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Chapter 411 Snatched Treasure

The next day, while Alexander was walking toward the room next door, he said, "Pack your things. I'll bring you to see the treasure I snatched later."

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Upon hearing that, Elise quickly got out of the bed and took her bag before dashing downstairs.

After Alexander had changed his outfit, they started heading toward the location where the 'treasure' was hidden.

However, Elise's phone rang when she got into the car. Within a few seconds after placing the phone next to her ear, her face darkened.

After the call ended, Elise instructed Cameron coldly, "Head to Athesea General Hospital now."

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Chapter 412 Wrap Your Head Up

"What's wrong?" Alexander asked.

"Trevor got beaten up," Elise answered with an emotionless expression on her face.

Upon seeing her expression, Alexander knew it was a serious matter.

Reaching out to grab her hand in his, he patted her shoulder gently to reassure her and ended up holding her hand throughout the entire journey.

When they got to the hospital, Elise was told that Jeanie was also injured while protecting Trevor. After they rushed into the hospital, they quickly ran into Jeanie, who was supported by a nurse. Her head was bandaged, and she looked really weak.

Trevor's condition was worse. He was lying in bed and couldn't get up at all, immediately returning to his old self.

In Trevor's ward, Austin was quiet while sitting next to his bed, and the atmosphere in the ward was extremely tense.

"What happened?" Elise broke the silence, as she couldn't handle the depressing atmosphere any longer.

Although her words were directed to Jeanie, the usually straightforward Jeanie hesitated before muttering inaudible sentences. Elise turned toward Austin. However, it was a given that he wasn't willing to talk to her.

"Tell me what happened," she turned to Trevor and said in an annoyed manner.

I'm here to help them resolve their problems instead of causing more trouble for them, so why are they hesitating to talk?

"I got scammed and blackmailed." As Trevor's entire head was covered in bandages and only his eyes and mouth weren't covered, he was having a hard time trying to explain what happened. "I took the money you gave me to make a deal with the company's financial

director, but I didn't expect him to spike my drink. When I woke up, there was a woman sleeping next to me, and the woman's brother came in with a group of men before I could try to escape and beat me up."

He paused for a moment before continuing, "They refused to settle things peacefully and were adamant about destroying my reputation, so they're probably on the way to prepare an exposé at some media firms."

"Did you do it?" Elise asked coldly.

"Of course not." Trevor was sure before he asked in an angered manner, "Do I look like I have to force women to be with me?"

"What's the use of saying all these now?!" Jeanie, who had been quiet all along, snapped. "The man said that if Trevor doesn't marry the woman, they'll sue him for sexual assault! His future will be ruined if that happens!"

"Mom, why are you so worried? As long as I know that I'm innocent, he can sue me however he wants. I refuse to believe that the police will frame an innocent man!" Trevor exclaimed.

"What do you know?! You're still single now! If the news about these gets out, who would still want to marry you?!" Jeanie argued anxiously.

"If no one wants to marry me, so be it! Since Yoyo is already back, you can put her and her kids in your will, then! I don't care about these, anyway!" I don't get it! Why are they this worried?

"That's enough!" Austin snapped, causing everyone to shut up before he said with a dark look on his face, "Stop it. I've already invited the

woman's family out to have a talk with them. We will continue this discussion at home."

Right after that, a loud commotion rang out outside of Trevor's ward. When Elise wanted to turn around to see what was happening, the door was pushed open from the outside, causing her to lose her footing and fall into Alexander's arms.

"Austin, I took a cab and came here right after knowing that you wanted to meet me!" The man who spoke was the woman's father, Leeroy Field. His eyes were narrowed, making him look like a calculative man, and his loud voice was beyond annoying.

Leeroy shook Austin's hand before he turned toward Trevor and pretended to be kind. "Oh, no! How could my son do this to you?! He should have been gentler since we will be a family soon!"

"Who wants to be in a family with you?!" Jeanie snapped.

"I'm guessing this is Mrs. Anderson." Instead of getting mad, Leeroy smiled. "It's fine. You have the right to be mad since my son really went overboard this time. Still, you have to put your emotions aside, as we still have to discuss our children's marriage!"

"I won't marry your daughter. Just give up!" Trevor used the last bit of his energy to reject Leeroy stubbornly.

"You're not the one making the call here." Leeroy chuckled before turning toward Austin. "Isn't that right, buddy?"

Leeroy came prepared. When he entered the ward and saw Austin's expression, he knew they were holding the Anderson Family by their

throats. Even if he were to make an outrageous demand, the Anderson Family would surely do it for them.

At the same time, Austin's silence, despite the unwilling look on his face, was a form of acknowledgment.

"Say something, Dad!" Trevor pulled on Austin's shirt in an agitated manner. "I'm definitely not going to marry a woman I don't even know!"

