

Nothing Matters, except YOU & Me Chapter

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Since Matthias wanted to please Robert, he had no reason to refuse Robert's offer to stay. Heather grinned at Matthias, since it would be interesting to see how Matthias would act with the Langstons around during dinner.

When they came back down, the living room was already wrecked by the kids. They pulled no punches because Robert wasn't around to control them. The sight shocked Matthias, who had never seen how destructive kids could be, but Heather was already used to it. On the other hand, Robert was dangerously quiet. These kids are getting rowdier. Didn't see that

during my kids' time. How unbecoming.

The kids immediately quieted down when they saw Robert. Heather had a strict upbringing, but the kids were nothing but spoiled brats. Robert was ashamed that Matthias had to see that, but he pretended that nothing had happened, while Heather shot a look at the kids, and

they started shivering. I see Heather holds some sway on them, huh?

The kids were also scared of Robert, so they quickly went away the moment Robert came down, and everything was quiet. It was getting late, and the adults were going to be home soon. The Langston Family was a big one, so not everyone was working at the company. Some members had their own pursuits, so they worked elsewhere.

Blake would be home soon. Since there wasn't much to do domestically, he preferred to work from home base. The work was easier to handle, and working at the headquarters was

more secure than toiling overseas.

On the other hand, Heather would have stayed overseas if not for Robert's plea. She had done a good job there, since she had successfully expanded the business in other countries. Robert wanted her to stay abroad for a few more years, but since his health was in decline, he was worried he might die before he saw Heather again.

Sometimes Robert thought he was just a burden for Heather, since he was the only thing tying her to the family. If or when he passed, he knew she wouldn't stay in the family any longer. "Take a look at this, Heather." Robert took some documents out of his study, which was surprising, since they usually wouldn't talk about work at home.

Heather took the documents from him, but she had a lot of questions in mind. According to their deal, she didn't have to help the company out unless it was on the verge of collapse.

Besides that, Blake was supposed to be the one to access the documents instead of her, so she wondered what Robert was thinking. But nothing good can come from this. He won't do

something like this otherwise.

Heather only skimmed through the documents, unlike Robert. She didn't want Blake to stumble across this, or he'd try to trip her up again. Since she had left the company, she didn't want to make things worse between her and Blake. If it weren't for Matthias, she wouldn't even have taken the documents from him. We had a deal, so stick to it.

"I don't see the problem here, Grandpa." She quickly handed it back to Robert, at the same time wondering why Blake wasn't home yet. Matthias wondered why she was looking like she was getting rid of something disastrous, but Robert knew why she did that.

“Blake needs to see some clients tonight. We’ll go on ahead without him.” Robert took the documents back.

“I see,” Heather answered calmly. Robert was just trying to tease her, but just as he expected, Heather was walking on eggshells around Blake after her departure from the company. They used to be in a competition, but now Heather was staying away from him. Robert thought it was a good thing, since he didn’t want their relationship to worsen any further.

Matthias was still confused. He thought Heather was refusing to work with the Langstons because she had another target—the Hart Group. It was precisely because he had that thought that Matthias wanted her to work with the Langstons. The Locke Group wanted to partner up with the Hart Group after all, so he couldn’t let the Langstons work with the Harts.

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The other Langstons started coming home just when dinner was done. Dinnertime was the merriest time in the Langstons, as they had a tradition of having dinner at home. If they didn’t, the family would eventually break apart, as nobody would talk to anybody.

It was the first time Matthias ever experienced a family gathering. Back in his family, Matthias rarely had dinner with his family, for he was an aloof man. It was the first time he thought family gatherings were nice. Since the main problem in the Langstons was between Heather and Blake, most of the family were disinclined to pick sides.

However, as Blake was a social man, he maintained a cordial relationship with everyone. On the other hand, Heather was a lone wolf, so the family was on better terms with Blake. But since Robert supported Heather, none of them ever picked a side when Heather and Blake got into a fight. Robert was the head of the family after all, and he was the decision maker for the most part. Technically, Blake didn’t have full control over the company yet.

It was the merriest time, but dinner went by quietly. Nobody talked when they were eating, since Robert disliked any chattering during meals. The only reason they gathered around was for a feeling of togetherness. Any chitchat was not allowed on the table. Even so, Heather was unusually quiet that night.

At the same time, Matthias noticed the girl who was sitting beside Heather. She was young and lively, and he thought she must still be in school. Everly was also staring back at him from time to time, for she was interested in the man who was embroiled in the scandal with

Heather. Everyone in the family knew Matthias, but Matthias noticed Everly because of her outstanding looks.

Since she was already staring at him, Matthias would naturally return the favor. If it weren’t because of the fact that he was dating Heather, Everly would be a star in his eyes. But after he started going out with Heather, he knew that Heather’s beauty came from the soul, while

Everly’s beauty was only skin-deep.

