

Love Coming from the Least Expected Chapter 556

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“Can you guarantee your mother won’t try anything funny?” Julia questioned me.

“I can’t guarantee anything, but I will try my best to resolve this grudge.”

This is probably the only thing I can do at this point. Judging by Mom’s attitude, it doesn’t seem like she’ll let go of her grudge so easily...

The look in Julia’s eyes softened a little as she said, “You’d better remember your promise. Since Chris has made up his mind on marrying you, I shall hold a grand wedding for you two. Looks like you’re bound to become my daughter-in-law.”

“Thank you, Mrs. Lane!” Christopher was a part of myself that I couldn’t afford to lose, and I really needed someone on my side in a time like this. I wasn’t sure if I would be able to keep going if everyone were to be against us.

Mom’s whereabouts remained unknown to me, and news about my identity was all over the television by the next morning. I was unable to focus on my art. I just could not seem to draw anything of satisfactory quality.

Frustrated, I let out a sigh and tore the painting down before throwing it into the trash. I had promised to present Remington with a nice painting to help boost the hype of his auction, but I was no longer sure if I could even get it done in time.

Finishing an artwork within two weeks was a piece of cake for me when I had great ideas. This time, however, a month had already passed and my canvas was still blank while my trash was filled with scrapped paintings.

I tossed the newspaper aside after flipping through a couple of pages, only to quickly pick it back up when one of the articles caught my eye. Aside from articles about me not being Nathan’s daughter, there was another one calling me Mark’s daughter.

I read through the article carefully and saw that the journalist had gone into great detail by deducing Mom’s relationship with Mark as well as my age. The article concluded that I was actually the heiress to the Goldstein family, much to my amusement.

Pfft... What a joke! How is that even possible? I had jokingly mentioned that a few days ago. Who would've thought someone actually started a rumor about it and published it in the newspaper! Besides, if Mark really is my dad, then why haven't they told me about it after being together for so long? Am I really that unimportant to them?

I tried calling Isabelle again, but there was still no answer. Mom was the only person who knew the truth about me not being a Tanner, and yet she was nowhere to be found, not even at the Goldstein residence. What on earth is she so busy with that she can't even make time to see her own daughter?

Recalling Nathan's pleas, I sent Isabelle a text. Mom, will you please spare the Tanners? Nathan did raise me even though I'm not his biological daughter, so it's perfectly justifiable for him to have treated me poorly. Will you please let them go for my sake? I know you're mad at him for what he did to you, but to forgive is a virtue. I hope you will reconsider your actions after reading this message.

Suddenly, there was an urgent knock on the door, followed by Sabrina's desperate yelling, "Hey, Eve! Are you there? Something big has happened!"

I quickly opened the door and saw her child crying in her arms. Thinking there was something wrong with the child, I took him over from her and asked, "What happened? Why is she crying so loudly?"

"No, it's not about my kid! Mr. Lane and Zach have run into some trouble at the border!" Sabrina shouted with tears in her eyes.

Hearing that hit me like a bolt from the blue. I was so anxious that I nearly dropped the child. "What? What happened to Chris? Tell me!"

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As my voice was too loud, it attracted the attention of the neighbors. Noticing them opening the door to take a look, I quickly led Sabrina into the living room and closed the main door behind me. "What exactly happened, Sabby? Stop crying. I'm going to pass out from the panic!"

After hearing my questions, Sabrina immediately burst out crying. It was weird because I had never seen her being so helpless before. "Something terrible happened to Zach and the others when they were on a mission at the border. After getting shot, t-they went missing!"

"Missing?" I staggered back and asked, "What do you mean that they're 'missing'? How could two people disappear in broad daylight?"

"It's true!" Sabrina wept while carrying her child. "I just got the news from Sean. He initially wanted to ask about my situation. However, he accidentally let it slip that Zach and the others were involved in a shooting incident and went missing! What should I do? Eve, I'm so worried. My baby is still so young, too! W-What if-"

"T-There's no way that will happen!" I screamed and cut her off. Then, I tried to console myself, "It's impossible! Chris and I haven't even gotten a chance to hold a wedding yet, and I didn't manage to see him off, either. Therefore, there's no way he could leave me just like that. Don't jump to conclusions, I'm telling you!"