"You're definitely not going to marry her?! You shouldn't have ended up in a bed together with her if that's the case!" Austin was pissed off as he reprimanded loudly. Right then, almost everyone in the hospital hallway could hear him.

Elise had met too many people like Austin, friendly on the outside but calculative on the inside. All he cares about is the family's reputation. Has he ever considered Trevor's feelings?

It really frustrated Elise that her father had such a character. As Trevor treated her really well, she couldn't stand the fact that he was going to be ordered around like a puppet.

"I don't understand how someone like you can be a father," she remarked with a hint of sarcasm.

"Shouldn't you understand Trevor's character more so than others as his father? After getting manipulated, framed, and beaten up by others, you want him to submit to humiliation instead of helping him out. Is this how someone from an influential family should behave? Why should Trevor keep his suffering to himself when he's from the Anderson

Family? What's the point of helping out with the family business when it can't even help him?"

At this moment, Trevor shot Elise a thankful look. Well, this is as expected from my little sister!

Right then, Austin was rendered speechless. He really didn't want to cause more trouble, but it seemed like things were getting out of control now.

Austin frowned as he contemplated on what to do next. Yet, Leeroy's eyebrows were knitted into a deep frown as he glared at Elise with a judgemental look. "Is this Anderson Family's long-lost daughter? I heard she grew up in a village, didn't she? Is that why she's so rude? Remember that only God can judge us, so who are you to interrupt?"

"Really? Only God can judge us?" Elise laughed. "What happened to judge not, that you be not judged? Do you need to go back to refresh your faith? Oh, wait, maybe you should go back to Sunday school?"

"You little brat!" Leeroy was enraged and wanted to curse at Elise right then.

However, Alexander quickly stood in front of Elise to block Leeroy off with a dark expression on his face. At this moment, he looked like he was about to lose control and tear Leeroy into pieces anytime soon.

Gulping, Leeroy turned toward the door. "Harald, why are you still daydreaming outside?! Get in now!"

"I'm coming, Dad!" Harald Field squeezed into the ward through the narrow door. He was a buff guy with a muscular body and was about half a head taller than Alexander. "What's wrong, Dad?"

"Are you deaf? Didn't you hear them saying they're not planning to marry your sister?! Why are you letting a rapist off? Catch him and take him to the police station! Let the police do the justice for us!" Leeroy declared before he pushed Austin away together with Harald, and the two of them yanked Trevor from the hospital bed.

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Chapter 413 Severe Consequences

Jeanie and Austin tried to stop him, but Harald easily shoved them away. Jeanie was sent flying to the cabinet and fell to the ground with a thud. She didn't get up for a long time, while Austin entangled himself in a brawl with Leeroy, but he couldn't even get close to Trevor. "There's a bunch of reporters out there right now. If I can't get away, then I'm dragging you guys down with me!"

"So you came prepared." Elise went up to him and pierced his soul with an icy glare. "Who told you to do this?"

Based on how the father and son duo are dressed, the Field Family is just the average family. It's only been a few hours since the case happened. The most they can come up with is to force the Andersons into going through with the marriage. No average man would be able to come up with a plan to call the reporters and expose this. Someone must have instructed him to do so.

"It's a man named Hinterland. He's a reporter from Sunlight Daily. He found out about my daughter and Trevor's relationship, and he came to us and said he's going to help us out. I didn't want to, but he said we

won't even get a single cent if we didn't rely on the media. He said the Andersons are powerful enough to silence us. That's why I agreed to it," Leeroy quickly explained the moment he met Elise's gaze.

"Is that all?" Elise asked, apparently still having her doubts.

"Yes." Leeroy looked up at her and nodded.

Elise nodded, allowing the two of them to leave. Leeroy and Harald took the hint and fled.

Austin kept looking at them, frowning. In the end, he sighed and went outside, but when he brushed past Elise, he paused for a moment. "Come with me."

"You can say what you want right here." Elise wouldn't allow him to lord her around.

That only made him more upset. He hesitated for a moment before saying earnestly, "That was not a great move. Do you have any idea what will happen?"

"Are you trying to tell me what to do?" Elise looked at him coldly.

"No. I'm just trying to teach you," Austin said. "You're still a single woman, so you shouldn't have gotten yourself into this."

"You're telling me to stay out of the Andersons' business, aren't you?"

Elise cut straight to the point.

"How can you say that? I just don't want you to get into trouble."

Austin was getting agitated.

"How do you know I don't want to get into trouble? If it's my own choice, I don't care even if I get myself into a catastrophe," Elise snapped coolly. "Or do you think you can have one more puppet to control if I stay out of this?"

For some reason, Faye found out about the whole fiasco, and she came right over to the scene. When she heard what Elise just said, she quickly dashed inside and stood beside Austin. "You can't talk to Dad like that!" she said angrily. "He just got better! We're his daughters, so can't you just take a step back?"

