin. Even after getting along with her for a long time, he still thought that she was pretty ugly to look at, but now that he was staring at this woman in front of him who had such

exquisite features, he just wanted to say... *She's far from ugly!!* She practically looked like an international beauty queen no less! Even a Hollywood A-list celebrity couldn't compare to her in terms of looks!

"Elise, that was too huge of a surprise from you." While Jack said that calmly, Mikayla was losing her cool by the side. "My best friend Elise is a big hottie—how wonderful is that! Most importantly, Elise is H! That's the most amazing news I've ever heard! Oh, I'm about to die from happiness. I'm going to school with H every day! I can't believe it. My heart is going to burst!" Elise couldn't help but tease, "Are you really that happy?"

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Chapter 234 Bring My Grandson-In-Law Home for a Visit

Mikayla nodded eagerly. "Yes, yes! You can't see it, but my heart's pumping so fast right now!" Elise played along and reached out to feel her heart. "Let me hear it." Mikayla immediately nudged closer to her. The two girls locked eyes and shared a smile. Elise nodded solemnly and said, "Wow, it's true!" Mikayla's face turned pink. "Elise, you're so pretty when you smile! How did I not know about this back then? You're so charming; I'd be so smitten by you if I were a man." Elise knocked on her head lightly. "Let's do that in our next lives! I promise I'll marry you if you're a man."

"Sure, promise!" Elise smiled and she finally looked toward Jack. Seeing that he was still in disbelief, she wasn't planning to explain much either. She simply asked, "Have you seen Alexander?" Jack instinctively shook his head. "I haven't seen him the entire day. Ask Stella! She probably knows." Jack quickly called for Stella. Surprisingly, Stella stared at Elise like she was a stranger. She even asked, "Who's this lady here, Young Master Jack?" Elise smiled at Stella and said, "Stella, it's me—Elise." Stella visibly jolted at the sound of that. The woman usually got along quite well with Elise.

Even though Elise had a peculiar personality and had a habit of dressing up in strange fashion every day, Stella had in turn become quite used to that version of her. Right now, such a gorgeous woman was standing right in front of her, but she had the same exact voice as Elise. The two women bore so much of a difference that Stella had trouble believing they were the same person. "Did you say you're... Miss Elise?" Elise nodded, but Stella was still in disbelief. "Miss, you're kidding, right? Even though Miss Elise isn't exactly the most beautiful woman out there, she's very kind and she's a nice lady.

On the other hand, you're so pretty—this is too much of a difference compared to Miss Elise! How's that possible?" "Stella, it's really me!" Elise said sincerely. However, Stella still couldn't believe her eyes. Has the ugly duckling really transformed into a swan? "I still don't believe you, unless you tell me a secret that only me and Miss Elise would know about." Elise smiled slightly. She quickly went up to Stella and whispered into her ear. The older woman was quite taken aback when she heard Elise's words. "A-Are you really Miss Elise?" "Yes, Stella! It's really me!"

"I... I can't believe it... Miss Elise, did you get plastic surgery?" Elise shook her head with a smile. "No, it's just that I used to dress myself up too... unfashionably. Anyway, this is the real me." Though Stella wasn't fully convinced by Elise's explanation, she decided to believe that the person before her was indeed Elise. "Miss Elise, is there anything you need from me?" Elise answered immediately, "Where's Alexander? Did he come home?"

Stella's expression soured at the mention of Alexander. "Miss Elise, I'd almost forgotten to tell you about it. Young Master Alexander has gone overseas; he left in a hurry in the morning. Apparently, Mr. and Mrs. Griffith got into an accident over there..." "What did you say? What happened to my parents?" Jack hastily butted in. Stella was initially planning to hide it from him, but she could no longer do so. Now, she had no choice but to tell the truth. "Mr. and Mrs. Griffith got into an accident in Yveltalia, and there hasn't been any news of their whereabouts.

Young Master Alexander immediately arranged a private jet to fly him to Yveltalia upon hearing the news. He's probably arrived by now. He even

informed me to apologize to you on behalf of him before he left, Miss Elise." Jack had already turned around by the time Stella was done speaking. He made his way to the main door in long strides. Elise quickly rushed up to him when she came back to her senses. "Jack! Where're you going?" "I'm going to Yveltalia to find my parents." "I'll go with you," Elise said without a second thought. Jack nodded. "Alright!"

"Wait for me. I'll go grab my passport upstairs." With those words, Elise scurried upstairs. Stella stopped her immediately. "Miss Elise, Young Master Alexander specifically said that you should wait at home." "You too, Young Master Jack! You should stay at home too. Young Master Alexander said that he'll be able to handle the situation there alone. He'll let you two know as soon as there are any updates." Hearing that, Mikayla chimed in, "Yeah, she's right!

The situation's unclear now, so you two won't be able to help much even if you go there. Why don't you guys stay at home and wait patiently?" However, Jack was persistent. "That won't do. I have to go." "Young Master Jack! You must listen to Young Master Alexander!" Jack's hands tightened into fists on either side. After a moment of deep thought, he finally said, "Let me know if there's news." "Understood, Young Master Jack.

Don't worry, both of you. Mr. and Mrs. Griffith are wonderful people, so the heavens will definitely keep them safe. They'll be okay for sure." Stella didn't know if she was trying to comfort them or herself with those words. Meanwhile, Elise could only pray silently that everything was fine. That day, the inside of the Griffith Residence was brightly lit the entire night. Jack stayed up in the living room all night long, while Elise and Mikayla only drifted off to sleep hours after midnight when they couldn't hold in their drowsiness anymore. Elise woke up early the next morning.

The first thing she did was to ask Stella, "How's everything? Any updates?" Stella shook her head. "Not yet, but don't worry, Miss Elise. No news is often the best news." Elise was a little disappointed. "I can only hope they're safe and well." Just as the words left her mouth, the telephone in the living room rang. Elise was the first to react; she scrambled to the living room and picked up the call. "Hello? Is it

Alexander?" A familiar voice replied from the other end of the line, "It's me. You're up early, aren't you?" "Yeah." Elise asked, "How's it going over there? Are your parents okay?"

