

The Luckiest Bride Chapter 584

Chapter 584 Visit Nora

Janet had no choice but to rush to Seacisco with Ethan. While she was worried about Laney, Nora's health was more important. On the plane back to Seacisco, Janet pondered over the situation. "At your grandmother's birthday party last year, she looked radiant and energetic. How could her health have declined so quickly?" As Janet thought about the warm old lady, she couldn't help but feel sorry for her. Although they hadn't talked often, she could tell that Nora was the most sensible Lester. Ethan loosened his tie and leaned back in his seat. He held Janet's hand and closed his eyes wearily. "She's getting old. It's normal for old people to get sick. Besides, the Lester family has been facing a lot of problems recently, which couldn't have been good for her health." Janet nodded. Leaning against his shoulder, her eyelids gradually grew heavy. She had been so busy looking after the drunk Laney through the night that she didn't get to sleep much. Hearing the sound of her steadied breathing, Ethan opened his eyes and looked out the window.

Recently, the business world in Seacisco had gone into turmoil because Ethan had been openly attacking the Lester Group's businesses. Joining hands with the Whites had doubled the strength of the Larson Group. Not even Patrick's, Seth's, and Ritchie's combined strength could fight against them. Moreover, the news that Elissa was a cold-blooded murderer had spread like wildfire, which had damaged the reputation of the Lester family. It didn't take long before the share price of their company to plummet.

Ethan was only worried about how he'd explain all this to Nora. S

In the Lester family home, after waiting for a long time, Patrick finally heard the sound of a car pulling to a stop outside. Soon, Ethan strode inside the house hand-in-hand with Janet. Patrick stood up and went straight to the stairs, gesturing at them to follow. "Your Grandma has been waiting for you for a long time." Ethan followed Patrick up the stairs. When they were about to reach Nora's room, Patrick suddenly stopped and turned to warn his son seriously. "Don't say anything that you shouldn't say in front of her. Your Grandma's health has been rapidly declining. We haven't even told her what you've been doing to us." Ever since Ethan openly declared war on Patrick, Patrick completely resented him. If Nora hadn't asked specifically for Ethan to come back and see her, Patrick wouldn't have even called Ethan.

Ethan had nothing to say to Patrick, so he simply nodded. His attitude only served to make Patrick even angrier. He had to take a deep breath to calm down. Finally, he put on a fake smile and opened the door. "Mom, look who's here! It's Ethan!" 2 Nora was lying in bed, her face as pale as a ghost. Several nurses were standing by the bed. Her eyes had been closed, but when she heard that Ethan had come back, she slowly peeled them open and raised her hand at him with a smile. "Ethan, you are home." Ethan approached her and held her hand gently. "Grandma, I heard that you wanted to see me." Nora smiled. However, she was so weak that she fell asleep after exchanging a few words with Ethan. Upon seeing this, a lump formed in Janet's throat. Although none of them said it out loud, they all knew that it would be unlikely for Nora to make a full recovery this time.

After Nora had fallen asleep, Ethan and Janet turned to leave. When they reached the stairway, Ritchie happened to come home drunk. He had just gone upstairs and leaned

on the railing to support himself. When the three of them passed by each other, Ritchie suddenly sneered and cursed, "You damned bastard!" Ethan looked at him coldly. The alcohol gave Ritchie unprecedented courage. He flew into a rage and grabbed Ethan by the collar. "Don't you dare look at me! You shameless bastard! How dare you come back!"

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Chapter 585 Conflict

Ethan glowered at Ritchie, his eyes looking frigid, and said, one deliberate word at a time, "Why not? I'll destroy this place sooner or later." • "What the hell did you just say? How dare you stand up to me?" Ritchie's eyes widened with indignant fury. The alcohol made his cheeks bright crimson. He loosened his grip on Ethan's collar and looked around, seemingly looking for something. . Ethan straightened his collar. He did not want to lower himself to Ritchie's scummy level. When he was about to go downstairs, he suddenly heard a roar from behind him. "You go burn in hell!" Ritchie picked up a vase from the shelf in the corridor and smashed it against the wall. The glass scattered all over the ground like confetti. The other half of the vase was left intact in Ritchie's hand but the edge was dangerously jagged. All color drained from Janet's face. She looked at Ethan and shouted in warning, "Honey, watch out!" With a sharp fragment of the vase held in his hand as a weapon, Ritchie rushed at Ethan and was about to plunge the makeshift dagger into him. Janet tried to stop him but failed dismally. People in the living room downstairs didn't really know what was happening initially, but when Janet had screamed, they were all startled. Everyone ran over in horror, but there was no time to stop Ritchie. Ethan was quick on his feet and hastily retreated when he saw this. He shoved Ritchie away to avoid the sharp vase fragment that he was wielding. Ritchie had rushed forward too fast and because he was drunk, he wasn't steady on his feet. When Ethan defensively shoved him away, he lost his balance. He stumbled and fell down the stairs before he could cry out for help. He rolled to the bottom of the stairs and lay there motionlessly. "Ah! Mr. Ritchie!"