At that, Sabrina stopped crying and looked at me hopefully. "Eve, you have a way around it, am I right? Go on and inform Darius and the others about it. Since they're so powerful, they'll definitely have ways to find them."

"You're right. I'm going to find Darius, so stay right here. If there's anything, I will call you. N-No! Nothing will happen. I'm sure of it." However, when I turned around to leave, I accidentally bumped into the wall in my hastiness. Although I tried hard to calm myself down, I had to try a few times to unlock the doors with my trembling hands.

"You must ensure that they come home safely, Eve. I only have you to rely on," Sabrina begged while holding onto her baby.

"Of course they will be safe and sound!" At that moment, I was unsure if I was comforting myself or her.

As we were just weak and defenseless, we could only think of finding help in that situation. Therefore, Sabrina must have met with her parents before turning to me as a last resort.

Suddenly, I thought of finding Mark and Isabelle but I quickly dismissed that thought. After all, my mother did not even appear after the expose of me not being Nathan's daughter. Thus, there was no way she would assist me in finding Christopher, especially when the Lane family was her enemy.

I tried to call Darius, but the line was busy. Thus, I hailed a cab right to his office as he should be at work at this hour. However, I was stopped by the security guard at the main entrance of the building. After knowing that I was there to find Darius, he refused to let me in unless I could prove that I was somewhat related to him.

“Miss, Mr. Lane is a handsome guy, so there are plenty of women lining up to meet with him every day! How could I be sure that you don’t have a hidden motive in looking for him? Last time, a woman claiming to be his cousin almost managed to seduce him, and in return, I was so close to losing my job. If you don’t have any special reasons to meet with him, don’t ever think of going inside.” The security guard blocked the entrance, ignoring my panic and anxiety.

“Why are there so many unruly women recently? Why can’t they see if they’re even worthy of getting together with the mayor? Besides, the mayor is already married and doesn’t have the time to care about petty things like this.”

After hearing that, I asked anxiously, “If I manage to prove myself, will you let me inside?”

“Yes. So, who are you?”

Picking up the newspaper on his desk, I pointed to the headlines. “Take a look. This is me! You can read up on me later. Someone as prestigious as me—a daughter of the Goldstein family—would never want to become some man’s mistress.”

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“The daughter of the Goldstein family? Let me take a look!” When the guard read the newspaper, I took the opportunity to run as fast as possible. “Go on and take a look. I really have something urgent going on.”

“Hey! Wait for a moment!”

Ignoring the guard’s yells, I rushed to the building’s top floor as I remembered Dylan saying that Darius’ office was on that floor with pretty flowers placed right by his office door.

After coming out of the elevator, I stopped for a moment to catch my breath. I looked around and saw two flower pots placed by a door. However, as I was going to knock on the door, which was ajar, I overheard the conversation inside. Darius was on the phone; his words were enough to make me stop in my track.

“Have you not found him yet? I thought Chris was at Mapleton, a town with less than ten thousand residents. How could you only find his phone and not him? I don’t care what you do, but locate him immediately! After

all, you're professional mercenaries, so you must spot him before the others do!"

It seemed that Darius knew all about it, for Mapleton was the place Dylan had mentioned to me before. This meant that Chris and Zachary must have gone missing for a couple of days. The call that Darius made earlier must have been about this matter as well.

Immediately, my heart lurched in my throat. What a horrible situation he must be in, having gotten shot and disappeared for a few days!

"Sean, I'm counting on you. I'm begging you to please bring him back!" Darius continued for some while, but my mind blanked out. The only thing I could think about was Christopher being hunted down.

"I've finally found you. I can't believe you dared to make a fool out of me. Get out of here right now. Even if you are the daughter of the Goldstein family, you don't have the right to visit Mr. Lane as you wish." The bodyguard walked over and started to drag me out of the building.

Meanwhile, Darius opened the door upon hearing the commotion outside. When he saw me being tugged away by the guard, he shot me a stunned look before motioning the guard to leave. "Yvonne, why are you here?" he asked.