"We have yet to find them at the moment. I'm just calling to let you guys know that you don't have to worry. Also, I was in a hurry yesterday so I left without saying goodbye. I'm sorry." "No worries! Be sure to take care of yourself over there too. Let us know at once if there are any updates." Just then, Jack walked up to her. Elise quickly handed him the phone. "I'm passing the phone to Jack. He needs to talk to you." Then, the boys talked for a while on the phone before Jack hung up. The constant bad feeling that weighed on Elise's heart was finally lifted after getting a call from Alexander. Now that she was done with the college entrance examination and her fan meeting was also over, she had become quite free all of a sudden.

And so, she thought, Why don't I take the chance to visit Grandpa and Grandma at home? She quickly made up her mind and went back to her room to pack up some things. That afternoon, she set out for home. As she watched the scenery gradually become more and more familiar during her journey of a few hours, she cheered up considerably. After all, in her six months of being away, there was never a moment where she wasn't longing to return home. The car slowly made a turn into a path amidst a prairie before it slowly came to a stop in front of a luxurious mansion.

"I'm back, Grandpa and Grandma..." Robin and Laura were sitting under the grapevines, enjoying the afternoon breeze. They thought they'd hallucinated when they heard Elise's voice, but the two elderly were delighted to see Elise once she came into view. "Ellie is back." "Why didn't you tell us you were coming home?

And why are you alone? Where's Alex?" Robin asked as he peered behind Elise for a sign of Alexander. Elise quickly explained, "He didn't come, Grandpa. He's busy." Robin was visibly disappointed when he heard that. "Why didn't you bring my grandson-in-law home for a visit? You're so inconsiderate, Ellie..."

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Chapter 235 Then Who Am I

Elise immediately took Robin's arm. "Now, now, Grandpa, doesn't it make you happy that I'm back?" "Oh, it does! I'm happy!" Laura pulled a rocking chair over and gestured Elise toward it, urging, "Stop standing there chatting, you two. Elise, come here and have a seat. I heard you've finished your college entrance exam. What are you planning to do next?" At the sight of the rocking chair, Elise couldn't help putting on a beautiful smile.

She quickly sat in the chair and stared up at the familiar sky above her. "It's been a while since I last sat in this chair and chatted with you two..." Laura smiled and then asked the servants to bring Elise's favorite fruit platter over. As the three chatted about their daily lives, Robin asked, "...Don't tell me you'll be going to college again, Elise. Didn't you graduate from college abroad a long time ago?" Elise replied with a smile, "Well, I think it's pretty nice to go to college, actually. At least I wouldn't have to be in a hurry to inherit the family business."

In reality, the Sinclairs and the Griffiths were evenly matched, as the former's family business was no less successful than the latter's. Laura replied, "Oh, you silly girl! Your grandpa and I are in no hurry to let you take over the family business. Besides, we've got professional managers to take care of it at present, so we're not worried about that. Still, ever since your parents passed away, your grandpa and I have been wishing more than anything else to see you get married and settle down. Now that you're engaged to Alexander, I'm wishing that you two would get married sooner and give us a great-grandson to play with..." Speechless, Elise couldn't help but wipe the sweat off her forehead.

"I'm only 18, Grandma..." Laura argued, "So what if you're only 18?
Being 18 means you're an adult already! I was only 18 when I gave birth to your dad. It wasn't a problem, right?" Elise replied, "But times are different now, Grandma. These days, it's recommended that we have babies at a later age for better child rearing. I don't wanna think about

getting married until at least five years later—" Upon hearing Elise's reply, Laura, choked with exasperation, instantly burst into a coughing fit. Robin quickly patted her on the back with a smile, saying, "Having a meltdown, eh, honey?"

Laura glared daggers at him before turning to look at Elise. "You wanna make us wait for five more years, Elise? Your grandpa and I have been getting older and older these years, you know? If you have a baby early, we could help you take care of them. If you put it off until a few years later, I'm afraid we'd..." Robin played along with Laura, letting out a sigh of helplessness. Elise was stupefied to see Robin and Laura singing the same tune. So they've turned from pressing me to find a boyfriend to urging me to have babies? "This is putting me on the spot!" she groaned.

Then, she suggested, "Uh, Grandma, how about I get married a year earlier at the age of 22?" Laura let out another sigh. "What on earth is wrong with our family? We've got enough to worry about your aunt; she's already 30 years old and yet still single. And now—" "Alright, Grandma! I promise you that I'll get married as soon as I come of age, okay?" Upon hearing Elise say so, Laura promptly nodded. "Okay, you said so yourself! That means there's only two years left. Well, your grandpa and I can wait that long." Elise was rendered speechless.

Why do I feel like I've fallen into Grandma's trap? Well, it's a bit early to get married at the age of 20, but it's okay to get married anytime as long as Alexander and I feel like it. Besides, the only thing that decides whether I get married or not is not my age, but whether I feel like doing so! Now that Elise had come round to it, she thought it was a pretty good idea to get married early. Well, it's just that I'm still a teenage girl, so the subject of marriage still makes me feel a little shy, she thought. The Sinclair Residence sprang to life thanks to Elise's return.

The next day, she went to visit her parents' grave. Elise grew up by Robin and Laura's side as a child. From what she had heard from them, her parents passed away in a car accident when she was little, so she had little memory of her parents. The only memory she had of them was the black-and-white photo displayed on the wall at home. Staring at the

couple in the black-and-white photo, she greeted affectionately, "Hi, Dad! Hi, Mom!" Her eyes full of sadness, Laura sighed helplessly next to Elise, whereas Robin wrapped his arm around her shoulder, comforting her silently.

"Elise, let's go back after we've finished paying respects to your mom and dad," he suggested. "Okay," Elise replied. Nevertheless, she couldn't help but take a long stare at the couple in the photo before leaving. Laura would feel down for a while whenever she visited Elise's parents' grave. Elise knew that her parents' death was Laura's lifelong grief, so she and Robin rarely brought up the subject of her parents for fear of reopening old wounds for Laura. She stepped forward and took Laura's arm, saying, "I'm still here for you, Grandma." Laura's eyes instantly moistened at Elise's words.

