

Spoiled by Mr. Russell by Luminous Night Chapter 196-200

Chapter 196

“Y-You have no proof!” Nathaniel was stunned for a moment before refuting heatedly. The blood in his body ran cold as his mind went blank. He had no idea how Lily learned about his use of company funds for personal expenses.

How was this possible? He made sure not to tell anyone about it, not even Melanie. Lily was a nerd and only cared about her research and data, so how could she have found out? Nathaniel took the risk and assumed she was trying to trick him into a confession “Enough of your baseless accusations. Where’s your proof? If you continue this behavior, I’ll have to press charges!” Nathaniel threatened. “Nathaniel Hall, do you think you’re above the law? You keep threatening to sue and then eventually drop the lawsuit. You’re just wasting everyone’s time. Don’t push me too far, or I’ll make sure that when I press charges, you won’t get a chance to settle outside of court, and you can’t win against me, either! Get that into your thick skull. Do you think I’d bring this up if I didn’t have proof?” Lily snapped.

This finally shut Nathaniel up. He was afraid now. If the board of directors of MN Inc. was to find out what he had done, that was it for him. His position would be taken away. If the shareholders withdrew their funding from the company, MN Inc. could not survive either. Nathaniel finally understood how scary Lily could be! This woman, who he had known for five years and dated for three, had helped his company grow in the past few years. He realized that he never really knew her. Nathaniel’s palms were sweating as he swallowed hard, “Okay, let’s try to settle this then. What exactly do you want?” “I’m sure you know what I want,” Lily replied coldly. “Olivia Hart? That’s it? Does she have something on you? Why are you trying so hard for her?” Nathaniel asked in confusion.

“Someone like you will never understand,” Lily commented. “Remember, I’m not very patient, so don’t let me wait too long!” She warned before hanging up.

Looking at her tense back, Alexander hugged Lily from behind.

He rested his head on her shoulder and said softly, “You don’t have to do this alone. If you hand this to me, I can help you, and you won’t have to waste your time talking to him.” Lily turned around and hugged him back, “I know what you’re capable of, but this was something I had to settle personally. This is my mess, and I’ll take care of it! I’ll protect what’s mine!”

“I’m getting jealous over that declaration,” Alexander released Lily and smiled at her, “I wonder if Mrs. Russell would take care of me as well as she takes care of Olivia Hart,”

Lily smiled at his silliness but declared proudly, “Of course she will!”

Chapter 197

Nathaniel hung up the phone and took a cigarette break before entering the house. Inside, Melanie was sitting on the sofa, peeling an orange. Before putting it into her mouth, she ensured the orange was free of all pith. “Something wrong?” Melanie asked as she noticed he had a pained expression. She cleaned

up the mess on the table, wiped her hands, and sat up. Nathaniel shook his head, indicating that he rather not talk about it.

“Even if you don’t tell me, I could guess. I heard a thing or two when you were on the phone. Lily was the one who leaked the information about our perfume, right?” Melanie was good at reading people as if she was filled with wisdom.

Since Melanie had overheard his conversation with Lily, he decided not to keep it from her anymore. He heaved a heavy sigh, walked to the fridge to get a can of beer, and downed it.

“Why are you so angry when she’s the one who leaked the information? She’s just asking for trouble. If that’s what she wants, then let her be,” Melanie said nonchalantly.

She did not think it was a huge problem. Ever since the formula of their perfume was leaked the last time, Melanie had honestly stopped caring

It was true that the awards she had received were all because of those perfumes, but it was Lily who invented them. Melanie did not participate in any research or production, so she knew nothing about the formula. Her value to the company diminished after the award show.

After utilizing her as a marketing tool, their primary concern was making money. Following the fallout with Lily, Melanie knew MN Inc. could not rely on its past perfume lines alone. They needed to come up with a novel approach to retain their clients.

“It’s easy for you to say, but where can we get proofs? We have no evidence that Lily leaked those formulas. The key thing now is not to blame her but salvage this situation,” Nathaniel explained his reasoning to Melanie.

Nathaniel felt like his head was about to explode. The board was already after him, so he needed to come up with a solution as soon as possible. They were already dissatisfied with him because of the company’s previous production line crisis.

Although the relationship problem between Melanie, him, and Lily was private, the board of directors warned him to maintain a positive image for the company. The shareholders were older men with a conservative mindset. Nathaniel needed to ensure they were still happy with him to keep his position as the director of MN Inc.

