Love Coming from the Least Expected Chapter 541

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"Thank you, Mom." I opened the box and looked inside absentmindedly. It was a pink-colored dress, and the design was beautiful. However, it was too girlish. I remembered that I liked pink the most when I was a child, but I was an adult now.

"Do you like it?" Isabelle asked.

"Yes." I changed into the dress, then surveyed myself in front of the mirror. Nothing felt right to see myself in pink as cute was not my style. It was really not suitable.

Isabelle had probably noticed it. When I changed back into my clothes, she sighed and said, "I'll exchange this for a new one tomorrow. I was absent from your childhood, so I keep forgetting that you are a grown-up now."

"I like light blue now," I said plainly.

At this moment, my phone on the table rang. I walked closer and saw that Christopher was calling me. Isabelle saw the caller's name when I picked up my phone and her expression turned cold. I hesitated momentarily but did not answer the call in front of her. Instead, I walked out with my phone. When I went back in, Isabelle got me to sit beside her.

"Eve, do you think I'm cruel for not coming back to visit you for such a long time, and now that I'm back, I want to split up you lovebirds?"

I remained silent as what Isabelle said struck a chord with me. Even though I did not say it, that was what I thought. It was until I saw Sharon that this thought faded a little.

Isabelle understood my silence. She placed her hand on my shoulder and her gaze dimmed. "I'm not a responsible mother. I know I'm not considerate for not considering your feelings. But, I—" Suddenly, Isabelle sobbed, and her voice trembled. "Your Uncle Robert was my closest family member. Your grandparents were busy working when we were younger. He was the one who took care of me. They died in a car crash before I had the chance to spend more time with them. After they passed away, your Uncle Robert and I depended on each other and I grew up healthily under his protection. He was still thinking about me on his deathbed. Isabelle, I really can't accept the fact that your husband is Julia's son. Seeing her each time reminds me of your Uncle Robert's tragic death. However, I'm alone and I couldn't find any proof. Otherwise, things wouldn't drag until

now. Your Uncle Robert is someone I cherish more than my parents. Do you understand?"

"Mom... I'm sorry." Besides saying sorry, I did not know what to say. It was supposed to be a happy mother and daughter reunion, and a wedding would be the cherry on the cake. However, everything seemed out of reach now.

Seeing Mom cry, I could tell what a struggle it was for her. How I wished there was a way to have the best of both worlds.

"You don't have to be sorry. I'm the one at fault. If I stayed with you and allowed you to grow up by my side, things would be different. Promise me to forget about Christopher. You can take all the time to forget about him and I will promise you anything, okay?"

Gazing at Isabelle's look of anticipation, I tried to open my mouth to answer. Saying the word was easy, but I couldn't bring myself to say it.

"Mom, I would have died if it weren't for Christopher. Mom, I owe him a lot. I..." I couldn't bring myself to continue. Mom was already so upset. We were all in a dilemma and struggling. If I continued to talk about that, the atmosphere would only become heavier.

I was sleepless during the night at the Goldstein residence. My mind was occupied with my mom's words, so much so that I dreamed about Uncle Robert. I could not see his face clearly, but his body was bloody as he questioned me for not avenging him and wanting to marry his enemy's son. I jolted awake and wasn't sleepy anymore.

In the morning, there were dark circles around my eyes that I couldn't conceal with concealer. My face was pale. After breakfast, Isabelle talked to me again about me moving over. I told her to give me some time and left the Goldstein residence in a hurry, feeling suffocated to face her in that house.

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Leave a Comment / Love Coming from the Least Expected Just then, Sabrina called me. "What's up, Sabby?"

"Yvonne, what the hell are you doing? Christopher called you a few times last night. Not only did you not pick up, but you also didn't call back!" Sabrina remarked.

Only then did I remember that Christopher had called while Mom was telling me about Uncle Robert's matters. That was why I did not get to pick up the call. And as I was worried about Mom, I stayed by her side the whole night listening to her reminisce about the fun times she had with my uncle before he passed away.

I ended up forgetting about Christopher. Astounded, I asked, "How did you know?"

"You dare ask? Last night we were at a gathering when my idol called you in my presence. You'd never know how grim he looked when he couldn't reach you. I'll give you thirty minutes. He's at the airport with Zach, waiting for his flight to Venria. If you don't go now, you'll have to wait for a month before you can see him again," Sabrina said.

"What's going on?" I anxiously asked.

"Don't tell me you don't know why my idol kept calling you? Did you forget about his other identity? He leads reservists of the special forces. He has to carry out his duties when there are special missions," Sabrina petulantly replied.