She took Elise's hand and nodded heavily, saying, "Yeah, you're still here for me. I'm so glad that you're here!" That night, Elise went back to her room early to sleep, whereas Robin and Laura were wide awake. As the old couple sat in the courtyard and stared at the moon above them, Laura gave a quiet sigh. "Elise has grown up to become such a fine woman. I'd say it's time for us to tell her about that." Looking at the night sky, Robin patted Laura on the shoulder. "Let's wait for two more years. It wouldn't be late for us to tell her after she gets married.

She's not our own granddaughter, but we've been treating her as such over the years. Honestly, I feel guilty whenever we tell her she's our son's daughter." Tears rolled down Laura's face at once. "How I wish she were our son's own daughter! But things didn't turn out the way we wanted. She's been with us for so many years, and she's slowly soothed our grief of losing our son and helped us through our pain... But she has her own parents, too. Could her family be looking for her as well? Say, wouldn't it be unfair to her that we'd kept her with us for so many years?"

"It's not like I've never thought about what you're saying." Robin wiped the tears off Laura's face with a piece of tissue. "Elise's been clever ever since she was little, and she's quick on the uptake. In that respect, she's the spitting image of Cynthia when the latter was a child. You can rest assured, anyway. With the Griffith Family's help, she'd be well-off in the future. As for who her real family is, let's tell her about that at the right time instead."

The biting wind blew on Elise's face, but she couldn't feel it at all. She stared at the old couple sitting in the night wind with her mouth open, but for a long time, she couldn't utter a sound. She only went downstairs for a walk because she couldn't sleep, but she didn't expect to overhear such a big secret by chance. *To think that I'm not Elise Sinclair, the Sinclair Family's granddaughter! Then who am I?* She covered her mouth and fought back her tears. Then, she quietly turned around and headed back into the house.

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Chapter 236 Tissote University

After slamming the door shut, Elise crouched down, wrapped her arms around her knees, and broke into sobs. She didn't know why she was so upset. Even though she had never experienced love from her parents, she was especially content with Robin and Laura's doting affection for her. Not only that, but she felt blessed to grow up in such a family. To think that I'd suddenly be told one day that all of this is false, and that I'm only an adopted child who is no different from those kids in the orphanage... It broke her heart even more to think of this. After a long time, there was a knock on the door.

"What's wrong with you, Elise?" Elise froze when she heard Laura's concerned voice from behind. She hastily wiped the tears off her face, took a deep breath, and replied, "I'm fine, Grandma." However, the sobs in Elise's voice were so noticeable that there was no way Laura didn't notice them. She pushed the door open and quickly switched on the light, asking, "What's wrong, Elise? Why are you crying?" Looking at her amiable grandmother before her, Elise took a big step forward and reached out to hold Laura in her arms.

"Grandma..." Baffled, Laura quickly patted Elise on the back, thinking that the latter had just had a nightmare. "There, now. It's alright. You had a nightmare, huh?" Elise merely held Laura tightly in her arms without saying a word. "It's alright. It's just a dream, so don't be afraid. Your grandpa and I are here." Elise could no longer stop her tears from running down her face. "Grandma, will you and Grandpa always be with me?"

Upon hearing such a childish question from Elise, Laura instantly replied with a laugh, "Oh, of course we will! However old our Elise is, you'll always be a kid to us. We'll always be with you, so don't worry, okay? Just get a good sleep, and everything will be fine tomorrow." Elise let go of Laura and wiped the tears off her face. "Really? Is everything gonna be fine tomorrow?" Laura reassured her, saying, "Yes, of course. Now, Elise, let's go to sleep. I'll have your favorite pancakes prepared tomorrow with a sausage added, okay?" Elise chuckled at Laura's words.

Then, she stuck out two fingers, saying, "I want two sausages, please." "Alright, there'll be two sausages then. Can you go to sleep now?" To Laura's surprise, Elise tugged at her arm and pleaded like a spoiled child, "No, Grandma. Can I sleep with you tonight?" "You still wanna sleep with me? You're no longer a kid, you know?" "Grandma..." "Alright, alright. I'll sleep with you." Elise took Laura's arm and went to bed with her, but she had a lot on her mind and was sleepless all night. Over the next few days, Elise spent time with Robin and Laura as usual, pretending that the conversation she had overheard that night had never happened.

About a week later, she received a phone call from Alexander. "Have you found your mom and dad? Are they alright?" she asked. Alexander sounded a bit tired on the other end of the line. "Yeah, I've found them. It's just that my dad injured his right leg. He's undergone surgery and will be going back to the country to recuperate." "They're gonna come back?" "Uh-huh," Alexander mumbled a response on the other end of the line.

"They'll be back in a few days after my dad's discharged from the hospital here." "Well, I'm glad to hear that your mom and dad are fine. I'm now at home, and I'll be going back tomorrow..." "Okay." Elise

pursed her lips. Then, she asked, "Uh, do you still remember what I said to you before H's fan meeting?" Alexander gave it a moment's thought on the other end before he replied, "Yeah, I do." "You missed it earlier because of what happened to your mom and dad. I'll tell you about it when you come back, okay?" Alexander replied, "Okay." Elise hung up.

The next day, she said goodbye to Robin and Laura and returned to Athesea. As soon as she stepped into the Griffith Residence, she heard the sounds of games in the living room. Stella hurriedly came forward and took Elise's suitcase from her, saying, "Welcome back, Miss Elise." "Thanks," Elise replied with a smile. Then, she asked, "Who's playing games?" "It's Young Master Danny..." Elise strode into the living room. "Why are you playing games here, Danny?" "Welcome back, Boss—" Danny replied. Before his voice could fade, though, he seemed to have had the shock of his life, and he jumped up from the sofa.

"W-Who are you?" Only then did Elise remember that she was no longer disguising herself with ugly makeup at present. Moreover, Danny didn't know that her current appearance was what she really looked like. Therefore, she replied with a chuckle, "Who do you think I am?" Danny gaped at Elise; his mouth was so agape that one could stuff an egg in it. "Oh, my God! Is that you, Boss?! Did you have plastic surgery?"

Elise wished she could punch him. "What do you mean by 'plastic surgery'? This is what I really look like, okay?" The cell phone in Danny's hand dropped to the floor at Elise's words. The game displayed on its screen hadn't ended yet, but he couldn't be bothered about it anymore. Immediately, he strode up to Elise and eyed her up and down. Then, he screwed up his face, saying, "Boss, stop fooling me, okay?" "I'm not fooling you. This is really what I look like," Elise replied patiently. Danny still didn't believe her, though. He fixed his eyes on her as if to see through her, asking, "Then what was the matter with your previous look?"