As the servants in the living room shouted, the servants upstairs also hastily ran downstairs. "Help! Mr. Ritchie fell down the stairs!" "He is bleeding profusely. He doesn't look like he's breathing!" Hearing the commotion, Patrick came out of Nora's room with a long face. "What's wrong? Why is there such a ruckus out here? Mrs. Lester needs rest. Can't you keep the noise levels to a decent volume?" A servant pursed her lips momentarily then cried out, "Sir, Mr. Ritchie was pushed down the stairs by Mr. Ethan!" Patrick's face turned pale with fright. He rushed downstairs to check on Ritchie, who was lying seemingly lifelessly on the ground. He held Ritchie up and asked desperately, "Ritchie, can you hear me?" Ritchie's eyes were closed and it was clear he had lost consciousness. Patrick shouted at the servants, "What are you waiting for? Call an ambulance!" The servants hurriedly made phone calls. Furiously, Patrick turned to Ethan who had just come downstairs. He raised his hand and wanted to slap Ethan. "How could you do this to your own brother?!" Ethan grasped Patrick's wrist and shook it off. He then said impatiently, "You'd better discipline your own son first." Patrick trembled with anger, but he didn't continue to fight with Ethan. He turned around and went to check on Ritchie's condition again.

It was not until then that Janet came to her senses. She held Ethan's arm and looked him up and down nervously. "Honey, did you get hurt?" Looking at the father and son, Ethan patted Janet on the back of her hand and slightly shook his head. He walked away from the scene with Janet and phoned the police. Seeing the indifferent look on Ethan's face, Patrick was enraged beyond words. "How dare you?! Ritchie's your brother! If anything happens to him, your grandmother won't let you go, let alone me!" Ethan looked into his father's eyes and said coldly, "He wanted to stab me. Everyone present can testify for me. If I hadn't pushed him away, he would have fatally stabbed me. Besides, I don't have a brother." 13

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Chapter 586 Paralysis

A few minutes later, police cars and an ambulance pulled in front of the Lester family's home. EMTs rushed in to carry Ritchie into the ambulance on a stretcher. Patrick also followed them into the back of the ambulance. Before shutting the door behind him, he looked at Ethan sullenly, with unfathomable emotion brewing behind his eyes. The police immediately set out to check the surveillance footage. Ethan had briefly explained that Ritchie attempted to kill him, so he had merely acted out of self-defense. It was not difficult to prove what he said. Patrick was always wary that someone would try to break in and steal top secret documents from his home, so he had installed security cameras everywhere in the villa, except for the bedrooms. It was clear from the footage that Ritchie was about to stab Ethan with a fragment of the broken vase. Ethan managed to dodge and pushed Ritchie away, which was how Ritchie tumbled down the stairs. 4

Ethan went to the police station to make his statement, and he was kept there for the time being. 2

Janet was worried sick. Before Ethan had left with the police, she asked, "Shall I call Garrett? I think Ritchie's seriously injured." Ethan comforted her calmly. "Go back to our house and get some rest. There's no need to call Garrett. I'll take care of it myself."

In Seacisco's best hospital, Patrick kept pacing back and forth restlessly in the corridor that led to the operating room. When Seth arrived and saw Patrick, he asked with concern, "Dad, how is he?" Patrick rubbed his aching temples and murmured, "We won't know until the operation is over."