I was briefly stunned as I did not have any knowledge of that. All I could remember was Christopher had retired from the military. As for the matters he had mentioned to me regarding the reservists, I could barely be bothered about it.

A wave of guilt overwhelmed my mind, and I hurriedly said, "Hold on. I'll head over now."

Immediately, I ordered a taxi and rushed toward the airport. However, I somehow felt that God was trying to play tricks on me. I was trapped in traffic shortly after I got in the taxi. Rows of cars filled the road as frustrated honks filled the air.

"Sorry, but is it possible to speed up? I've got an important matter to deal with and I need to rush to the airport as soon as possible." I was on the verge of breaking down at the thought of not being able to wave him goodbye. I knew it would be a risky mission; otherwise, he would not have been tasked to handle it.

I had to blame myself for having been too engrossed in Mom's matters that I had forgotten about Christopher.

"Miss, I'd like to speed up, too. But look at the traffic in front; how am I supposed to drive past?" The driver sounded exasperated.

I looked at my watch and shifted my gaze back to the traffic outside. There were only ten minutes left before the flight was to depart, and I knew I would not be able to make it on time. Without hesitation, I pushed open the car door and ran toward the direction of the airport. Christopher, you must wait for me. You have to wait for me to send you off!

By the time I reached the airport, Sabrina shrugged her shoulders and shook her head at me. "You're too late; he's just left."

"Christopher Lane!" I pushed aside the guards and barged into the restricted area of the terminal, only to see an airplane slowly heading toward the sky. It glided through the fluffy clouds and soon disappeared within them.

I stood frozen till the guards came to throw me out. I turned to Sabrina and asked, "If Chris is heading to Venria, does that mean the mission is a risky one?"

Seeing me at a loss, Sabrina sighed. "Though I always say nothing will happen, I knew long ago that Zachary's missions are all rather dangerous ones. But of course, I do believe nothing will happen to them because we're waiting for them at home."

"Sabby, why does life never go as planned? I've tried so hard to make myself happy, but at the end of the day, I realize happiness is still so far away."

I lifted my head and looked at the sky. It was of a baby blue hue, juxtaposed with fluffy, white clouds that seemed incredibly comfortable to lie on. That would have been a wonderful experience if the sun were not shining so brightly that it blinded my eyes.

It was the first time Christopher and I separated after getting together. Yet, not only did I miss his calls, but I also missed the chance to send him off.

"Didn't you say before that the reason God puts us through so many hardships is to let us understand the essence of bliss?"

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I remained glued to the ground at the airport for a long while, until a baby's wails brought me back to my senses. Turning around, I saw Sabrina struggling to coax the baby in her arms. Instantly, it warmed my heart to

realize that I had a good friend accompanying me whenever I felt down. Without any hesitation, I hurried over to help her coax the little one.

Yet, the baby could not stop wailing no matter what we did. "What's wrong with him?"

"He's probably hungry. I'll find a place to feed him." Sabrina ushered me to follow her to a cafe and requested a private room.

Inside the room, I sat down, sighing.

"Don't worry. I'm sure there's always a solution to every problem. Cheer up," comforted Sabrina.

"I guess so," I muttered with my face covered. "But somehow, I feel like trouble is always looking for me. No matter how I try to live my life, I can never live in peace. Mrs. Lane has finally accepted the fact that Christopher and I are together, but now..."

Sabrina calmly muttered, "Christopher understands you a lot, so I'm sure he won't be angry with you. You guys can have a good discussion when he's back and see if there's any way to convince Mrs. Goldstein."

I shook my head bitterly after a slight ponder as I could not think of any good idea. "My mom cries every time she talks about my uncle. I know they have a close-knit relationship though I've never seen my uncle before. And I could tell that Mom is against me being with Chris unless Mrs. Lane has nothing to do with that matter. But Mrs. Lane has admitted it herself..."

"Console Mrs. Goldstein first. Look at Mrs. Lane; she used to be persistent and forbade you from getting together with Chris. But you've managed to win her heart. So I'm sure there's a solution when it comes to your mom, too." Sabrina hesitated for a second before continuing, "Why don't you listen to her wants first? Follow whatever she asks you to do. When she's feeling better, things will naturally take a positive turn."

"I quess so."

That night, I stayed with Sabrina since she was alone at home. By the time she put her baby to sleep, she already looked utterly exhausted. Despite so, she did not want to hire a nanny as she enjoyed the process of taking care of her child by herself.

