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Chapter 376 Send Us off to the Afterlife, Coolest Girl in Town

The fact was, Elise had made a wrong judgment. These two, who didn't look like they could possibly be related to the Sinclairs, were in fact Laura's son and daughter-in-law. Elise and Alexander quickly released them, and Joshua rushed forward to the other side of the bed before sobbing loudly while he clutched at Laura's leg. "Mom, do you know that I was frantic with worry upon hearing the news that you were hospitalized?! You gave me such a fright!" Meanwhile, Maureen followed suit and wailed, "That's true, Mom! We made our way here in a rush and left everything else behind.

Now that we're back in town, we won't be leaving anytime soon. We've made up our minds to stay by your side and take care of you!" However, Laura shot them a disgusted look before she lifted her eyes to glance at Alexander standing by the doorway. "Griffith boy, we've got some personal family matters to settle. We'll be fine without you." There was a flash of surprise across Alexander's face but he quickly recollected himself and maintained his composure. Turning to look at Elise, he said, "I'll wait for you outside. Yell if you need anything."

It was indeed quite inappropriate for an outsider like him to interfere in the Sinclair Family matters, but these two strangers had popped out all of a sudden so he didn't want to leave Elise and Laura to face the duo themselves. However, Alexander had no choice but to retreat and wait outside. Elise nodded her head. Just as he was about to walk out, Laura voiced out once again, "Elise, you can wait outside too." Upon hearing that, Elise was taken aback but she obediently murmured, "Sure." However, she shot a warning look at Joshua and Maureen before turning around to walk out of the room. Subsequently, she left and shut the door gently behind her. She didn't leave immediately but paused by the doorway for a short while.

From the glass window by the door, she saw quite clearly how Laura pushed the couple aside and made them go down to their knees. Subsequently, both parties seemed to be quite agitated but Elise couldn't hear their conversation. Elise frowned as she had never seen Laura behave this way. Even when Madeline had been rude toward Laura, the latter didn't lose her composure at all, unlike today. Meanwhile, Alexander approached Elise and held her shoulders before steering her to take a seat by the side. "You shouldn't worry too much. Grandma knows what she's doing and everything will be fine," Alexander comforted her. "I hope so." Elise was uncertain about that.

Suddenly, she thought of something and she grabbed Alexander's wrist before staring at him intently. "Do you really think that they are Grandma's family members?" Elise was aware that she was adopted but to her, she was her grandparents' only next-of-kin so she considered herself to be their actual granddaughter. However, Joshua and his wife had appeared all of a sudden, causing Elise to feel uneasiness welling up within her. She was afraid of being kicked out from a fixed relationship and then she would be left on her own, without any sense of belonging. The truth was always quite odd that way. She wasn't afraid of bloodshed nor sacrificing herself, but she was terrified of being without any family. Alexander wasn't quite sure what was on Elise's mind but he could tell that she didn't quite like Joshua and his wife.

After some consideration, he commented, "They might not be. It doesn't make sense that you haven't met them at all if they are part of your family. Ultimately, there must have been fundamental issues in the existing family for the family to fall apart this way." "Elise, you'll always have me." Alexander took her hands into his and tried to share some of his body warmth with her this way. "Besides, staying under one roof and having the same blood coursing through your veins doesn't mean you're a family. A home can only exist with love. You'll always be Old Mrs. Sinclair and Old Master Sinclair's granddaughter.

This is something that will never change." Elise found that her troubled heart suddenly calmed down significantly and she stared at the person in front of her, who was utterly sincere as he tried his best to keep guard of her fragile heart. Suddenly, she realized that she no longer wanted to put on a tough front so she dropped her defenses and gently leaned on his shoulders. "Alexander Griffith," Elise called out his name. "Hey, I'm here," Alexander responded. "What's wrong?" "Nothing's wrong." She merely wanted to hear his response. They sat leaning against each other and after half an hour, the door to the room flung open from the inside. Subsequently, Joshua and Maureen walked out of the room.