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Chapter 414 A Distraction

Elise took a deep breath and answered impatiently, "Ah, that reminds me. I think I rescued him, didn't I? I don't seem to recall you doing anything helpful. You have no right to tell me what to do, Faye."

"Now that's just unfair, Elise. I was the one keeping the family together before you came back." Faye justified her actions. "Besides, I've been the one taking care of dad over the last few days. You can't say I did nothing just because you woke him up."

"Shut up, both of you!" Austin cut them off angrily. "I would have stayed in that coma if I had known the ruckus I was going to wake up to!" Then, he stormed off.

Faye looked Elise in the eye for a moment before going after Austin.

Jeanie stared at the door and clicked her tongue. "That vixen! Your father has fallen for her tricks!"

"Forget it, mom." Trevor calmed his mother down and tried his best to look up at Elise. "Elise, dad's got a point. I can't drag you into this mess. You should just stay out of it."

"Are you trying to tell me what to do like that man as well?" Elise snapped.

"Don't call him 'that man.' He's your father after all." Trevor sighed.

He liked Elise for being so straightforward, but sometimes, she was too much of a maverick, as if she didn't need anyone around. She looked like she didn't care what anyone thought of her, but he knew she was a softie at heart, though that was only reserved for people who were close to her. Everyone else would remember her as the haughty woman. Maybe that's how she protects herself. After all, she's been by herself ever since she was a kid. The mere thought that she was homeless when she was a child broke Trevor's heart, and he didn't want her to take on the risk for him.

"Worry about yourself," she teased. "You got messed up by a mere thug. Don't tell anyone you're my brother."

She had never lost any fights, aside from that particular one. It had been a catastrophic loss, and she had paid a hefty price for it. Ever since then, she was reluctant to show her true strength to anyone.

"You can't blame me for this. I was bedridden for years, and this is all I've got. There's like a dozen of them against me. I can't take them all alone." Trevor would not admit for a fact that he was weak.

He used to be a muscular man before he was bedridden. Taking on ten men was still impossible, but he could defeat five on his own. Ah, I miss those days. I was so energetic and youthful. Sometimes I can even save a damsel in distress and make them fall for me. Now? Now I look like a malnourished kid. I wonder how long it will take for me to get back to those days.

Elise thought it was amusing that Trevor was so stubborn. She shook her head and told Jeanie, "Get him discharged and take him home. I'll treat him myself."

Jeanie would follow Elise to the ends of the world, so she got Trevor discharged immediately.

. . .

Elise was in her room, looking through the file of Leeroy Field and his family. She thought there must be a mastermind behind them, but after some investigation, she found nothing suspicious.

Leeroy was a drunkard, a gambler, and a john. He didn't have a stable job, and his wife died when the kids were still young. Harald took after his father and became a delinquent, but his sister did not. She studied hard and worked part time to pay for her studies. Thanks to scholarships and subsidies, she went through college and was nearing graduation. She's a hard worker.

Did Trevor actually hurt her? Elise shook her head and brushed the guess aside. Trevor's not that kind of person.

"What are you reading?" Alexander came in.

"It's about the Fields," Elise answered calmly.

"You're focused. Did you find something?" Alexander stood behind the chair and leaned over to take a look. He was almost sticking himself to Elise. "Nothing special." He came to that conclusion in a moment.

"Yes." Elise heaved a sigh. "And that's why this is a hassle."

If this is really a conspiracy, then there should be a way around it. All I will have to do is solve the problems as they come. But now, the case is slowly leaning toward the victim. Nothing can clear Trevor's name, unless he has the footage of what happened in that place last night. "Looks like he'll have to marry her," Elise teased.

Alexander suddenly fell into a pensive silence and said nothing for a long time. Thinking it was weird, Elise quickly turned around and inadvertently kissed his cheek ever so slightly.

Alexander felt something tickling his cheek, so he looked at her, and their gazes met.

Elise was drawn in by his mysterious eyes, and she gulped.

However, Alexander went into serious mode. "I think Trevor got himself into this mess because someone wanted him to. He's just a distraction."

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Chapter 415 To Wear or Not to Wear

Elise realized it was not the time to get embarrassed, so she recomposed herself and got serious as well. "A distraction?" she repeated it, then she understood what Alexander was getting at. "Faye! She did this!"

The first thing Trevor said after he stood up was to marry Faye off.

Jeanie had also told Elise that Austin wanted to marry Faye off to Johan first. Only then would he settle the marriage between Elise and Alexander.

Alexander smiled and scraped her nose. "Smart," he said lovingly.

Now the pieces have fallen into place. Faye wants to keep staying with the family, so she came up with this diversion. However, Elise had looked into it and found out that the Fields never came in contact with anyone. So how did Faye talk them into this? Or did she choose the girl at random for Trevor? Elise couldn't be sure, but now that she knew how the case happened, it'd be easy to look into it.