There was a lot that I wanted to tell Sabrina, but I refrained from doing so after seeing her so lethargic that she could not keep her eyes open. Later,

I reached for my phone and tried calling Christopher twice, yet I could not get through.

Lying on the bed, I threw my phone aside and switched off the lights, sighing away. After some time, when Sabrina realized I was still not asleep, she muttered, "There's no way the call could get through. When Zach's on missions, he doesn't turn on his phone. I've already gotten used to that, and so should you. Christopher is an elite soldier; whatever mission he's on must be a tricky one."

My fear and anxiety at the thought of Christopher being angry with me were instantly replaced by my worries about his safety instead. As such, in the next two days, I could not perk myself up to get things done.

Two days later, I received a text message from an unknown number. It contained only five words – I'm safe; don't miss me.

Seeing the text message, I immediately figured that it was from Christopher. I pulled myself together and began visiting Isabelle frequently. Sabrina's right; I need to satisfy Mom so that I can have her acknowledgment.

Right then, I received a call from Yvette. Surprisingly, she brought me a piece of news – that Dad was admitted to the hospital. He was critically ill and wanted to meet me.

"What did you say? Dad's sick? How is it possible that he's suddenly sick?" I asked, surprised. The Tanners had been met with a series of problems recently and the family business had suffered from drastic stock price fluctuations. Dad just released an official statement yesterday; he looked pretty rejuvenated then. Could it be because of Mom?

"Stop pretending. Don't you know perfectly well why Dad is sick? Everyone knows you and I aren't on good terms. If Dad didn't ask to see you before he fell unconscious, do you think I'd call you?" Yvette questioned in dismay.

"If you still take Dad as your family, then make a trip down."

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Yvette's reverse psychology would never work on me, given my character. However, I could not ignore her this time, since Dad was gravely sick. I knew I would feel uneasy if I did not go, especially since Dad had asked to see me.

What I could not figure out all these years was how the relationship of my loving parents suddenly changed for the worse. Everything that happened back then felt strange to me.

Now that Mom is back, could Dad possibly be reminiscing about our once sweet and loving family?

At the hospital, I made an inquiry at the front desk about the location of Dad's ward before making my way to the stairs. That was when I ran into Scarlett and Yvette. Both of them furrowed their brows as they cast their hostile gazes at me. Unable to suppress their displeasure any further, one of them finally uttered, "Stop dilly-dallying. Your dad has been waiting long enough for you."

Instantly, I was on alert. It was more than reasonable that Dad wanted to see me. However, Scarlett would not have allowed that to happen. I knew her too well. She had always wanted to chase me out of the Tanner family and would definitely stop me from meeting Dad if he was indeed in critical condition. After all, as a Tanner, I was eligible for a share of the family's fortune.

Nevertheless, I suppressed my suspicions and headed to the second floor. I figured I should meet Dad since I was already there. Besides, there was no way they could do anything to me in broad daylight.

I made a turn at the corner and saw Natalie and Crystal standing outside the ward. As usual, the two of them looked as arrogant as ever. Crystal even sarcastically said, "Oh, what a rare guest we have here! She even dares to harm her family member. Yvonne, you've always said you're so kind-hearted but it doesn't seem to be the case."

"Exactly. You grew up with the Tanners, yet you're now going against them. How heartless you are! If not for the Tanners, do you think you could survive to this age?" Natalie's expression was grim. In fact, ever since the wedding, they had always looked like they wanted to kill me every time they saw me.

"I'm not here for a fight. Yvette called to say that Dad wanted to see me. If nothing good could come out of your mouth, I'll leave now and come back when you guys can speak nicely." I pretended to take my leave.

"All of you, shut up! Yvonne, come in," Suddenly, Dad snarled from inside the ward. I could tell he was indeed not in a good state as his command sounded weak and powerless.

A surge of emotions overwhelmed me. As I hurried inside, I swept my gaze at Crystal, only to notice that she was casting a death glare at me. Natalie had to drag her aside with some force to make way for me to pass.

Pushing open the door, I saw Dad lying on the hospital bed with a drip attached to his hand. Though he did not look too sickly, I could tell he was not energetic. His hair seemed to have turned a lot grayer than before.

Since young, Dad had always had a few strands of gray hair mixed within his black hair. This was hereditary. Perhaps because there were too many problems stressing him out recently, especially relating to the family business, it felt to me that his hair had gotten a lot grayer within a short span of time.

"Dad, are you all right?" I walked over, my eyes filled with worry and concern.