After they had shut the door behind them, they sniffled and wiped off their snot before moving forward to face Elise. "Elise, it must have been tough on you over the last few days. From now onwards, you can leave your grandma in our hands. You must be quite tired, too. Go home and take some rest." Joshua put on an air due to his position as her elder and he gave out his instructions without bothering to ask for her opinion. "No, I'll stay here and take care of Grandma." However, Maureen interjected, "Joshua, why don't you go back with Elise to get some supplies?" As she said that, she frantically signaled with her eyes to Joshua. At that point, he caught on to it and he changed his tune. "That's true.

I should go back and visit Dad." "Let's go, Elise. Lead the way." He then reached out to grab Elise's hand as he spoke. Meanwhile, Elise immediately took a step backward and avoided him. Her distant expression was still full of wariness. "Why did you move away?" Joshua was slightly upset. "We're family now. Are you worried that I'll harm you?" As for Elise, she didn't respond to his words and only allowed the tense situation to persist. As soon as Alexander saw that, he instantly went forward to talk to Joshua. "Mr. Sinclair, my car's downstairs. I can give you guys a ride." "Are you Elise's fiancé?" Joshua glanced at Alexander with a profound look in his eyes, and he nodded approvingly as soon as Alexander confirmed it.

"That's great. You're quite polite and way more approachable than her. Since you've offered, how about I go down and wait for you guys? Hurry up and don't make me wait for too long, though." Upon hearing that, Alexander revealed his signature gentlemanly smile and took out a key from his pocket. "Here you go, Mr. Sinclair." "Okay." Joshua took the keys in his hands and left before them. After he left, Maureen couldn't quite muster it to face Elise by herself, so she scurried over and opened the door to the room. Meanwhile, Elise was just about to walk into the room too but Alexander stopped her. "My men will watch over Grandma, but Grandpa's home by himself. Are you sure that you'll be at ease by that?"

As soon as he mentioned Robin, Elise calmed down significantly. She glanced into the room and saw that Maureen was serving Laura some water with a fawning

look, so she became slightly at ease. Elise then took another look at Laura before turning around decisively. "Let's head home." After half an hour, the three of them finally arrived at the Sinclair Residence. Robin was taking a nap in the lounge when they walked into the house. Elise moved forward to greet him softly, "Grandpa, we're back. Grandma's doing quite well today." However, Robin had his head down as he moved slowly to sit up from the chaise.

Right after he opened his eyes, Joshua suddenly rushed forward. "Dad, it's me! I'm back!" Robin was startled by Joshua's sudden outburst and the former retreated backward. As soon as the elderly man saw the person standing in front of him, he grabbed his cane by the side and flung it. "You b*stard! You're a scoundrel! Why are you back here?! You should have just died out there! Get lost!" Enraged, Robin stood up from his chair abruptly and went after Joshua with the cane.

It was only after a while that the former finally stopped chasing Joshua out of the room. Taking deep breaths as he held onto his cane for support, Robin shouted, "I don't want to see you! Get lost right now!" Meanwhile, Joshua maintained a flippant attitude. "No worries, Dad. I know that I've been quite unfilial and I deserve this beating.

We're family and I'm sure that that's your way of showing your concern so don't worry, I won't take offense. I'll still take care of you until you get to your deathbed." "Y-You scoundrel! I know your plans! You're not back here to take care of us but you're here to send us off to the afterlife!"

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Chapter 377 Adopted Child, Coolest Girl in Town

"Dad, don't be upset. Everyone would want their kids to be there when they pass away! Death is inevitable. The most important thing is to pass away with dignity, and we've come back this time to uphold your dignity. It would be your mistake if you didn't appreciate our filial act." Joshua maintained his cheeky attitude without even regarding himself as an outsider. "You—" Robin was angered to the point where he found himself out of breath and all of a sudden, his head spun. Clutching at his chest, he keeled over. As soon as Elise and Alexander saw that, they rushed forward to support Robin and they shifted him to the chaise. Right after he was placed into a supine position, Elise swiftly took out the needles that were always on her and lifted Robin's left hand to poke him on the tip of his fingers. It was only after repeating that a few times that Robin's breathings gradually stabilized. Meanwhile, Joshua stretched his neck and peered over. There was a flash of disappointment across his face upon realizing that Robin was fine. "Look at you! You're so frail. If I hadn't come back with Maureen, who else would be able to sort out the funeral plans if something actually happened to you?" "Shut up!" Elise rolled her eyes at him. "I've tolerated your bullsh*t for long enough, and I'll rip your tongue out if you continue to say another word!"