“Aren’t we already producing our new product?” Melanie placed her hands around Nathaniel’s shoulders and leaned on him. “We could always tell the board that a new product line is in the works and is sure to be a hit with women. The company will make twice as much by then, so the loss we’re currently experiencing won’t matter much. “Besides, the public is already bored with our past lines, and sales aren’t doing well either. If the formulas were leaked, so be it. Let’s use this opportunity to do some PR and improve our company’s image,” Melanie suggested. “What do you mean?” Nathaniel frowned.

“If we can’t prove that Lily leaked the information, we could say we did it ourselves to stimulate healthy competition in the industry. The goal was to share confidential information in order to develop superior versions of our products. Since the damage is done, we might as well try to improve our image. Just think of it as Lily helping us instead,” she concluded.

After listening to Melanie, Nathaniel felt enlightened and nodded in agreement, "You're right! That's a great idea!"

"Don't worry too much about it. The most important thing now is to get our new products out into the market as soon as possible. Once our products become a hit, we no longer have to fear Lily of our formulas being leaked! Lily's just a nobody. She won't be able to cause much commotion," Melanie said confidently.

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Nathaniel's mood improved as he listened to Melanie. He was so happy that he listed her and spun a few circles in joy, "You're right! You're right! Haha, Mel, you're really my lucky star! With you by my side, there's nothing I fear!"

"Hey, hey, put me down. I'm pregnant, remember?" Melanie patted his arm and said playfully.

"Oh, right, right!" He put her down hurriedly and moved his car toward her tummy, "Hi baby, are you okay?" "Stop being silly! How could you possibly hear anything?" She poked his forehead and laughed.

"Of course, I can hear him! He's even calling me dad! Mel, it must've been tough for you. Thank you so much!" He stood up and put his arms around her waist. Their foreheads touched as he thanked her sincerely.

"Since you're aware of how tough it's been for me, treat me better, okay?" She said softly as she leaned into his embrace.

Melanie had her ulterior motives as well. Since she was now working with Frank, she saw little reason to worry about MN Inc.'s old perfume formula. Melanie would no longer be concerned about her status if Frank could continuously supply her with new perfume blends. She could still win accolades and maintain her fame.

However, Nathaniel must not know that she was still in touch with Frank. Since Frank was not in Sapphire, Melanie could finally relax. Still, she needed to ensure that this connection with Frank was well-maintained, or all her hard work would go down the drain.

"Mel, you smell nice. We haven't done it for a long time now..." Nathaniel's heart was racing as he took in her body fragrance. "Stop it!" Melanie pushed him away gently and turned away, but Nathaniel grabbed her wrist and pulled her into his embrace again, "We can't do it while you're pregnant?"

Melanie's heart skipped a beat. It was not because she did not want to, but because her body was worn out. Fortunately, her body had improved significantly without Frank's presence and Nathaniel taking great care of her. Melanie turned around and cupped his face, "All right, but you'll have to be gentle!" Nathaniel was delighted when she agreed. He listed her princess-style and promised, "Don't worry, I'll be gentle with you!"

When Lily arrived at the office the next day, she was called into Jenny's room.

“Did you see the post on Twitter yesterday?” Jenny motioned Lily to come over while pointing at her computer, “MN Inc. is so crazy! Who would do such a thing?” Lily was visually confused, so she walked over to Jenny and looked at her screen. MN Inc’s Twitter page was displayed on the screen, and there was an official announcement saying they were responsible for the information leak. The perfume formulas that caused a stir on the internet yesterday were from their famous line of perfumes. They released it to the public

because they wanted to use this as an opportunity to share, discuss and improve future perfume formulas.

Lily was floored by the stunt they had just pulled.

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It turned out Nathaniel had good crisis management skills since he knew how to use this issue to his advantage. After briefly reading MN Inc.’s announcement, Lily was sure her PR stunt had inadvertently earned MN Inc. good press with the public.

Although some questioned MN Inc.’s motives and if the formulas were authentic, they speculated the reason for this stunt was that something big was coming up. These internet discussions were indirectly giving MN Inc. more publicity. “What do you think MN Inc is trying to achieve? Isn’t this suicidal? Why would they expose their perfume formulas to the public? Unless they’re planning to stop their old production line?” Jenny placed one hand under her chin and spoke her mind.

Jenny’s words brought attention to the fact that MN Inc. had decided to abandon its old perfume lines while trying to improve its branding image. However, it was something they got forced to do since Lily released their formulas. Still, Jenny and Lily wondered if MN Inc. was capable of coming up with a new product line in such a short time.

The duo’s eyes met, but none said a word since they were both in deep thought. Suddenly, a knock sounded, and Jenny’s secretary entered. “Ms. Gray, there’s a Ms. Hart here to see you.”

“Ms. Hart?” Jenny frowned in confusion.