They stayed together for a while longer, then Elise went to Trevor's room.

The medicinal bath was already prepared as per Elise's instruction. She looked inside and told the caretaker directly, "Take his clothes off."

It was not the first time Elise made strange requests, so within two minutes, the caretaker had already stripped Trevor of all fabric.

"Put him in the bath, and you may leave," Elise said again.

"Yes," the caretakers answered politely and quickly did as Elise said before leaving the room.

Elise looked away and turned to speak to Jeanie and Alexander. "You two should go out too. I'm going to use some needles here, and it's a bit of a private matter. It's best that you don't stay around."

"Of course, Elise. Don't push yourself. If you can't complete it in one session, you can resume the next day. Your brother's tough. He can endure the pain for a couple more days." Jeanie held Elise's hand and patted it.

"What am I, chopped liver?" Trevor complained.

"Maybe." Jeanie teased him with feigned seriousness. "Elise has never lost any fight, but you? You spend her money, get into trouble, and she has to step in to save you. I'd rather raise a pig at this rate. At least it's worth something."

"Mom, quiet down," Trevor said. Alexander is watching. I don't want to embarrass myself in front of my future brother-in-law.

"Yeah, yeah," Jeanie answered, but she didn't care too much about it.
"Tell her to stop if she looks even the least bit exhausted, got it?"

Oh, mother. My heart bleeds for the lack of love from you. Do you see it?

Jeanie gave Elise an encouraging look before leaving the room. However, Alexander remained rooted to his spot like a tree.

"Aren't you leaving?" Elise arched her eyebrow.

"No," Alexander answered calmly. "We're guys. We don't really mind, and I can help you."

"But I need no assistant," Elise answered innocently.

A frown appeared on Alexander's face, and he said, "Then I shall be witnessing your skills."

Elise shrugged. "Suit yourself," she mumbled. Then, she went into the chamber and stood beside the bath. At the same time, she took the needles out of the pouch beside her and spread them on Trevor's acupoints. Once half of the needles were used, she said, "Stand up."

"Huh?" Trevor was flabbergasted. He was stark naked, and when Elise came so close to him just now, he covered his wiener even though the medicinal bath was black in color. Is she going to do something to Trevor Jr.? "E-Elise." Trevor coughed and shifted the topic stiffly. "I don't think you're an expert in this, right? And I'm really fine down there, so there's no need for the needles, alright?"

Elise looked at him curiously. "If you were really fine, you wouldn't have been beaten to a pulp by a bunch of regular guys."

You just had to bring that up.

"Okay"

Trevor was still fidgeting, but he would not stand up. Finally, Elise lost her patience. "I'm a professional. Patients are patients, so I don't care about their gender. Or do you think your wiener is too small for me to find?"

"Am not!" Trevor retorted loudly. "On the contrary, it's so big you might be scared!" He paused for a moment and looked at her melancholically. "I don't think I've ever seen a woman like you." He gave up arguing and put his hands away before slowly standing up while holding the edge of the bath for support.

Elise was sitting beside the bath calmly. Just before she could see Trevor stark naked, someone covered her eyes. Alexander took a pair of pants hanging somewhere beside him and tossed it into the bath. "Wear this," he said coldly.

Trevor picked it up. He looked at Alexander before turning to Elise, at a loss of what to do. "So should I wear this, Elise?"

Elise was amused. Oh, so that's why he stayed behind. "Wear it." She smiled. "We'll skip that part and switch you to meds for Trevor Jr., but Alexander's going to have to pay for those meds." Well, he stepped in right before I could do anything. If he doesn't want me to look at it, then he has to pay the price.

Trevor looked at Alexander with an unspoken plea in his eyes.

"I'll pay," Alexander said calmly. "I'll get Trevor everything he needs."

"That's more like it." Trevor happily picked the pants up and wore them.

Alexander removed his hands from her eyes and put them behind him, acting like nothing had happened.

Elise shook her head with a smile and went back to the acupuncture treatment for Trevor. Once the last needle pierced its target, she told him to go back into the bath.

The moment he soaked himself in the bath, Trevor felt electrified. He gritted his teeth, and every cell in his body was shaking.

"You'll have to endure the pain if you want to hasten the absorption and change your body," Elise said.

"No prob." Trevor gritted his teeth and tried to be as calm as he could.
"I can take this easy."

"Is that so?" Elise arched her eyebrow. "We'll be leaving for a couple of hours then."

"Huh?" Trevor's voice broke. He turned around, but Elise was already leaving with Alexander hand-in-hand without a care in the world.

"Elise? Alexander? You can't leave me alone here!" Trevor pleaded, but silence was his answer.

A few moments later, the door creaked shut.

Outside the room, Elise stood before Alexander, staring at his face. "Well, I never thought you'd be such a schemer, Mr. Griffith. You're jealous of Trevor, aren't you?"