"Well, I just wanted to see your true response. It was your fault for behaving so badly when we first met. I haven't dealt with you for that, okay?" Danny flung his arms around Elise. "Sniff... I was wrong, Boss! I'll take back what I said to you before. You're not an ugly country bumpkin. You're an angel descended from heaven..." Elise was utterly speechless. For a moment, she was at a loss for a reply. "Alright, I'll forgive you." Only then did Danny let go of her with a cackle. "That's great! By the way, Boss, the results of our college entrance exam will come out tomorrow.

Remember to send me your exam registration number so that I can check your results for you." "What? The results are gonna come out tomorrow? That's quick, isn't it?" "Well, the results usually come out at 10PM on the 22nd, and today's the 21st already. But it's said that the 50 provincial top scorers would learn about their results beforehand." "Oh, is that so? Well then, I'll hand my exam pass to you later." "Alright." The next morning, however, Elise was roused from sleep by the ringing of her cell phone. When she answered the phone in a sleepy haze, she heard a voice asking, "Hi, this is Mayweather University's student admission office.

May I speak to Miss Elise Sinclair?" Elise opened her eyes at once, though her mind was still in a daze. "Yes, I'm Elise Sinclair. What can I do for you?" "Well, we've learned about the results of your college entrance exam and would like to ask if you're interested in applying to our university. If you enroll at our university, we'll waive all of your tuition fees and give you a monthly living allowance over your four years at university.

Also, you'll be awarded the National Encouragement Scholarship right away in your first year at our university. Are you interested in applying to our university?" Elise blurted out subconsciously, "That sounds like a great offer!" "Well, that's only natural. After all, our university is among the top ten universities in the country, so you can't be wrong in choosing us. Besides, our student recruitment officers are already on their way to your home.

We can sign the enrollment agreement today if you want." Elise blinked her eyes. Just as she was about to say something, her phone registered another incoming call that was also from a landline number. She could only reply, "Sorry, but I've got another call to answer right now."

Then, she answered the new incoming call. The voice on the other end said, "Greetings, Miss Sinclair. This is Tissote University's student admission office. May I ask if you're interested in applying to our university?" *Tissote University? That's the second best university in the country!* Elise thought. She replied, "Are you really calling from Tissote University?"

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Chapter 237 You're the GOAT, Boss, Coolest Girl in Town

"Yes, we are, Miss Sinclair. We've learned about your college entrance exam results, and with your results, it wouldn't stress you out to apply to our university. We've got the best majors for you to choose from. As long as you apply to our university, we'll waive your tuition fees, give you a living allowance, and award you scholarships every semester."

Upon hearing this, Elise had it roughly figured out. She had heard earlier that before the results of the college entrance exam came out, the officers from the top universities in the country would visit the top scorers in various subjects at home to get them to enroll at their universities.

She had thought it was an exaggeration, and it wasn't until now that she realized this was all true. "Mayweather University also called me just now." "What? Did you accept Mayweather University's offer? No way! Our university is ranked as the top university in the country. Besides, you're a lady and a liberal arts student, while Mayweather University's popular majors are suitable for science students and thus not suitable for you at all. Tissote University is definitely the better choice for you." Elise replied, "Well, let me think about it." "Sure! Please make sure to apply to our university!

You deserve to be a student of Tissote University." Elise was rendered speechless by the caller's remark. That morning, Elise received phone

calls from the top three universities in the country. Mayweather University and Tissote University's student recruitment officers even came to her to persuade her to enroll at their university. For a moment, the Griffith Residence became especially lively. Elise had been wanting to know her actual results after talking to the student recruitment officers. However, they were too tight-lipped and wouldn't tell her her exam results unless they got a definite reply from her. Because of that, she was quite upset. Mayweather University's student recruitment officers looked at Elise hopefully.

"Have you made up your mind, Miss Sinclair? Are you gonna enroll in our university?" A hint of shrewdness flickered across Elise's eyes as she faced the many pairs of eyes before her. "Well, everyone, I think it's still too early to enroll in any university right now. It won't be too late for me to decide which university to enroll in after looking at my results." Upon hearing her reply, the student recruitment officers from Tissote University got impatient at once. "Why do you need to look at your exam results? Your results are terrific—you scored full marks in a number of subjects!"

Elise's heart thumped unstoppably at the officers' words. What? I scored full marks in a number of subjects? "Really?" At the sight of Elise's expectant eyes, the student recruitment officers from Tissote University could hardly restrain themselves. "Never mind, I'll tell you your results. You'll learn about it sooner or later, anyway." On the other hand, the student recruitment officers from Mayweather University were displeased. "Hey, that's not playing by the rules! Didn't we agree not to tell her her results in advance?" The student recruitment officers from Tissote University replied, "We at Tissote University sincerely welcome Miss Sinclair to our university.

Still, if she's made a better choice, we'll naturally respect her decision." As they spoke, they took out a result slip and handed it to Elise. "Please prepare yourself first, Miss Sinclair." Elise was startled for a moment before she took the result slip. When she saw her results, her eyes instantly shone with surprise. The result slip read, 'English: 148 marks. Mathematics: 150 marks. Chinese: 150 marks. Comprehensive liberal

arts: 265 marks. Total: 713 marks.' "As far as we know, Miss Sinclair, you scored the highest among all the liberal arts students in Athesea.

So, would you like to study at our university?" Elise's hands trembled slightly. She looked up at the student recruitment officers from Tissote University with a smile, saying, "Well, I was planning to study at Tissote University in the first place." Upon hearing her reply, the student recruitment officers from Mayweather University knew that there was no way they could get Elise to enroll in their university anymore. Still, unwilling to give up, they asked, "Miss Sinclair, aren't you gonna consider studying at our university?" Elise replied apologetically, "Well, I'm a liberal arts student, after all. Mayweather University's majors are mainly in the sciences, so they're probably not suitable for me."