Although I was trying my best to calm myself down, it was futile and my hands were still shaking uncontrollably. Darius handed me a cup of warm water and said, "Calm yourself down. After that, you can talk slowly."

"Darius, you'll find Chris, right?" I asked in a panic.

Upon hearing that, Darius' expression darkened, and he knitted his eyebrows together. "What are you talking about? Chris is still at the border carrying out his mission. Did you hear some weird rumor from someone else?"

"Darius, you don't need to hide it from me. I heard everything you talked about on the phone just now. How is Chris right now? Is he hurt? How serious is his injury?" I asked away while warming my hands on the cup.

Darius was momentarily hesitant. He then explained, "It's not as bad as you think. The border is a vast area, so he must be resting with Zachary at some villager's home. You don't need to worry about anything."

"I have the right to know about it, don't I? I'll keep worrying if you don't tell me the truth. And I don't want the sugarcoated version of it."

After seeing how persistent I was, Darius sighed with worry. "As Chris was carrying out a secret mission, they did not bring many subordinates with them so as to remain low-key. However, they encountered some competent enemies and had to split up. It can't be confirmed if he's hurt or not." Seeing how my face was clouded with anxiety, Darius comforted me. "Don't overthink it. Didn't Chris manage to come back safe after every mission? He's more powerful than you think he is; don't underestimate him."

"But I—"

"Yvonne!" Darius' tone turned stern. "You are my future sister-in-law, so it's normal for you to worry about his safety. However, Chris is destined to be a part of the military. Even if he gives up the chance of being promoted, he'll still be a major. As the woman behind Christopher, you'll need to accept this fact, do you understand?"

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Nevertheless, I don't understand why I can't worry about Christopher. As it was the first time Darius spoke to me in such a stern manner, I was at a bit of a loss.

"He will still need to carry out missions in the future. Since you chose to be together with him, you need to be mentally prepared and stop feeling as anxious as you are now. Your negative emotions will affect everyone around you, and Chris would not want to see that. The ladies of the Lane family stay calm as they deal with challenges."

"So this is the meaning of being the woman behind Christopher." Looking at him, I could not help but laugh. Darius was right, for I had lost my mind as it was the first time this had happened to me.

The Lane family must have been the first to know about Christopher's disappearance. However, even when I went over to have dinner with them, they did not bring it up as they had faith in Christopher. No wonder when we were eating, Julia seemed to have something to tell me even though she gave it up in the end.

It seemed that Julia had wanted to inform me about Christopher. However, she forgot about it after we got into a quarrel.

"Thank you for your advice. I understand now." I smacked my head and calmed myself down. Since they chose to believe in Christopher, I should

too. Then, I took a sip of the water and felt that it tasted sweeter from before. Although I wanted to hurry back to accompany Sabrina, I could not help but blurt out, "Darius, did my mother know about your identity when she met you?"

Darius was taken aback by my question. He hesitated for a moment before answering, "I was the one who told her about it. When she was going to graduate, I revealed my identity. At that time, Isabelle was startled and even rejected the gift I gave her. I had a hard time understanding why she stopped contacting me after that; she even refused to reply to all my email messages." After smiling bitterly, he continued, "I don't know why you're suddenly asking me this question. However, I think I now understand why she cut me out of her life. It's because I'm my mother's son, so she chose to treat me as a random stranger."

After knowing the truth, I smiled. "Darius, I'm counting on you to bring Chris back to me. If you receive any updates about him, please do inform me right away."

Darius sent me off when I left the building. When the security guard saw that, he wanted to kick himself and apologized to me repeatedly. I waved it off and left for home, not wanting to make a scene.

When I reached home, I found Sabrina still pacing around the house while carrying her baby. Noticing my return, she questioned in a hurry, "How is it? What did Darius say? Is there any news about Mr. Lane?"

"Darius told me that he has sent a team of mercenaries to find them. The situation is not as bad as we think it is. Seeing that Darius was rather laid back – he was even shocked at my frantic behavior – I think we're really overthinking it." I scratched the back of my head and explained, "Darius even got angry at me and told me that I was being unreasonable if I were to continue to feel distraught."