True beauty came from within. Someone like Matthias had seen many gorgeous women, so even though Everly was gorgeous, she lacked the X factor for him. Heather noticed Matthias

making eye contact with Everly, so she shot him a look, and he stopped staring at Everly. He only looked because his interest was piqued. Everly was Heather’s cousin, so they

looked similar, and thanks to that, he unconsciously compared them. Of course, Everly was still young, but she might grow up and become someone like her cousin.

However, that was all speculation. The truth was that Everly was still a child, and Matthias was just admiring her looks. He wasn't getting any ideas, but Heather's look was scaring him. Everly noticed that, and she chuckled quietly. So he's scared of Heather.

Everly was envious of her cousin, if she were to be honest. She knew most of the family disliked Heather, but at least Heather had the freedom to do anything she wanted. The men

who liked her were all prime real estate, as if she was the perfect match for every perfect man. On the other hand, Everly was insecure about herself, just like Blake. Blake thought Heather stole his spotlight, so he tried to trip her up at every chance he got instead of working together with her.

That was his way of venting his insecurity out, but Everly wouldn't do that. She didn't even have the guts to be jealous of Heather, let alone going up against her. All she could do was be the nice, quiet girl she always was. She knew Heather disliked the Langstons, but she also knew Heather didn't hate her, so she had been wanting to befriend her cousin.

She then thought about the case with Caleb. Blake promised he would help her out with her

relationship, but he never did. Everly didn't get into a relationship at school because she didn't have the courage to accept their confessions. However, she eventually fell for Caleb, and her love consumed her.

In the end, she was even willing to woo Caleb herself. It was love at first sight, and Everly didn't know why she fell for him no matter how many years had passed. All she knew was that she wanted to marry him.

Heather noticed the love in Everly's eyes, and she squinted. She thought Everly had feelings for Matthias, but unbeknownst to her, her cousin only loved Caleb. Most people wouldn't believe it either, for Caleb was an unapproachable man. He was a terrifying killer, so nobody

would expect a quiet lady like Everly to fall for him. It was an absurd love story as far as love stories went.

Thanks to that discovery, Heather started glaring at Matthias, and unlucky for him, Matthias looked straight at her. There were only a few people in the family whom Heather didn't dislike, and Everly was one of them. Hence, she would never allow Matthias to make a move

on her lovely cousin.

Matthias wondered why Heather was getting angry, while Everly chuckled quietly. She looked lovely when she smiled, so Matthias smiled back at her. Wrong move. Heather wanted to get him away from Everly, so she got even angrier when Matthias smiled. I have to talk to him after this.

Everly thought Matthias was a gentler person than her cousin, though Heather was a great match for him. Oh, Caleb says he likes Heather. Hm, gotta take him back from her, I guess. Everly was scared by the prospect, then she remembered Caleb telling her about how Heather loved to play men like a fiddle. She then wondered about Heather's relationship with

Matthias. I can see Matthias' love for Heather, but not the other way around.

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Love could make a woman grow overnight, but it could also change them drastically. Everly could feel her greed overwhelming her after she fell for Caleb. Eventually, she thought it was

okay to use Heather as leverage if it meant she could get in touch with Caleb. Everly had been waiting for Caleb's visit, but he never came. Instead, Matthias showed up.

In that case, she wanted to match Matthias up with Heather, since the only way to make Caleb give up on Heather was to get a boyfriend for her. But what Everly didn't know was that men would never give up on a woman—unless they lost their love for her.

It was the first time Robert realized that Everly was no longer the young girl she once was. And then he made the same mistake as Heather—Robert thought Everly was falling for Matthias. But no matter what Everly had in mind, Heather and Robert would not let it go on.

Subsequently, Heather and Robert exchanged glances.

Robert didn't let Matthias stay after dinner, as he asked Heather to send him off. Then he summoned Everly to his study. I have to nip this in the bud.

Heather and Matthias were walking side by side under the moonlight. Heather was staring down, and she saw that their shadows were getting drawn out by the silvery moonlight.

Matthias was stepping on her shadow, which reminded her of a legend that went like this: if

one stepped on someone's shadow, one would never break up with them.

"Why did you stare at Everly back then?" Heather needed an answer right then and there.

"Oh, is that her name?" Matthias didn't know who Everly was, so that was the first time he had heard of her name.

"What are you trying to do? Trying to seduce my cousin because I'm not letting you pass?"

Heather questioned irritably. Then she realized she sounded jealous, and her face turned scarlet.

It wasn't something big, but Heather was vexed by what she saw earlier. If Matthias was really a playboy, then she had made a bad choice.

"Don't take this the wrong way. I think she's cute, and she looked at me first. I thought there

was something on my face," Matthias quickly explained himself. All he had was admiration for Everly and nothing else.