Seth helped Patrick to the bench. Then, he leaned against the wall, fidgeting with the ring on his finger agitatedly. Two hours later, the doctor came out of the emergency room and called Patrick and Seth into his office. "The patient will live—" . "Wonderful!" Patrick exclaimed with a sigh of relief. The doctor pursed his lips and continued gravely, "The patient will live, but his neck was severely damaged, compromising the nerves in his spine. It's very likely that he will be paralyzed for life." . Patrick felt like he was riding an emotional roller-coaster. When he heard what the doctor had to say, he nearly passed out on the spot. Seth hurried to help his father, while asking the doctor politely, "Is there any treatment?" The doctor sighed. "Currently, the local medical tech is limited, so I cannot promise anything for sure. But if it's financially possible for you, I suggest you contact some foreign experts in this field." By the time Patrick came out of the doctor's office, he seemed to have aged ten years. Although Ritchie was by no means an excellent son, he was still Patrick's own flesh and blood after all. And now the poor boy was disabled. Patrick felt caught between a rock and a hard place. If it were anyone else who had hurt Ritchie, he would've done everything in his power to put the assailant in jail. However, the assailant was none other than Ethan, who was also his son. 4) "Dad, are you going to let Ethan get away with this?" Seth asked, as though he could read his father's mind. With a long face, Patrick said, "He's also my son." "But Ethan has never treated me and Ritchie as his brothers. And Ritchie has suffered too much. If he finds out that you let this slide, he'll only be sadder." As Seth spoke, there was a flash of resentment in his eyes. 2 He didn't have any affection for Ethan, despite them being brothers. These days, the Lester family and the Larson Group had been battling fiercely. Deciding to take matters into his own hands, Seth immediately hired the best lawyers, preparing to sue Ethan.

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Ethan was taken to the police station, Janet contacted his lawyer, prompting him to come as

soon as possible. "Sir, the Lester family is suing you." As soon as he arrived at the police station, the lawyer handed the file to Ethan. ! Ethan looked through it and sneered coldly. "I didn't expect them to take action so quickly." "Seth is the plaintiff. He's suing you on behalf of his brother under the charge of intentional injury. The hospital has provided the prognosis, which points to Ritchie's paralysis as a result of falling down the stairs." The

he lawyer systematically handed the materials and photos to Ethan. Ethan didn't even bother to go through them and tossed all the papers on the table. In an almost leisurely tone, he simply said, "You know what to do." The lawyer understood immediately. After gathering all the files, he bowed slightly and left to get to work. In fact, a week ago, Ethan had called his lawyer to

inform him that he would receive a lawsuit sometime soon, so the lawyer was already prepared for this moment. After he left, Ethan kept silent. In fact, he had been expecting all of this. A week ago, Ethan secretly asked his subordinate, Luis, to take charge of a project and contact Ritchie. Because the Larson Group was pulling some strings, the Lester Silk Fabric didn't receive any orders in the past month. At the chance of getting a new project, Ritchie accepted it without hesitation. He and Luis were in frequent contact because of this so-called project and often shared meals to discuss the cooperation.

On the day of the accident, Ethan had instructed Luis to ask Ritchie out for dinner. Luis was good at getting people to drink, and that was precisely what he did with Ritchie. After getting plastered, Ritchie decided to get a room in the hotel. "Why not go home instead?" Luis put down his glass and squinted at Ritchie curiously. "My brother said that Ethan's coming home to see Grandma today. If I go home, all hell will break loose. The less trouble, the better." As Ritchie rambled on drunkenly, he stood up to leave.

Luis smiled meaningfully. "He's just a bastard child. Why are you so afraid of him? If you don't go back and teach him a lesson, he'll probably think that you're a coward." The drunken Ritchie couldn't stand such provocation. He kicked the chair nearby furiously and roared, "How could I be afraid of a bastard like him?" Then, he stormed off angrily.

Seeing that Ritchie had fallen right into his trap, Luis texted Ethan to say that Ritchie was on his way back home. As expected, within half an hour, Ritchie stumbled into the Lester family villa, reeking of alcohol. Ethan then said those words on purpose to provoke Ritchie. Goaded by the alcohol and his anger, Ritchie attempted to kill Ethan but was instead pushed down the stairs by the latter.

After Seth filed the case against Ethan, his lawyer told him that this would be a tricky case to win. After all, there was surveillance footage that proved that Ritchie was the one who started the f