"Are you really not gonna reconsider your decision? We've got some pretty nice liberal arts major programs." "I'm sorry about that." "It's okay! We respect your decision," replied the student recruitment officers from Mayweather University. With that, they left the Griffith Residence. After they left, the student recruitment officers from Tissote University immediately said, "Miss Sinclair, this officer here can help recommend majors for you. Please take some time to look at these materials for you to choose your major." "Okay. Thanks a lot!" "By the way, Miss Sinclair, the college entrance exam results are still classified for now and won't be announced to the public until 10PM tonight.

Please keep it secret for the time being that you've learned about your exam results." "Got it. Thank you so much." After showing the student recruitment officers from Tissote University out, Stella hurriedly walked up to Elise. She had heard every word of their conversation, and she never expected that Elise would be so amazing as to become the top scorer in Athesea. "Miss Elise, the late Mr. Griffith will surely be glad if he knows that you did so well in the exam." Upon hearing her words, Elise subconsciously turned to look at Jonah's photograph that was hung on the wall.

"You'll be happy for me, Grandpa Griffith, won't you?" Jonah's smile was fixed in the photo right there, but Elise felt like she saw Jonah smiling at her then, and her eyes reddened instantly. "Thank you, Grandpa Griffith! I'll definitely keep working hard." When the time came for the college

entrance exam results to be announced that night, Danny had been impatiently refreshing the web page on his cell phone while waiting for the results to be made public. As soon as the results were available online at 10PM, he hurriedly keyed in his identification number and exam registration number.

After he waited for a minute, the results of his college entrance exam were displayed on his phone's screen. Upon seeing his exam results, he suddenly jumped up from his seat. "Ah! My results... They're out! They're out..." Jack heard Danny's loud voice from downstairs, but before he could ask Danny about it, the latter had impatiently run downstairs, asking, "Where's my boss?" Jack could only reply, "I've never seen her today. She's in her room, I guess." Danny immediately turned around and ran toward Elise's room, but Jack stopped him, asking, "Do you really have to get that excited about your results? What score did you get in the exam?" Upon hearing Jack's question, Danny couldn't help cackling stupidly.

He had never thought he would do so well in the exam this time. After all, he used to be a typical study slacker, but he had improved so much in his studies after studying with Elise for half a year. He asked Jack, "How much did you score back then?" Jack answered, "I was a fine arts student, so I got a lower score, but I managed to enroll at a second-rate university back then." "Well then, guess what score I got in the exam." Jack gave it some serious thought. Well, with Danny's usual exam results, it's good enough if he could get into a third-rate university.

Therefore, he asked, "You scored high enough to get into a third-rate university, huh?" Danny shook his head. Jack then asked, "No way! You scored high enough to get into a second-rate university? It's simply unimaginable that you could get into a second-rate university with your results!" "Nope, I scored better than that. I got a total score of 603 in the exam." "What? You scored 603 in the exam?" Doesn't that mean he's scored more than enough to get into a first-rate university? Jack still wanted to ask Danny questions, but Danny ignored him and trotted to Elise's room right away. "Boss, are you inside?

The results are out! Have you checked yours?" he asked. Right after that, he recalled that he had Elise's exam pass with him, so he quickly checked her results on his cell phone. Just then, Elise opened the door. At the sight of Danny's expression, she figured that he must have scored well in the exam this time. So, she asked, "How did you do in the exam?" Danny was just about to tell Elise his exam results when his eyes fell on Elise's exam results displayed on his cell phone.

Stupefied, he exclaimed, "Holy cow! This can't be true! Boss! Y-Y-You're... You're incredible!" Elise nodded with a smile and replied, "Well, my score isn't too bad." "It's too modest of you to say that, Boss! How could you say your score is 'not too bad' when you scored 713 in the exam? I'd say you're the top scorer in the exam in our province!"

"Probably. After all, both Mayweather University and Tissote University have come to me earlier." Danny looked at Elise with admiration and adoration in his eyes. "You're the GOAT, Boss!" Elise frowned slightly. "What does that mean?"

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Chapter 238 Will He Be Taken Aback?, Coolest Girl in Town

Danny explained with a chuckle, "It's a recent internet slang that means 'Greatest of All Time.' You're really amazing, Boss!" Just as Elise was about to say something in reply, her cell phone rang in her pocket. When she saw that it was a phone call from an overseas number, she immediately figured out who the caller was. "It must be a call from Alexander. Boss, answer the phone while I tell the others our results," Danny said before he left. Elise went back to her room before answering the phone. Alexander got straight to the point, asking, "Have your college entrance exam results come out?

Did you do well in the exam?" Elise answered with a smile, "I did well in the exam, so it won't be a problem for me to get into Tissote University." "I just knew you would make it." "Aren't you gonna ask me what score I got in the exam?" "Judging from the way you sound, you probably did pretty well in the exam. Let me guess. You scored at least 600 in the exam, huh?" "Uh-huh," Elise replied with a smile. "I scored 713 in the exam. Better than what I expected, actually. I thought I'd only get a score of about 680." "Congrats on becoming an undergraduate-to-be."

"Thanks! When are you gonna come back, then?" "In a few days, I suppose..." Alexander glanced at Adam Griffith, his father, on the sickbed through the window. "My dad's leg injury flared up yesterday, so he's still in the hospital right now." "In that case, just go ahead with what you're doing. I'm hanging up." "Alright. Take good care of yourself. I promise I'll be back soon." Alexander hung up the phone. As soon as he put his phone into his pocket, a woman's voice sounded, asking, "Is that the fiancée your grandpa arranged for you?" "Uh-huh," Alexander replied as he withdrew his gaze.

Upon hearing his reply, the woman said in displeasure, "I wonder what your grandpa was thinking about back then. Why did he insist that you marry a country bumpkin?" Upon hearing this, Alexander knitted his brows in displeasure. "Mom, she's not what you think she is." However, the woman replied, "I'm not interested in knowing what kind of a woman she is. All I know is that with her family background and social standing, she's simply not good enough for you. Now that your grandpa has passed away, I think you'd better call off the engagement.

I'll find you a woman who could be of help to your career with a family background that's of similar standing to ours." "Mom, that's my own business, so stop concerning yourself with that. Why don't you care more about Dad's leg?" Madeline Bowen was somewhat furious; this was the first time she saw her son talking to her like that. That woman hasn't married into our family yet, yet she's made my son so infatuated with her. Who knows what trouble she'll cause when he marries her in the future? she thought. "Alright, I'm not gonna talk about that anymore.