Alexander squinted. Once she was done talking, he wrapped his hand around her shoulder and pulled her into his embrace. Elise was about to protest, but then he said calmly, "Yes. I'm jealous of anyone who gets close to you. I want you all to myself."

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Chapter 416 An Idiot

Elise felt a warm and fuzzy feeling in her heart. It melted her, and she couldn't resist his hug. She couldn't say anything embarrassing either, so she let him hug her as she felt the thump of his heartbeat.

A while later, they went back to the front. Ever since they switched houses, they got new servants, and Maria was the one preparing the meals for them. Once they came back out, Elise told Maria, "Prepare five more portions for dinner tonight."

"You have guests coming over?" Alexander asked.

"You can say so," Elise answered vaguely. "Just do as I say, Maria."

"Yes, Miss Sinclair," Maria answered and went to the kitchen.

Two hours later, Trevor came back out looking refreshed. "I can beat up ten guys now, no sweat!" He showed his muscles and looked like he was raring to go. Physically, his body did not change in the slightest, so all he had to show was a frail arm. His bones underwent a huge change, but nobody could see that.

Jeanie got up and smacked his head. "What did you say, you brat? You want to get your butt kicked again? Do you have any idea how much your sister had to do to heal you? You're going to exhaust her, you idiot!"

"Ow, ow, ow, Mom. Stop hitting me." Trevor dodged his mother deftly, but he couldn't stop her from chasing him around. "Fine, fine, I'm sorry." He gave up. "I won't go into battles I'm not prepared for. I won't trouble Elise anymore, alright?"

"That's more like it." Jeanie stopped after he promised her that.

Trevor kept quiet after that ordeal, but he still had that repressed energy within him, and he wanted to vent. He had that chance when dinner came, but instead of using it to beat someone up, he spent all that energy on eating.

Elise told Maria to make five more portions for dinner, but Maria made even more than that. However, half of it was already devoured by Trevor before all the dishes were served.

Aside from Elise, everyone stopped to look at Trevor, who was gorging on all the food. It was as if a black hole had formed in his stomach, and no matter how much he ate, he was not satisfied.

When he picked up his second chicken drumstick, Jeanie gulped in fear. She put her cutlery down and stopped him. "Alright, I won't yell at you anymore, but please stop this. Do you want your belly to explode from all the food?"

"Sorry?" Trevor looked at her innocently. "I'm not even full yet. You can't be serious, Mom. I promised I won't trouble Elise anymore, but now you are stopping me from eating my fill?"

"That is not what I meant! Do you realize that you've eaten all the food here? I know you're hungry, but if you keep this up, you'll end up sick again!" Jeanie lectured him.

Trevor stopped dumbly and looked at the table. When he realized that everyone only had some potatoes in their bowl and nothing else, he immediately felt embarrassed. "Sorry." He smiled sheepishly. "I'm starving today."

"It's alright, my boy." Robin smiled. "Great food should be enjoyed.

Eat as much as you want, Trevor."

"I don't think I will." He put the chicken drumstick down, since he was worried it might do him no good if he ate too much.

"Just eat it," Elise said quietly. "Your meridians and bones are undergoing a big change now. Out with the old, in with the new. All that energy for the change has to come from somewhere. As long as you still feel like you can eat, your body can take it." She paused for a moment and gave him another chicken drumstick. "You are what you eat. You want muscles? Eat more meat. You'll be kicking Harald's behind in no time."

"Really?" Trevor looked excited, but then he realized something, and he gnashed his teeth. "Harald's nothing to your lackeys. There's no achievement in beating him."

"Oh, that was fast." Elise took some food from the table. "If you have realized that, then you have to get stronger as soon as possible. I can't keep you safe forever."

Trevor nodded solemnly. Only the strong are worthy to befriend the strong. If I want to be the defender instead of the weakling, I have to get stronger. As long as he could have the chance to protect Elise, he had no reason to stop. Trevor took the chicken drumstick from her and gave her a meaningful look before he gorged on the food once more.

Everyone thought it was amusing to see him eat. They weren't hungry anyway, so they put their cutlery down and watched him eat.

In the end, he finished all the food on the table. Jeanie asked him if he had his fill, and he burped. "About eighty percent full." He raised eight fingers. "Can't eat too much, so this is enough."

"You really are a pig," Jeanie mocked him again.

Trevor didn't argue this time. He rubbed his belly, thinking, So what if I'm a pig? I don't care if that's what it takes to get stronger and to have the strength to defend myself. Trevor wanted to vent even more after dinner, and he set his sights on Alexander. "Wanna spar?" He smiled.

Alexander looked to Elise for her opinion, and she said bluntly, "You're no match for him. Don't waste your time."

Trevor smacked his lips and gave up. Sitting around was getting frustrating, so he took Jeanie and went on a walk.