"How dare you interrupt when your elder is speaking?" Joshua lifted his chin proudly, exuding utter confidence without a single bit of fear in him. "Do you think that you're fit to be addressed as an elder?" Elise had an indifferent

expression on her face as she coldly mentioned, "Grandpa and Grandma are my only family members. I don't care who it is, but I'll make sure that whoever dares to hurt them pay the price!" "Ha!" Joshua snorted mockingly as he countered, "From what you just said, do you mean that you're going to teach me a lesson? Well, I don't think that an outsider like you would be able to stop me from returning to my own home!" Meanwhile, Robin's eyes widened upon hearing the word 'outsider' and he struggled hard to lift his hand.

Then, he pointed to Joshua by the doorway and he weakly muttered, "Y-You'd better shut your mouth!" "Why should I shut my mouth? That darn girl should be the one to shut up!" Joshua arrogantly spat at Elise. "Darn it! Who do you think you are anyway?! You're just an adopted child and an outsider with a different last name! How dare you behave so insolently in someone else's house!" Upon hearing that, Elise clenched her fists by the side of her body tightly and there was a restrained look that crossed her face. She gritted her teeth and tried to come up with a retort but in the end, she didn't utter a single word. *He's right. No matter what, he's the son of the Sinclair Family so they are related by blood.*

Blood's thicker than water, so perhaps Grandpa and Grandma do care about their biological son the most. On the other hand, Alexander was pained as he saw something flash across Elise's face, and the last time he had seen that was during their encounter with Madeline. And so, he was adamant that he would not stand by and do nothing. In the end, Alexander walked over to stand by Elise and he wrapped his broad, warm hand around her tightly clenched fist and he exclaimed loudly, "The future lady of Griffith Group can choose to act recklessly however she wants.

Mr. Sinclair, do you have a bone to pick with my fiancée?" "The Griffith Group?" Joshua's expression turned upon hearing that and he asked quite materialistically, "Do you mean the company of the Griffith Family from Tissote? Are you the one leading the company?" "That's me." Alexander puffed out his chest but he didn't bother to say much. However, his imposing manner was exuded quite naturally. Meanwhile, Joshua stared at Alexander scrutinizingly before nodding as he had already weighed out the pros and cons. "Alright, then. Since that's the case, I won't take offense against this brat!" Joshua purposely reacted magnanimously as he reassured Alexander.

Subsequently, he glanced at Elise and warned, "You should be thankful that you found such a great guy!" Although Joshua had left town at an early age, the Griffith Family was well-renowned to be one of the noble families in Tissote and it was unwise to cross their path. This was why he deemed it acceptable to give Alexander some leeway. *It will make it much easier to interact with him once I inherit the Sinclair Family business after the two old folks pass away.* Just then, Elise had neared her tolerance level for Joshua's smugness, so she suddenly exerted force and was about to take action against him. However, instantly after that, Alexander pressed lightly on her shoulders to signal her to keep her calm.

In response, Elise paused in her tracks as she heard Alexander's voice rang out from next to her. "I think you've made a mistake. I was the one who pursued Elise. She wasn't the one that made the move. I would kill for her to marry me right now so whatever she wants to do or whatever she's after, I will definitely achieve it for her." Alexander paused for a moment upon saying that and he revealed a

sly smile. "Even if I have to kill someone for her, I would not hesitate at all." He put emphasis on his last sentence and every single word he mentioned spoke volumes. Meanwhile, Joshua looked at Alexander, who had a half-smile on his face, and the former suddenly felt quite uneasy for some reason.

After all, Alexander was used to being decisively merciless in the corporate world and his domineering aura overpowered Joshua despite the latter's age. *I'm back for the family fortune, so it would be worthless if I lost my life,* As soon as Joshua realized that, he chuckled cheekily. "Ha! President Griffith, you must be joking. We're a family so there's no need to resort to any killing. There's no need for that." Joshua said that with a glance at Elise before raising a hand to slap himself on the mouth. "I'm sorry, Elise. It's my fault for not watching my words. Please don't take those words to heart. It doesn't matter whether you were adopted or not. We're all part of the Sinclair Family, right?"