"I'm fine. It's nothing but some old ailments." He muttered after letting out a few coughs.

I recalled Dad had a weak kidney and even had to undergo surgery a couple of years back due to his kidney stones. Moreover, he would often suffer headaches whenever he pulled all-nighters. I grabbed the diagnostic report on the desk for a read-through, only to realize Dad was running a high fever due to his kidney stones.

"You should take better care of your body. The doctor has mentioned that you should do more exercise during your free time instead of leading a sedentary lifestyle. Dad, you need to listen to the doctor's advice." I placed on the table some carnations I had bought on the way to the hospital. I then picked up an apple to peel it.

"I did pay attention to my health." Nathan seemed hesitant to speak.

"If not for Isabelle making use of the Goldsteins to cause all sorts of devastating blows to our family business, would your dad need to stay up through the night and become hospitalized for overworking himself?" With hands on her hips, Natalie stood by the doorway and spoke with an interrogative tone. "If you still treat your dad as family, you should ask your mom to stop whatever she's doing."

"Is this why... you asked to see me?" I looked at him earnestly.

"Yes, I hope you can help me persuade your mom to stop targeting the Tanner family. Otherwise, we could go bankrupt."

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I knew about Mom going after the Tanner family. I had thought that she was just snatching away some of the family's businesses out of spite, but she actually managed to overwhelm the Tanners in just half a month.

Grandma told me how Dad had married Mom and built his company using the money from Mom's family, only to betray her love for him later on. I could understand why Mom would do what she did, but... Is her ultimate goal to destroy the Tanners completely? Honestly, the thought of a beautiful and gentle woman like Mom turning into a merciless avenger scares me. Just how much pain and despair did she suffer to end up like that? Also, if this is the way she now behaves, how could she possibly approve of my relationship with Christopher?

Nathan thought I was reluctant when he saw no response from me; he got a little anxious. "I hate having to ask you for help, Yvonne, but I really have no other choice now. Besides, you grew up in this family! We may not be as rich as those wealthy families out there, but we never had to worry about putting food on the table, either. As your father, all I ask is for you to help me out this one time!"

Theoretically, I was indeed supposed to help my dad this one time. "Have you seen Mom?" I asked while glancing at Scarlett who was standing by the door.

"I have. She's still as gentle and capable as ever." The look of nostalgia on Nathan's face suggested that he was recalling some pleasant memories of their relationship.

"Yeah, Mom looks just as pretty as before. I'm sure she has already made her intentions clear to you, right?" I asked.

With the support from the Goldstein family, crushing the Tanners was definitely a piece of cake for her. Given the number of people who wanted to collaborate with Goldstein Corporation, the Goldsteins could easily have these interested parties destroy the Tanners along the way. As such, Mom must have made some kind of request in order to give Nathan a chance to approach me.

Nathan seemed hesitant to bring up that incident and said with a frown, "There are certain things that cannot be undone after so much time has passed. But she's your mother, so I'm sure she'll agree if you ask her.

Please help me out this time! I promise – it's the last time I'll ask for your help!"

The anxious look in his eyes and the fact that he used such a humble tone with me was evident that the Tanner family was faced with a huge crisis.

As my dad, he could've just shamelessly asked me to deal with his conflict, but something seemed to have changed in our relationship without us realizing it.

"I'll try my best, but I can't promise you anything. Mom and I aren't as close anymore after our prolonged separation, so she might not listen to me," I said with a helpless sigh.

"She will! She has always cared about you and feels guilty for leaving you with us over the years. I'm sure she'll gladly oblige to anything you ask of her!" Nathan exclaimed anxiously.

Unfortunately, he was wrong about that. Mom had not even approved of my marriage with Christopher.

"It is better for the doer to undo what he has done, Dad. If you can get Mom to let go of her desire for revenge, it would be a lot more effective than anything I say to her. I'll try my best to talk her out of it, but I don't know if it'll work." I was so caught up with my thoughts that I didn't even notice how inappropriate Dad's statement was. I was a part of the Tanner family, to begin with, so him saying my mother left me with them made it sound like I was an outsider they had taken in.

"Do you know what happened to my Uncle Robert?" Mom and Dad had known each other for so long, so Dad would surely know something about her brother. I was really curious as to what happened between Robert and Julia back then that turned her into a murderer.

"Robert? Why would you bring up that guy?" Nathan's expression changed the moment he heard me mention Robert's name. Judging by his look of fear and anxiety, I figured he must've suffered a great deal at my uncle's hands.