Still, like I said, your engagement to her isn't valid. I'll have you call off the engagement one day." Alexander still wanted to say something, but Madeline wouldn't give him the opportunity. "Alright, what matters the most right now is your dad's injury." Seeing that Madeline had said so, Alexander could only drop the subject. I'll talk to her about it once this matter is over, he thought. "Don't worry about Dad's leg. I've hired the best specialists. We'll be going home after this time's surgery." There were deep furrows in Madeline's brow as she looked at her husband on the sickbed with her eyes full of worry. "I hope your dad gets better soon. I'll be relieved when he does."

... After the college entrance exam results came out, Elise chose to go to Tissote University. Seeing that Elise would be going to Tissote, Danny wanted to go to a university at Tissote as well. Therefore, he chose to enroll at Elk Grove University, which was one of the top universities in the country, and submitted his application to the university. "It's nice to go to college in the same city as you, Boss." Elise looked at him with a bright smile. "Congrats on getting admitted to the university of your choice!" Unbeknownst to her, her smile alone made Danny feel like being greeted by a spring breeze, causing his heart to beat irregularly for a moment.

As his heart kept thumping, he hurriedly averted his eyes and calmed down. Then, he replied, "Hehe, you've got no idea, Boss. My buddies were stunned when they heard that I scored more than 600 in the exam. They looked at me with admiration in their eyes, and when I told them that my boss is the top scorer in liberal arts, they had nothing but admiration for you. I've never felt so proud before in my life."

Elise couldn't help but chuckle. "Haha! You're proud of yourself, aren't you?" "Yeah, I'm very, very proud of myself." As the two were talking, they heard the sound of a car engine outside. Danny immediately craned his neck to look outside, saying, "Who's coming home?" As soon as Danny finished his sentence, Brendan strode in. His target was none other than Elise, though he still had a hard time adjusting to it when he saw her beautiful face right now. "Congrats, Elise. I heard that you're the top scorer in liberal arts this time." Elise looked at him, saying, "I suppose you're not here today just to congratulate me."

Brendan was surprised by how observant she was. "Yeah," he uttered. Then, he quickly took a bank card out of his pocket and handed it to her. "What's this?" "It's your reward for helping with the design of the wedding dress last time. It's all in the card." "You don't need to give me this, actually. I only did you a small favor. Take it back." To Elise's surprise, Brendan shoved the card into her hand without allowing her to refuse. "No, you have to take it.

Ever since the wedding dress you designed made a big splash at the Snyder Family's wedding last time, our studio received many large orders, which saved our studio from the brink of closing down. It was a huge favor, so you deserve the money." Elise looked at the card. "Alright. Thanks for the card, then. I'll keep it." "Sure, of course. Actually, there's another reason why I came to you today." Brendan pursed his lips. He didn't really know how to begin. "Just tell me what the matter is. We've known each other so well, so you don't have to be reserved." Brendan smiled.

Then, he explained, "Well, our studio received a few large orders recently, and the clients specifically asked that you design their clothes, so I was wondering if you'd like to come work at our studio. You're now on summer break, after all. Don't worry. I'll definitely pay you your due." *Oh, I see*, Elise thought. As it happened, she was worrying about having nothing to do on her summer break, but now she had found something to do. "Sure! No problem." Seeing that Elise agreed to his request, Brendan got so excited that he didn't know what to say for a moment.

"Thank you so much, Elise! You're helping me out big time here." "Oh, don't mention it. I can go to your studio tomorrow." "That's great! I'll go back and ask the staff to clear out your workspace. Just come and work with us with peace of mind." When Danny saw Elise being so amazing, even knowing how to design clothes, he thought that his boss was really awesome. "Boss, you play games well, score well in exams, know how to design clothes, and you can write songs. Is there anything else you're good at that I don't know of?" For a moment, Elise was at a loss for a reply.

Then, she replied with a cryptic smile, "There are many things about me that you don't know." Danny couldn't help feeling that there was more to it than what Elise had said. For a moment, though, he couldn't fathom what she actually meant. Just then, he heard a scurry of footsteps; Jack was putting on his jacket while hurrying downstairs. Danny asked, "What happened? Why are you leaving in such a hurry?" "Dad, Mom, and Alexander are coming back today.

Their flight's touching down soon, so I'm going to the airport to pick them up." "What? Uncle Adam and Aunt Madeline are coming back?" Brendan asked. Danny was quite surprised as well. "I'll go with you." "I'm going too." Brendan turned to look at Elise. "Are you coming with us, Elise?" Elise nodded. "Yeah. Let's go together." The four then hurried to the airport. Elise was somewhat nervous on her way to the airport.

She glanced at herself in the rearview mirror. Alexander still doesn't know what I really look like. Will he be taken aback by my current look? Or will he think that I'm a scheming woman who deliberately concealed my features by making myself look ugly? Will that ruin his image of me completely? For some reason, Elise was a little agitated. However, she had intended to reveal her secrets in the first place. Alexander probably won't blame me for this, she thought.

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Chapter 239 I Think You Owe Me an Explanation, Coolest Girl in Town

After arriving at the airport, the four of them waited at the exit, while Elise deliberately put on her face mask and fixed her eyes on the exit. Just then, however, two ladies hastily approached them and recognized Jack. "Oh, my God! It's Jack!" Jack immediately placed a finger before his lips to signal them to lower their voices. "Please keep quiet about me being here, okay?" The two female fans nodded vigorously. After that,

though, they took out their cell phones, aimed their phone cameras at Jack's face, and started taking pictures. "Hey, don't take pictures!" "Please let us take a picture of you, Jack! We won't upload the pictures online," one of the ladies pleaded. As soon as she finished her sentence, though, her eyes suddenly rested on Elise, and she instantly squeaked, "H! It's H!" "H? Where's she?" Feeling embarrassed, Elise hastily pulled up her face mask. She didn't want to be recognized at all! However, it was apparently too late for her to do that. The two female fans ignored Jack and quickly approached Elise, saying, "We're your fans, H. Can we get your autograph?" Elise was puzzled. She had disguised herself so heavily, yet she still got recognized.