Elise, however, was used to Joshua's lowly behavior. Although she was tempted to strike him to teach him a lesson, she was much more concerned about accidentally triggering Robin so in the end, she didn't say a word and turned around to go and comfort the elderly man. "Grandpa, you need plenty of rest right now and you shouldn't lose your temper." "Gosh!" Robin frowned and heaved a sigh. "Elise, don't you take what that scoundrel said—" Before Robin could finish his sentence, Elise had already mentioned expressionlessly, "I knew about that earlier on." Robin's expression stiffened when he heard that and after quite some time, he finally came to his senses. Significantly stunned, he asked, "W-What?!"

How come?" *We kept this a secret for so many years and it was a well-kept secret, so how did she find out?!* At that point, Elise calmly placed a blanket on him and she spoke as she covered him with it. "There was once when you spoke to Grandma and you guys brought it up by accident. I heard the conversation then." Suddenly, Robin was unable to contain himself as he felt quite guilty and pained. After quite some time, he finally managed to utter, "Ellie, your grandma and I have always regarded you as our own granddaughter!" "I know that," Elise replied matter-of-factly.

"And it's the same for me. Don't worry, I'm fine." Meanwhile, Robin heaved a sigh without saying a word. He knew Elise quite well and she was generally one who kept everything to herself. It was quite likely that this incident would result in her completely clamming up. Just then, Robin lifted his head to stare at the ceiling. Suddenly, he recalled something and he glanced toward Alexander with a hopeful look.

Ellie is quite taken by him so perhaps from now on, he could be her support. Behind the side-door, Jeanie stood astonished against the wall with her mouth agape. She had heard every single word quite clearly. *Elise isn't the Sinclairs' biological granddaughter and she was adopted! Yoyo? Could she possibly be my Yoyo?!*

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Chapter 378 Not Cruel Enough, Coollest Girl in Town

Now that Robin's condition had stabilized, Joshua sauntered into the house and began to look around eagerly. "You heard what Mom said, didn't you, Dad? She said my wife and I are to remain in the family home. I'm going to need to know where the bank passbooks and cards are so that I can pay for Mom's expenses; it's not as if you're fit enough to deal with those now."

"You useless ingrate! I knew you'd never change for the better. You'll get your hands on the money over my dead body. Get out of my house now!" Robin thundered, his eyes wide with fury. Joshua, however, paid no mind to the old man's anger as he said indifferently, "I'm not leaving until I fulfill my duties as a son."

Besides, you don't speak on behalf of the rest of the family, so whatever you say isn't final!" Meanwhile, Elise crouched in front of Robin with her head down, but there was no hiding the murderous rage that radiated off her. Alexander had kept his gaze on her from the beginning and he instantly sensed her hostility toward Joshua. He quietly walked up to Joshua with a frown and said, "Mr. Sinclair, I don't think it's appropriate that you stay here for the time being. Why don't you come with me and I'll arrange for more suitable accommodations?"

"No, thanks," Joshua rejected drily. "Why would I stay someplace else when I have a home?" With that, he reached for a nearby chair and sat down decisively. A dark gleam flashed in Alexander's eyes and he no longer put up a courteous front as he asked coldly, "Are you sure you don't want to take me up on my offer, Mr. Sinclair?" An indignant Joshua glared at him before he closed his eyes and shook his head firmly. "I will not hear of it." The Griffiths might be powerful, but even they could not interfere with private family matters. There was nothing wrong with Joshua staying in his family home and taking care of his father, and not even the police could challenge that. *I don't have to be afraid of anything!*

"Well, that's too bad then," Alexander drawled. Without another word, he whipped out his phone and made a call before he instructed flatly when the other line answered, "Cameron, bring a couple of men over. Also, have someone clean up my downtown commercial duplex, the one that has been left unused." "W-What do you think you're doing? Are you going to drag me out of here by force? Watch it, Alexander—the society is under the rule of law and what you're about to do is illegal!" Joshua snapped, looking nervous as he jabbed an accusing finger in Alexander's direction.