Night came, and when the clock struck midnight, Elise heard something rustling in the yard next door. This time, she went over, but she saw something she did not expect. Alexander was still in his yard, while a group of people was sending something to him discreetly. Once they were gone, she leaped down from the wall.

Alexander looked at her helplessly. "Can't you use the front door?" What am I going to do about this girl? What if she hurts herself parkouring so much?

"Eh, it's a hassle," she retorted and went into the house. She walked around the hall, but there was nothing to be found. "Where's the treasure?" She stared at Alexander.

Alexander smiled. "And how do you know they were here to give me a treasure?"

"I just know! Now tell me where it is!" Elise stomped her foot. She wanted to say it was because she knew him too well, but it sounded too mushy for her, so she didn't.

Alexander would do everything to give something to her if she showed an interest in it. And there's no way it's something ordinary if he asked his men to send it over at this hour. Alexander couldn't refuse her, so he shook his head and pointed his chin at the room in the furthest corner of the house.

Whipped by her curiosity, Elise trotted over to take a look at the treasure. However, she couldn't bring herself to smile when she saw what it was. The thing Alexander had received was an ice coffin, and there was someone lying in there—someone familiar to Elise. He was none other than Joseph, the administrator of SK Group who was replaced.

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Chapter 417 Her Life, Worthless

Elise thought Joseph was under someone's control, but she never thought he'd be in such a dire situation. She looked at him, but she felt no signs of life. "Is he dead?" she asked solemnly.

She hid her feelings well, but Alexander could still tell that she and Joseph shared a deep bond. It was the first time Elise showed so much

care to another man in front of him. For some reason, it felt like someone was squeezing his heart, and he felt frustrated. "There's no reason for anyone to take his body away," he said calmly. "The coffin has a temperature control mechanism built in, and he has ample oxygen supply. He's just in a fake death state."

Elise nodded and went up to open the coffin. When she performed a quick check, she realized Joseph's condition was far worse than she imagined. The tendons in his limbs were broken, and he was in a coma because of some substance in his body. He seemed fine, but she knew he was a hair's breadth away from death. She didn't know what kind of substance was in his body, but she knew he had to have a surgery performed on him as soon as possible.

Then, she called Claude right in front of Alexander. "You have to come back right now," she said solemnly. "Joseph's in trouble, and he needs a surgeon. You're the man for the job."

"Wait, what? Joseph? But that's impossible. He was still talking to me before you called," Claude blabbered quickly.

A frown appeared on her head. "You have to move right now. You're exposed."

"Slow down. What are you talking about? First you say Joseph's in trouble, and now you say he leaked my location? Can you give me a second to process things?"

"No. Just run. I'll send you a safe route in a second. Use that to come back right now." Elise hung up and immersed herself in her own thoughts.

Joseph is SK's top brass and the most trusted, reputable man in the group. He also has the highest security clearance. It's hard to believe that he's in trouble, and he sold out his group's members. However, things had already gone out of control, so all Elise could do was try to save him and cut their losses. Believe it or not, it's up to them. "Do you have a laptop somewhere?" She looked at Alexander.

"It's in my room," he replied calmly.

"I need to use it." She went toward his room.

As expected, a few groups of people had locked in on Claude's location. The nearest enemy was only a hundred yards away from him. He's going to get caught at this rate. She clacked away at the keyboard and attacked the enemy's tracking software. Once she destroyed it, she quickly hid Claude's signal. A moment later, Claude's signal was already some distance away from the enemies'.

Five minutes later, he called Elise. "Oh my god, Father. You were right. I almost got caught. Who's the enemy? How did they hack us, dammit?" Claude cursed. Holy motherf*cking sh*t. I almost lost some good meds.

"I don't know just yet," she said calmly. "The longer you are outside, the more dangerous it becomes for you. I'll get a chopper to pick you up. Then you'll go to the airport and come back on a jet."

"Sure. You do your stuff. As long as I get to keep my meds, I'll do anything you ask," Claude said happily.

Elise hung up.

Alexander waited for a moment longer and only came in after she put her phone down.

However, it was as if Elise didn't even notice him. She kept her eyes on the screen and didn't even look at him, as if he was nothing but air.

Alexander frowned. He regretted taking that coffin back, since it only made Elise ignore him. When Elise stopped working, he finally asked her, "Is that your friend?"

"Yes," Elise answered calmly.

"Are you good friends?" he asked again.

"Yes," she answered without even hesitating. "He saved my life before."

"Hm?" Alexander arched his eyebrow, and a thought raced in his mind. Since he saved her life, does that mean she has to marry him as payment?

"I don't want to talk about my past." Elise didn't plan on elaborating, but she said, "I'm going to keep him safe, but it's going to land me in a whole world of danger and offend a lot of parties. I don't want to trouble you, so you have two options. You move somewhere else, or I take him away with me."

Alexander took a deep breath. He was starting to have mixed feelings about the matter. Did he really only save her life before? "Don't you have anything else to say?" Alexander looked at her, then he squinted with slight excitement.