“It’s Olivia. I was the one who told her to come and see you. Let her in,” Lily turned and said.

“Didn’t we agree to give her a few days off? You should know that it’s difficult for her to start ...” Jenny reasoned.

“I’m aware we can’t have her join the company now, but MN Inc. will soon revoke their non compete agreement. I’m already at the most important stage of my research and need all the help I can get, so I told her to come and help me. I hope we can release our new product line as soon as possible,” Lily explained extensively.

She initially planned to give Olivia a short break, but after much thought, Lily realized she needed Olivia’s help as she could not handle the research alone. After all, this was Lily’s first masterpiece after leaving MN Inc., and she wanted it to be successful.

Besides, she was still a new employee at Rebirth, so there were not many who she knew well. Having someone familiar by her side to help was always welcomed, so she ultimately decided to call Olivia in.

"Hello, Ms. Gray, Lily." Olivia nodded at the two as she entered the room. She was pretty confused about the whole situation. She had received a call from Lily, asking her to show up at Rebirth, but Lily did not give her any more details.

"You can start coming to the lab and help. You don't have to worry about MN Inc, since Nate will revoke your signed agreement," Lily promised.

"A-Are you serious?" Olivia was thrilled.

On the other hand, Jenny looked at Lily questioningly. "Yeali, are you serious? We just received their lawyer's letter, so how could you have possibly solved this in a day?" As her gaze landed on the computer screen, she realized, "Unless the 'Twitter post yesterday was made by..."

"What? Lily, you shouldn't have done that for me. If they find out you were the one who exposed their formula, they'd..."

The news yesterday had caused an uproar in the industry, so obviously, Olivia was also aware of it. At that time, Olivia had doubts about who had released this information as Lily was the only one with such capabilities. Still, this was no small matter.

Chapter 200

It would be okay if MN Inc, did not care about this matter. If MN Inc. wanted to sue Lily for divulging trade secrets, so be it. Considering Nathaniel's petty personality, it would be a wonder if he ignored this matter.

"Don't worry. I dared to do this because I already had countermeasures in hand. MN Inc. will not use this to blackmail you anymore. Just come work here." Lily patted Olivia's hand gently to comfort her. Lily did not seem like she was saying that just comforted her as her bright eyes were full of confidence.

"Lily, don't tell me you made some deals or promises with that i*rk, Nathaniel?" Olivia asked after some thought. In Olivia's opinion, Lily had made a deal or some sort of compromise to smoothly settle this matter. Nathaniel was not a generous person, after all. "That's right. Don't tell me you made a deal in secret. Please don't be foolish. You have a bright future ahead of you." Jenny shared the same concern with Olivia. Lily happily laughed when she felt Jenny and Olivia's concern. "Both of you made it sound like I'm about to do something big. It isn't as serious as you think. We did have something similar to a deal, but I'm not the one who needs to compromise. Don't worry."

"Really?"

The duo was very suspicious of her words. They feared that she was lying to comfort them. "Of course! In a few days, MN Inc. will withdraw the contract. So, you can't rest anymore since you need to start working for me soon," Lily said as she patted Olivia's shoulder. "I'm looking forward to it!" Olivia felt relieved and nodded in reply.

The atmosphere at MN Inc.'s shareholder meeting was very depressing. Nathaniel wanted to undo his tie but only loosen it as it was inappropriate.

"Mr. Hall, don't you think you need to explain to all the shareholders about the perfume formula leaks?" One of the major shareholders asked in a cold and questioning tone.

Nathaniel remained calm as he had thought of a countermeasure on this matter. He spread his arms to his side as he replied unhurriedly and without hinting guilt. "I am sure all of you have seen the company's official statement. Currently, public opinion is still siding with our company. We are still maintaining a good reputation and public opinion. Concerning this matter, the pros far outweigh the cons. I don't think I need to explain anything." "The formula leak will cause a direct monetary loss. Who knows how many other companies can imitate our product now?! Have you ever thought of the effect on our marketing? How dare you still say the pros outweigh the cons? Why don't you tell me who will be the one bearing these losses?!"

All shareholders cared about was their personal interests. They could no longer ignore the matter when it was apparent they would lose money. However, Nathaniel remained calm when faced with accusations. He leaned forward and crossed his arms on the table.

"Mr. Hayes, don't be so agitated. Let me explain to you slowly about the financial loss. The leaked perfume formulas are from our mature products, which have been on sale for a long

time. Indeed, their sales volume consists of considerable amounts.

"In addition, the consumers liked them, and the perfumes had an excellent market response. Still, I want to remind everyone that these are old products and have lost their novelty."