Alexander merely ignored him as he kept his phone, thereafter crossing over to Elise and Robin. "I'll help you up to your room. You need to rest." As a matter of decency, Robin was better off not seeing what would happen next. That being said, Alexander was also, by implication, asking for the old man's permission. Robin was Joshua's father, after all, and he had every right to stop Alexander from throwing Joshua out of the house. Robin was a man who had experienced lots in life and it didn't take him long to hear the subtext in Alexander's words.

After a moment of hesitation, he glanced over at Elise, and at last reached out to allow Alexander to help him up. The old man deliberately staggered in the process and she hurried to hold his other arm, steadying him. Presently, he clutched both their hands tightly and said wearily, "I'm getting old. I don't have the luxury of being bothered by what goes on in this household. I leave it to both of you to call the shots."

"Don't worry. I'll stay right by Elise's side," Alexander promised solemnly. Robin nodded and allowed the matter to rest. Upon seeing this exchange, Joshua cried out, "Dad, you can't just turn a blind eye to this! At least—" He wanted to rush up to them and plead his case, but when he caught the dark and dangerous look Alexander threw at him, he froze in place.

Suddenly afraid, he dared not move a muscle. He could only stand still as he watched the three figures retreat toward the backyard and when he shook off his fear belatedly, he could hardly believe that he had allowed some young punk to intimidate him. *No, if I want to get what rightfully belongs to me, then I'll have to be cruel, or this guy will screw everything up for me!*

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Chapter 379 The DNA Test, Coolest Girl in Town

While everyone was gone, Joshua hastened to snoop around the house, but he still found nothing of value after checking every nook and cranny. He was currently holding an old wooden box that he had uncovered from storage before he mumbled begrudgingly, "Keeping everything under lock and key, huh, you old geezer? Did you really think I don't know how much stuff the family has?" The words had only just escaped under his breath when Alexander and Elise came into the room. They said nothing to one another as they sat on the couch, whereupon he proceeded to pour out a cup of tea for her, his mannerisms leisurely.

The next second, Cameron strolled through the front door with four or five sinewy bodyguards in his wake. Frightened by the sight of this, Joshua shrunk into a corner and exclaimed loudly, "You actually called men over to drag me out? You best believe the police will hear about this! You're not going to get away with throwing me out!" Alexander was indifferent as he raised his cup and took a sip of his tea. "Well, no one will find out about this if we move fast enough, will they?" As soon as Alexander said that, Cameron lifted his hand to address the bodyguards sternly, "Get him."

The bodyguards hurtled into the room after they heard the order and restrained Joshua at lightning speed. Just as he let out a cry of protest, the bodyguards shoved a bunched-up rag into his mouth and finished off the knot on the ropes that tied his arms to his torso. But even so, Joshua continued to put up a fight, and amidst his muffled cries, he struggled to break free of the ropes. Seeing this only made Elise exasperated and she walked up to the restless, apprehended man to stab a slender needle into his neck, immediately knocking him out.

Then, turning to face Alexander, she shrugged nonchalantly and pointed out, "At least he's quiet now. You cut him too much slack." Alexander choked in amusement. "Duly noted." "So, what are you going to do with him?" she asked. "We'll have someone keep an eye on him," he answered. "Your grandmother still has a soft spot for him, so disposing of him quietly isn't a viable option for us." Elise nodded in agreement. They couldn't risk putting a strain on Laura's nerves, at least not in her present state of health. More importantly, Abel and his infernal persistence proved to be the bigger issue at hand.

As things were, they had neither the time nor energy to waste on Joshua, but they knew they had to deal a clean strike when the time came for him to show his hand. Meanwhile, the bodyguards were carrying a restrained and gagged Joshua out the door when Jeanie turned up. Pretending to be confused, she asked, "Oh, my, what's going on here?"

"Nothing," Elise replied indifferently. "Miss Gray, you'll have to stay in with my grandfather for the time being; don't go out if you don't have to." The war was about to start, and with the Olson Family as the enemy, someone had to make sure a backyard fire didn't break out. "Okay."

Jeanie nodded before she handed the thermal flask of soup over to Elise as she asked, "It took a whole afternoon of stewing to obtain the perfect flavor. Won't you try some of it?" In truth, Elise didn't feel like she could stomach food at the moment, but for some reason, when she turned and saw the earnest look on Jeanie's face, she couldn't quite bring herself to say no. "I'll have some," she answered, relenting as she took half a bowl of the soup. "Tastes pretty good to me. It's fragrant and the amount of salt is just right. I have to get going now; I have a couple errands to run.