"No. That will be all for now." Elise didn't even look up.

Alexander's eyes dimmed, and he said coldly, "Never thought you were such a coward." Frustrated, he went out of the room and slammed the door shut, causing a loud bang.

Elise looked at the door that was slammed shut, but she was confused. What happened?

However, her train of thoughts was broken by a message from 'Joseph.'

'You'd better hide. My men will be there soon.'

Elise squinted. He's more daring than I thought. Already exposing his identity and issuing me a challenge so openly even before he got his hostage? Well, now that he's already here, there's no reason for me to back down. She replied quickly, 'Welcome.'

I will make sure those who attack my friends pay for their crimes.

She tried to send a message in SK Group's global channel, but as expected, she and Claude were banned from texting. Everyone there was bashing them for betraying the group, though it was apparent that this was the result of the usurper's brainwashing.

One of the messages read, 'I offer a two hundred million bounty for anyone who can kill Eliza.' When Elise saw that, she chuckled and turned the laptop off.

Eliza was the name she used in SK Group. So I'm only worth two hundred million to them?

Read Chapter 418 of Coolest Girl in Town

Chapter 418 Mike Oxlong

Looks like SK has been growing well over the past few years. A random member alone can offer a two-hundred-million bounty. No wonder someone wants this group all for their own.

She put the laptop aside and realized that Alexander seemed to have come in earlier. She went out and looked around the yard, but he was nowhere to be found. Only Cameron was around. "Where's Alexander?" she asked.

"He just went out," Cameron answered politely. "Do you need me to call him?"

"No. Let him do his job," Elise refused and went back to perform an acupuncture treatment on Joseph.

A few hours later, she had almost used all her needles, and she leaned against the wall to rest. She had tried her best, but Joseph showed no signs of waking up, so she had to give up for now. She closed the coffin, plugged the oxygen in, adjusted the temperature, and went to sleep in

the room next door. Bogged down by exhaustion, she drifted to sleep the moment she went to bed, forgetting that it was Alexander's room.

While sleeping, she felt someone closing in. Elise got her guard up by reflex, but when she felt the person tiptoeing around so as to not wake her, she relaxed and went back to sleep.

Elise was woken up by her phone the next morning. When she realized it was Claude's ringtone, she opened her eyes and sprang up, going into focus mode immediately. "Hello? What is it?"

"I left the airport, but someone's following me," Claude said calmly, as if it was nothing.

"Don't hang up." Elise turned the laptop on and clacked away at the keyboard, then she said, "Tell the driver to head toward the biggest mall in town. Once you're there, go to the staff's locker room on the top floor. There are new clothes, phone, and my location inside. There's no surveillance camera in the stairs at the back. And hurry."

"No problemo." Claude hung up so nobody could track the signal.

He wasn't worried about the ones following him, since Eliza could settle it. However, he underestimated the people in the nation. He had someone hot on his tail, and he ran into a sudden check at the last toll booth. Obviously, it was set up specifically for him.

His pursuers were right behind him, while the police were ahead of him. It was obvious which side would make him suffer more, so he pushed his cap down and pretended to sleep in the backseat. A short while later, it was their turn to be checked.

The young officer knocked on the window, and Claude pretended to wake up. He stretched his arms and asked groggily, "What is it, officer?"

"We're performing a check. I need to see your ID," the officer said.

"Sure," Claude answered readily. He went through his bag for a while, then he looked at the officer apologetically. "Sorry, officer, but I seem to have left my ID at home."

"You left it at home?" The officer looked at him suspiciously. "You should remember the number, right?"

"What seems to be the problem?" The other stops were already starting to verify the citizens' details, so the holdup here was getting the officer in charge's attention.

The officer in charge pushed the young officer aside and stuck his head into the car. He looked at Claude closely and pretended to ask nonchalantly, "Where do you come from?"

Read Chapter 419 of Coolest Girl in Town

Chapter 419 Extreme Measures

"I'm on my way to visit my grandma, so I thought I didn't need to bring my ID along. Besides, I was in a hurry, so I left it at home," Claude answered as 'honestly' as he could. He was an innocent-looking guy to begin with, and nobody would suspect him of anything.

Jackson stared at him for a moment, then he took the verification device from the young officer and said indifferently, "Give me your ID number."

"830...," Claude told him a string of numbers, smiling all the while.

A while later, the officer in charge frowned and looked at Claude, holding the device with one hand. "Your name is Mike Oxlong?" he asked seriously.

Yeah, I know, right? "Nice name, huh?" Claude smiled drily.

"Yes. Remember to bring your ID anywhere you go next time."

Claude nodded, and his eyes glinted. "I will, officer." He smiled.

"Let them go!"

After he got past that stop, Claude returned to his old, cunning self once more. "I'll double your pay, driver. Hit the wheels!"