"Really?" Sabrina immediately stopped crying. "If even Darius thinks that we're worrying needlessly, it must be a minor issue. I can't believe Sean told me the wrong information! I'll teach him a lesson when I get home. Also, when Zach comes back, I'll punish him by letting him sleep in the guest room for a week. How could he scare me like that?"

The abrupt U-turn in her attitude drove me speechless.

"Okay. I'll need to bring my baby home, or else my mom will nag at me for leaving her alone for such a long time. Let me know if there's any good news. Even if the news isn't satisfactory, notify me as well." Sabrina rushed out of the house while carrying her baby in one hand and a milk bottle in the other. In a blink of an eye, she disappeared from my sight.

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After waking up from my nap, I got up and went to get something to eat from the fridge. With a bottle of yogurt in hand, I went to turn on the TV as I sipped on it. After a moment, my expression changed. The bottle slipped from my hands and fell onto the floor, splattering yogurt everywhere.

But I wasn't faltered by it. I was sitting on the floor staring blankly at the TV when I stood up suddenly. Rushing to my bedroom, I packed two sets of clothes, my travel documents, and my ID. I then headed for the airport without informing anyone.

How could I have been so foolish? I had completely forgotten the reason I went to look for Darius after being shouted at by him. He tricked me with his words, and I believed him. Someone like Darius wouldn't have said something so inappropriate. Those words were more likely to come out of Julia or Shelley. How could a man like Darius think of something like this?

Besides, based on my understanding of him and the bland relationship he had with Shelley, he couldn't have been so sentimental. That was why he must have had thought of what to say beforehand and comforted me.

Things seemed to be much more serious than I thought. Christopher was in great danger, and they chose to let Darius, who was the worst liar, lie to me so that I would not worry.

I didn't know if I should thank them or be mad at them for trying to hide it from me. Not caring about anything else, I rushed towards the airport. I never thought about stopping at all. I must find Christopher this time.

Since he was in such great danger, I needed to go see him. I wanted to be with him no matter what. If everyone disapproved of this, we'll just die together. At least that way, we'll be together.

While buying the plane tickets, I pulled out my phone and took a look at the message Mom had sent me. We'll talk about minor things like this next time.

I was disappointed. If something like this was minor, what was serious in her eyes? Even though Mom loved me after she was back, I could never feel what I felt in the past. Perhaps the years of separation became a wall between us. Mom would never tell me anything, and she was never there whenever I wanted to tell her anything.

In the end, I told her to take care and left without any hesitation.

“Please give me a ticket to Yorksland. I want someplace that’s closest to Mapleton,” I said as I handed the ticket agent my money.

I had only found out about Mapleton of Yorksland a while ago. It wasn’t the town’s original name, but everyone liked to call it that. Renowned for its red flowers, the town was a beautiful sight, and a lot of people were attracted to visit the place. However, a fire soon burned everything down to waste, and the place was rebuilt into the town now known as Mapleton.

I sat in my seat and listened to the other passengers chat among themselves with my eyes closed. I slowly drifted off to sleep when I suddenly had a nightmare. In the dream, I saw blood flowing out of Christopher’s chest non-stop. He tried his best to walk forward but fell onto the ground after a short distance. The man tried to get up but had no energy left in him.

Then, his once bright eyes darkened and slowly closed.

“No... Chris...” I jolted awake from my dream and sat up straight in distraught. I had shouted, “Don’t die!” right as I woke up, waking up the other passengers on the plane. Some of them muttered their displeasure while a few of them asked if I was okay.

I shook my head but said nothing before pulling the blanket closer to myself. Christopher, please be alright. You have to wait till I find you.

Little did I know, my screams alarmed someone who was passing by earlier. The person was originally about to leave, but they stopped in their tracks. They then acted as though they were walking by again, just to take another look at me.

I couldn’t go back to sleep after waking up from the nightmare. Whenever I closed my eyes, I would see Christopher in danger, his body covered in blood. So I got up and went to the restroom.

After disembarking the plane, I walked along the unfamiliar streets. As I passed by an alley, a group of men came out from nowhere. One of them covered my mouth with a handkerchief as we passed by each other. But before I could even react, my vision darkened, and I lost consciousness.