Lock the doors, okay?" With that, she set the bowl down on the table next to her before she shot Alexander a meaningful look. Then, the both of them walked out of the front door. It wasn't until after they were out of sight that Jeanie swiftly took the bowl Elise had used earlier. She had been watching Elise earlier and knew which side of the bowl Elise had drunk from.

As such, she poured the rest of the soup away from the other side. Having done so, Jeanie anxiously returned to her bedroom with the bowl in hand. This could be the only chance for her to reunite with her lost daughter. Regardless of how slim the chances were, she wasn't going to let it go.

However, the problem now lay in her ability to come up with the money for the expensive DNA test, for when she left the Anderson Family, she had not a single penny to her name.

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Chapter 380 I Want to Hear What You Think, Coolest Girl in Town

The power struggle between the Griffith Group and Olson Pharmaceuticals was getting heated, and while Alexander had been careful not to bring this up in front of the rest of the Griffiths, it didn't stop them from worrying either. With immense pressure from the family, Adam had no choice but to have Alexander return home so they could get to the bottom of the brewing business war.

Alexander had wanted to keep Elise out of the murky situation, but her insistence had worn him down and he eventually agreed to let her participate in the Griffiths' family conference.

Upon arriving at the Griffith Residence, Elise and Alexander saw that nearly everyone in the family had turned up and there were even a few unfamiliar faces. They had all squeezed themselves into the living room and seemingly filled up

every available space. These were all relatives whose livelihoods depended on the success of the Griffiths and Griffith Group.

When Jonah had been in charge, his authority had overpowered any rumor or threat that loomed over the company's reputation. However, now that Alexander had taken over his grandfather's place, the sudden and seismic shifts that happened were making everyone uneasy.

In particular, they had heard from some unconfirmed sources that the only reason why Alexander was waging war against the Olson Family was because he wanted to avenge his fiancée; while this alone did not sit well with the rest of the Griffiths, there were also some who started to question his ability to lead the company. After all, none of them cared about a woman's dignity and they certainly didn't think it was worth gambling on the family fortune. As such, they treated Elise as the cause of all this and her faults far outweighed Alexander's lapse of judgment.

Presently, as she walked into the house, everyone—even the most distant of the Griffiths who had never met her before—eyed her with unadulterated hostility. If looks could kill, she would have died from a thousand cuts the moment she walked past the threshold.

Meanwhile, upon noticing his family's unfriendly gaze, Alexander blinked and took Elise's hand in his. He was unfazed and his gestures were slow and steady. He had as good as told everyone that Elise was his woman, his only choice, and anyone who dared to scorn her would do well to remember their place.

Elise, on the other hand, had been expecting something like this way before their arrival. Her expression had betrayed nothing and despite the circumstances, she was centered and unfazed. Indeed, her stature and her temperament did not sit well with a lot of people. Alexander had been fielding controversies left and right ever since he coupled with her, but maybe he would finally make a decision today.

"Don't just stand there. Take a seat," Madeline said, breaking the long and stifling silence. Elise had intended to cross over and boldly take her seat among the Griffiths, but at that moment, Alexander said drily, "No, thanks. It's getting late and I'd like to drop Elise home as soon as possible. Whatever it is you have to say, just come right out with it." "Will you take a look at that? Are the elders gathered here today nothing more than chopped liver compared to some woman—some outsider?"

"I don't know how any of you see it, but I think this boy's gone stupid from love!" The man who said those words shook his head in disapproval. He was a senior family member who made sure to criticize in that exact capacity. When everyone else heard this, they muttered their agreement, though they dared not speak up against Alexander directly.

They worried about no one but themselves, but feigned concern for the whole family and assumed a self-righteous air as though they were fighting for a just cause. Alexander narrowed his eyes dangerously as he zoomed on the man who

made that scathing remark before he withdrew his gaze as a form of pointed ignorance.

Then, his eyes flickered over to Adam instead. "I want to hear what you think, Dad," he said calmly.