"You got it!" Energized by the temptation of more money, the driver floored the accelerator and sped past all the cars that passed the checks the same time as them.

The officer in charge was checking the other cars, then he looked back for some reason. When he saw the green taxi driving off into the distance, he thought about the name he saw quietly. Mike Oxlong... Mike Oxlong... Hey, wait a minute! That sounds like 'my c*ck's long!' Only an idiot would come up with that name! That's a fake ID!

"Dammit! He ran off right under my nose." The officer in charge smacked his head in frustration and turned his walkie talkie on at once. "All officers, hunt down a cab with the plate number 4739!"

Half an hour had passed when his order reached the front line officers. The driver had already arrived at the mall in twenty minutes, seeing as he could get double the fare.

"Here you go." Claude handed him a wad of cash and joked, "You should be an F1 driver with that kind of skill."

The driver happily took the money and arched his eyebrow. "You're not the only one who told me that. Before I worked as a taxi driver, I was a super racer."

"Of course you are." Claude smiled in amusement and got out of the car, then he headed into the crowded mall.

Claude was long gone when the officer in charge got a cab and came to the mall. Looking at the locked mall, the officer flew into a rage, then took his phone out and called someone. "Where are you, Alexander?"

Alexander told him the location and hung up. It turned out that the officer in charge was none other than Alexander's good friend—Jackson. Jackson hopped into his car and went to the rendezvous point as fast as he could.

He couldn't have escaped me so easily. Someone powerful must have helped him. If I want to arrest him, I have to go for something extreme.

Read Chapter 420 of Coolest Girl in Town

Chapter 420 Fatal Mistake

Elise picked Claude up and went back home. She put him in a disguise and they hurried out. "We'll have to go to Joseph, stat."

Claude turned on his serious mode when Joseph was brought up, and he followed her out.

They made a beeline for Joseph, but when they came into the hall, they saw Alexander and Jackson talking in there. When Claude saw Jackson, he gasped. Sh*t. Just my luck.

Claude's flight response was triggered, but Elise caught him before he could run. It was then he remembered his appearance had changed. With Elise's amazing skills, not even his father could recognize him if he was here.

Jackson didn't seem to be trying to arrest him either, so he heaved a sigh of relief and eased up.

"And they are?" Jackson looked at them.

"Elise Sinclair and her friend," Alexander said calmly.

It had been a while since she heard Alexander calling her by her name. She paused for a moment and looked at him. What's up with him? Usually, he would tell people that I'm his fiancée, but he seems to be distancing himself from me today.

Ever since Claude saw Alexander, he kept staring at Alexander's face. It was too impeccable, and he thought it was a threat for Elise' chastity. He took out a bottle of pills and handed it to Alexander.

The bottle looked plain. It was obvious that the pills were shady, and nobody in their right minds would take it.

"What is this?" Alexander asked cautiously.

"Contraceptives," Claude answered. "We're all men here, so I know what you're thinking. To be honest, she's still too young to have kids, and we can't have her taking any contraceptives. Her body needs to be kept in top shape. Since you're the man here, you take the responsibility."

An awkward silence fell upon them.

Even Jackson—who was usually serious—had to clear his throat to keep himself from laughing.

Alexander's face darkened. He put his hands in his pockets and refused to take the bottle of pills. I don't need a stranger to tell me about my family planning. Or is this what Elise wants? Is she just getting someone else to tell me that? So, she doesn't want to marry me or bear my children?

At that point, Elise couldn't keep her silence any longer. She leaped up and knocked Claude on his head. "Are you stupid? What kind of idiot would give their host a bottle of contraceptives as a meeting gift?"

"Ow!" Claude covered the bruise on his head and started getting tearful. I was just being considerate. "What do you know? I'm doing this for you! You're SK's—" He realized he almost had a slip of tongue, so he stopped talking and looked at Jackson cautiously.

"She's SK's what?" Jackson was smart enough to see through the problem.

"SK... SK..." Claude stammered and paced around the hall. When he saw the hand moisturizer on the table, he got an idea. "She's SK-II's ambassador! She has to keep her skin and body in top shape! She'll lose her value if she gets pregnant." Then he turned around and looked at them seriously. "Have you guys even heard of that brand before? It's a high-end skincare product. I know you guys haven't."

"Is that brand real?" Jackson looked at Alexander dubiously.

Alexander nodded, but he was impatient. "Yes." He would always take a look at the list of gifts for his clients, and SK-II was on the list of high-end skincare products.

Jackson loosened up a little after getting the confirmation, but he still thought Claude's eyes looked familiar. Now where have I seen those eyes before?

"I see. And who might this gentleman be?" Jackson asked.

Claude hesitated. Mike Oxlong's out now, and this guy's in the system. If I make up another name that doesn't exist, he'll know who I am this time.

"Max E. Mumm." Elise answered for him.