ight “Although Ritchie is indeed a reckless fool, he wouldn’t do such a stupid thing. Besides, I warned him beforehand not to come home because Ethan would be there. It just doesn’t add up...” Seth’s eyes flashed. He knew that this couldn’t be a mere coincidence. In his eyes, this seemed more like a setup. The lawyer smiled bitterly. “Even so, we don’t have any evidence, and the fact remains that Ritchie tried to attack Ethan first. Don’t worry. There are still a few days before the trial. We’ll try our best to build our case.” Seth doubted he would win, but he didn’t want to give up so easily. However, Ethan didn’t leave any trail of clues. Seth couldn’t find a single shred of evidence to prove that this so-called “accident” was thought out. 1 At last, on the day of the trial, the jury arrived at a verdict that it was Ritchie who tried to attack Ethan with a sharp weapon, which was life-threatening to Ethan. Thus, in an act of self-defense, Ethan pushed Ritchie away, causing the latter to fall down the stairs. Ethan’s countermeasures didn’t necessarily cross the line, and his actions were entirely justifiable. In a word, Ethan was announced to be not guilty. “I’m not convinced.” Seth stood up and talked back to the judge. 1 “Then submit your request to the supreme court for a second trial.” After saying that, the judge left the courtroom. Outside the courtroom, Ethan happened to run into Seth. Still wearing his signature gentle smile on his face, Seth approached Ethan and whispered in a low voice, “What a perfect plan! Don’t think that I can’t see through your tricks, Ethan. Just wait and see.”

Ethan hadn’t had much contact with Seth since he was a child, but he never had a good impression of him. He always felt that Seth was a two-faced person. “I don’t know what you’re talking about.” After saying that, Ethan walked past him without looking back. Seth did as the judge said and lodged an appeal for a retrial. However, the Supreme Court

upheld the original verdict and denied his request. In the end, Ritchie was forced to spend the rest of his life in a wheelchair, while Ethan got away with it scot-free. 2

Chapter 588 An Alliance

Patrick was well aware that Seth was competing with Ethan. In the business world of Seacisco, news that the Lester brothers had been fighting against each other had spread like wildfire, which put Patrick in a dilemma. He refused to pick a side and simply hoped that his sons would stop fighting. 3 Ever since Seth and Ethan started fighting, Seth had come home less and less frequently. One day, Patrick was surprised to bump into him at home. “Are you still busy fighting the Larson Group?” Patrick asked grimly. Seth shrugged off his coat and put it aside. There were dark circles under his eyes, but he still wore that same gentle smile, which made him look approachable. “Dad, don’t worry. I’ll handle this.” 2 But this only served to make Patrick feel even more worried. “You have to be careful with Ethan. We all underestimated him before. He has already taken down Elissa and Ritchie. I have a feeling that he won’t stop until our entire family is in ruins.” 2 Frowning, Seth stood up and walked to the stairway. Before going upstairs, he glanced back at Patrick and said indifferently, “Dad, even if he really is on a warpath, you still underestimate the Lester family. We took root in Seacisco generations

before Ethan was even born. You're just intimidated by Ethan. Go back to your room and get some rest while I teach that brat a lesson." 2 Patrick wanted to say something but stopped on a second thought. He knew that Seth was too prideful to listen to him. The following day, Patrick went to Barnes again. He wanted to talk to Ethan. When the receptionist informed Ethan that Patrick was waiting for him downstairs, Ethan calmly said, "Kick him out of the building." 2 He had nothing to say to Patrick.

In the battle against the Larson Group, Seth had lost several times. He was beginning to get frustrated. Seth had never encountered any setbacks since he was a child. After all, he was the most excellent Lester in his generation. He was always a step ahead of ordinary people. But now, he was losing miserably to Ethan. He couldn't protect his family nor their business from Ethan's blows. As time went on, he began to have a sense of crisis. If things went on like this, the Lester family's power would dwindle and they would soon be no match for Ethan. At this rate, it was only a matter of time before Ethan destroyed them once and for all. Moreover, the reason why Patrick was so afraid of Ethan was that the Larson Group was growing stronger and stronger every day. As if that wasn't enough, Ethan also had the support of the White family, which made him unprecedentedly powerful. He wasn't sure they stood a chance against him if things went on like this. Frowning, Seth racked his brains for a solution. He needed to find a way to instantly strengthen the Lester family in a short period of time—and the only way to do that was forge an alliance with another influential family through a marriage. The union between the Larson Group and the legendary White family had affected half of the enterprises in Barnes and Seacisco, rendering Ethan nearly invincible. But who among the Lesters could get married on such short notice? Unfortunately, the divorce procedures between Patrick and Elissa hadn't been completed yet. Ritchie was single, but he was a disabled man now and there was no way any woman from a prominent family would agree to marry him. Sinking into his leather chair, Seth lit a cigarette sullenly. All of a sudden, he let out a cold sneer and stubbed out the cigarette in the ashtray. 5 Just then, his phone on the table suddenly started to ring. He ignored it and didn't pick it up until his phone buzzed again with a new message. Glancing at the screen, he saw that it was the daughter of the Walker family, Julia. "Seth, are you still in Seacisco? I want to see you."