"Please be quiet about this, ladies." "Sure! We won't tell anyone about this," the two ladies replied in chorus. Then, they handed out their notebooks. Elise took the notebooks and quickly signed her name on them. The two young ladies seemed to have forgotten about Jack's presence nearby as they left with a look of excitement on their faces. Jack was a bit unused to being snubbed, but he could live with it since the ladies ignored him because of H. After all, he and Elise were a family. Just then, Alexander pushed Adam in his wheelchair out of the airport's VIP exit.

"Alexander!" Jack was the first to spot them, and he hurriedly trotted up to them. "Dad, Mom, you two must've had a long day." Adam looked full of life as he smiled. "Don't worry. I'm in good health! I'm not gonna collapse that easily." "All you know is to play the tough guy in front of your sons. Shouldn't you restrain yourself? If Alex hadn't arrived in the nick of time this time, you probably would've been dead meat." Upon hearing Madeline's words, Adam could only reply with a smile of embarrassment, "Alright, that's enough. Can't you save face for me in front of our sons?"

"You've had a long day, Uncle Adam and Aunt Madeline. Let's go back and get some rest," Brendan said as he led them toward the exit. On the other hand, Elise stood there while staring at Alexander before her. As their eyes met, they seemed to have many things to say to each other. In the end, Alexander reached out his hand, and Elise threw herself into his arms with a smile. "Welcome back." "Uh-huh," Alexander murmured.

"Sorry that I made you worry." Only then did Elise let go of Alexander. Alexander didn't notice anything strange with the face mask covering half of Elise's face, but Elise decided to tell him the truth before he found out about it. So, she said, "Let's head back first."

Alexander wrapped his arm around Elise's waist as they walked out of the airport. As soon as they reached the exit, Madeline couldn't help but say, "Hurry up, Alex. Stop dilly-dallying." This wasn't the first time Elise had seen Madeline. She once greeted Madeline at Jonah's funeral before, but the two didn't speak to each other at the time, so Elise didn't know Madeline's temperament. Still, she greeted her politely, saying, "Nice to meet you, Mrs. Griffith." However, Madeline got into the car right away without sparing Elise a glance. Elise felt somewhat embarrassed. "Seems like Mrs. Griffith dislikes me." Alexander immediately held her close in his arms. "Don't overthink it. Perhaps she's just tired from the flight.

Let's get in the car at the back." Elise pursed her lips. She cared quite a lot about what Madeline thought of her, so she couldn't help being somewhat downhearted. When they returned to the Griffith Residence, Elise held Alexander's arm, saying, "Can you come to my room with me? I've got something to tell you." Just then, however, Madeline's voice rang. "Alex, hurry up and help me carry the stuff." Upon hearing her words, Elise could only say, "Well then, you go there first. I'll be fine." Alexander gave Elise a reassuring look before going on to help Madeline carry the stuff.

Madeline smiled at everyone, but she had been ignoring Elise since just now. Stella knew Madeline's temperament, and she knew what kind of a person Elise was, so she couldn't help but put in a good word for the latter. "Miss Elise is a nice lady, madam." Upon hearing her say so, Madeline turned to look Elise in the eye. "So you're Elise, huh?" Seeing that Madeline had taken the initiative to ask about her, Elise immediately replied, "Yes, Mrs. Griffith. Nice to meet you." Madeline knew Elise looked ugly. After all, the latter was from the countryside.

She couldn't understand what her late father-in-law saw in Elise that made him insist that Alexander marry her. In her opinion, there was

nothing about Elise that made her good enough for Alexander. "Elise, come over and let me take a good look at you." Elise was somewhat unused to Madeline's sudden change of attitude, but she walked up to the latter nonetheless. Madeline quickly took her hand, saying, "It's been a long time since we last met, and our Elise has grown prettier. But why are you wearing a face mask in the middle of the day? Hurry up and take off your face mask. I want to take a good look at you." Elise was startled for a moment. Before she could come to her senses, Madeline reached out and took off Elise's face mask.

"Gasp!" "Gasp!" The two women drew everyone's gaze as they gasped. Madeline was startled for a moment as she looked at the unfamiliar face before her. She subconsciously shoved Elise away, asking, "Who are you?" She had seen Elise before, but the latter was very ugly and looked nothing like the pretty lady before her. Instead of answering Madeline's question, Elise turned to look at Alexander. She could sense the flicker of surprise and puzzlement that flashed across his eyes, so she hurriedly stood up and walked up to him. "Please let me explain this, Alex."

However, countless scenes flashed across Alexander's mind in an instant, and his feelings turned complicated for a moment. He looked at her with a strange look in his eyes. For the first time, Elise sensed him distancing himself from her. He shook off her hand, saying, "I think you owe me an explanation." Elise nodded. "Listen to me, okay? I intended to tell you this, but—" "But you chose to hide it from me? You had many opportunities to tell me the truth.

Or did you think this was fun?" "No, I didn't... It's not what you think. Please let me explain this to you." Madeline was immensely pleased when she saw the couple quarrel. But is this pretty lady before me really Elise, that ugly monster? Well, no matter whether she's Elise or not, this alone shows how scheming she is. We, the Griffiths, could never have such a woman as our daughter-in-law, she thought.

"Seems like we came back at a bad time," she said. Upon hearing Madeline's words, Danny and Jack immediately exchanged glances. Then, Jack walked up to Madeline, saying, "Mom, you must've been tired from the flight. Why don't you go upstairs and get some rest?" "That's

right, Aunt Madeline. Let us take you upstairs." Madeline got up with a smile. "Well, I'm a bit tired indeed, but Jack, I've told you and your brother since you were little that the prettier a woman is, the more deceitful she would be.

Now you know that, don't you?" Jack dared not respond to Madeline's words, whereas Alexander's eyes darkened. When everyone else left the living room and only Elise and Alexander were left, Elise said, "I didn't mean to hide it from you on purpose. It's just that I—"

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Before Elise could finish her sentence, Alexander stepped forward right away and closed in on her, driving her into the corner. "Why? Why did you purposely make yourself look ugly? Don't you know what I hate the most?" Elise knew what he hated the most, which was why she chose to take the initiative to tell him everything. However, whenever she wanted to tell him the truth, something would always come up and prevent her from doing so. "I'm sorry! I didn't mean to deceive you; I just wanted to find a man who doesn't care about my looks and really loves me from the bottom of his heart.

At first, I planned to leave after staying here for a year, but I didn't expect... I didn't expect that I would fall in love with you." Alexander's brow furrowed. He stared at Elise before him, who seemed at a loss for what to do, but he couldn't let a single word of accusation come out of his mouth. "So you were the lady I met in France the other day, huh? Miss Joy?" "It was me! Uh, actually..." Elise still wanted to say something, but Alexander stretched out his hand right away and stroked her hair.

"I didn't think you'd be so good at disguising yourself. To think that you fooled me with your disguise!" Elise raised her eyes to look at him. "A-Are you not mad at me anymore?" Alexander smiled a helpless smile.

"Well, I wanted to get mad at you, but somehow, all my anger seemed to vanish when I saw this face of yours." "I'm sorry." Alexander ruffled her hair. "Alright, don't say sorry to me. I can understand what you were thinking, actually, and I'm glad that I made you stay and saw the surprise you had for me. I really didn't expect my fiancée to look so pretty! I'm quite happy deep down, actually. At least no one can gossip with me about your looks anymore." Elise pouted her lips.

"Don't tell me you disliked me for being ugly before!" Before she could finish her sentence, though, Alexander sealed her lips with a kiss. She immediately slapped his shoulder, saying, "Mmm... Let go of me!" Alexander replied, "I've never disliked you before, Elise. I never disliked you and will never do that in the future either, so don't say something like that anymore. You've got no idea that when I saw your face, I started to worry that other men would like you and have eyes for you. I wish I could hide you in my pocket so that no one else but me could admire your beauty."

Embarrassed by what he said, Elise immediately pushed him away. "What are you talking about?" "You have no idea how many surprises you've given me. Sometimes I wonder what kind of a fabulous girlfriend I have. I think I got a great bargain!" Elise reached out and held his hand. "Thanks, Alexander. Thanks for choosing me." Madeline was quite happy at first when she saw Alexander and Elise quarrel. However, when it was time for dinner, the couple had already made up, and they were getting along much better than before. This made Madeline puzzled as to what young people nowadays were thinking. She called Elise over, saying, "Come here, Elise." Elise hurriedly stopped what she was doing and walked up to Madeline.

"Is something the matter, Mrs. Griffith?" Madeline rubbed her shoulder, saying, "I don't know what's wrong, but I keep feeling sore in my arm. Could you help give me a massage if you've got nothing to do?" Seeing that it wasn't a big deal, Elise replied in agreement, "Sure, Mrs. Griffith. Let's sit on the sofa while I give you a massage." With that, Madeline and Elise went to the living room. Elise asked, "Which side of your neck feels uncomfortable, Mrs. Griffith?"

However, Madeline replied coldly, "Just give me a massage." Her attitude and tone of voice was totally different from just now. Elise was puzzled, but she stretched out her hands and started massaging Madeline's neck nonetheless. Madeline searched for something on her cell phone before she said, "Elise, your engagement to Alex was decided by Dad. He passed away unexpectedly without any last words, but he insisted that you be engaged to Alex, so I let Alex get engaged to you since I wanted to comply with the old man's last wish at the time.

But when it comes down to it, a lady of your background isn't good enough for our family at all." Elise couldn't help but stop what she was doing. Instead of getting angry, she merely asked, "In your opinion, Mrs. Griffith, what kind of woman is good enough for your family?" Just then, Madeline happened to find a picture of her business partner's only daughter, who was also her previous favorite candidate for a daughter-in-law. Without the slightest hesitation, she showed the photo to Elise on her cell phone, saying, "Well, she should at least be someone like this.

This is the daughter of the SK Group's boss. You know the SK Group, right? It's a large trinational consortium that has been a long-time business partner with the Griffiths. Only a lady from such a background is good enough for Alex." Elise glanced at the lady in the photo. Indeed, the lady looked very beautiful and refined. "You're right, Mrs. Griffith. I'm not good enough for Alex indeed. In that case, why don't you ask him to call off the engagement on his own?" Madeline became furious when she heard Elise say so. Alexander's engagement was decided before Jonah's death, and as Alexander's mother, Madeline knew better than anyone else how obedient her son was to Jonah.

Moreover, Alexander's engagement to Elise wasn't an ordinary request, but Jonah's dying wish. With Alexander's personality, he'd never take the initiative to call off the engagement unless Elise brought it up herself. "Miss Sinclair, I'm telling you this today to help you understand the gap between you and Alex. Alex's a filial child, so he won't disobey his grandpa." However, Elise retorted, "Do you mean you could only try to persuade me—an outsider who has no blood ties with your

family—because you failed to persuade your own son?" "I just want you to know your place! You aren't a good match for Alex.

You can't help him with his career at all. Instead, you can only make outsiders look down on him and make him a laughing stock and a subject of gossip. People out there will laugh at us Griffiths because our eldest son married a country bumpkin!" "Mrs. Griffith, I admit that I haven't seen much of the world as someone from the countryside, but I never think that people from the countryside are born inferior to others. In fact, I feel that we country folks are more humane." "Who cares whether or not you're humane?

I'm telling you, I don't care what happened between you and Alex before, but now that I'm back, let me make it clear to you that I don't wanna see you two together. If you insist on staying with him, then don't blame me for using some means as a last resort." Upon hearing this, Elise totally understood what Madeline meant. She let go of Madeline's shoulder and slowly replied, "Mrs. Griffith, I'm showing you respect because you're Alex's mother.

I wish to get your approval and your blessing, but I won't force it if I can't get them. After all, the world is boundless, so there are different strokes for different folks. But if you want me to break up with your son, then sorry, I don't think I can do that. If you've got nothing else to talk about, I think we can end our conversation here." Madeline looked at her with a sneer. "Do you think you could stand against me with those so-called feelings between you two?

Well then, let me tell you clearly that feelings are the last thing worth mentioning to me. Since you're so determined to stay together with Alex, I've got nothing else to say. Still, let me remind you that nothing in the world is immutable, especially a man. After all, a man's career is the source of his pride and confidence."