"There were a lot of people looking at you, so why did you only stare at her?" Heather didn't

believe him. Her family was a curious one, so almost everyone was staring at Matthias earlier.

He smirked and nudged her with his elbow. "Someone's jealous." She's jealous.

"As if." She snorted. Someone's getting ahead of himself.

Oh, she's not admitting it, huh? Matthias continued, "She's a pretty one, so she caught my attention. I like all things beautiful." Matthias instigated her.

"Don't get any ideas. She's too good for you." Heather insulted him, much to his annoyance.

Matthias snapped. "It's the other way around, okay? You think your family's all that? Well, my family doesn't think so. We're just accepting the proposal out of pity." He wouldn't back off once the fight started.

"Ah, don't worry. None of us would marry a member of your family anyway." Heather jeered

at him. She was going to play along as his girlfriend and get something out of him, but the more she talked to him, the more she realized they couldn't get along, let alone falling in love. Heather was infuriated, and she thought he was just wooing her for fun. No matter what, she could never get along with him.

Matthias was dumbfounded. What was I even saying? Why'd I bring our families up? Sh*t, now I've done it. Matthias wanted to take back what he said, but he knew it was too late.

"Your car's up ahead. Have a safe trip." And Heather turned back.

Matthias saw her off, but he had nothing to say. Everything was going fine up until the end, and as a result, Heather stormed off. Goddammit!

Everyone was still in the living room when she came back, but Robert and Everly were nowhere to be found. Not that she cared though. Everyone lowered their voice when she came in, and they looked at her as if she was Robert. They feared her, so they didn't talk much.

She went straight to her bedroom, feeling frustrated. Life hadn't been well, for Matthias was

there. Ever since he showed up, her life had turned upside down, making it harder for her.

At the same time, Everly was sitting up straight in the study, facing her grandfather. She was

nervous about the fact that Robert summoned her there. Getting called to the study was never good news.

"Hello, Everly," he called her gently. Robert never watched over Everly much, and when he wanted to take a good look at her, she was already all grown up. Everly used to be a cheeky one back then. She would play all sorts of tricks, and she was as adorable as she was now. She loved to dress herself up when she was younger, so she was a precocious one. But eventually, she grew up to become a quiet and reserved one.

Nobody would realize she was there if she said nothing, and her tastes in clothes changed. Most of the time, she wore pastel-colored clothes, and her favorite color was white, just like

Heather. But unlike Everly, Heather was the center of attention no matter what she wore.

Because of that, Everly was always left in the background, her spotlight taken away by Heather. Nobody would know she was there if she stayed silent. "H-Hello, Grandpa." Everly was scared of her grandfather, since he punished her a lot for the pranks she pulled back in the day. And the study was where he punished her.

She thought she didn't do anything wrong, so Everly wondered why Robert called her over. Overwhelmed by fear, she couldn't even look him in the eye.

"You've grown up, Everly. I don't think I ever got the chance to talk with you, did I?" Robert started calming her down, since he could see that she was afraid.

"Y-Yeah." Everly was still looking scared. Women of her temperament would be preferable for men, but all the brilliant men now would like women who could stand on the same level

as they were.

“Do you have someone you like, Everly?” Robert looked her in the eyes.

Oh no. Did Grandpa find out that I like Caleb? She clenched her fists and started sweating. Everly couldn't admit it, and she stared down in fear.

“Don't be scared. I'm just asking. It's normal for girls your age to fall in love.” Robert calmed her down. The younger someone was, the purer their love was, and they wouldn't ask much

from their partner. The more they grew, the less pure love would become. It would become harder to fall for someone, let alone open up to them.

“Why are you asking me about that all of a sudden, Grandpa?” Everly didn't want to keep talking about it, since she was getting jittery. Even her parents never talked about that. All they told her was to not date anyone while she was in school.

“They think I'm siding with Heather, but no. I love everyone fairly.” Yes, Robert might give Heather preferential treatment, but that didn't mean he didn't care about everyone else. Everly was surprised, since she seldom heard Robert talking about sentimentality. Finally, she looked up at him and saw the genuine look in his eyes. I guess he's being honest. Everly had pushed down a lot of her thoughts, but at that moment, she wanted to tell her grandfather everything.

Heather wasn't the only one who wasn't loved in the family; Everly wasn't, too. At least Heather still had Robert on her side, but nobody was on Everly's, not even her parents. It wasn't as serious as Heather's parents, but she didn't feel the love nonetheless.

That was how the Langstons were. Everyone lived together, so it might seem like a happy family at first sight, but the concept of family was fickle at best. The most they felt for Robert was respect, and there wasn't any love between parent and child, unlike the other families out there.

“Can we not talk about this, Grandpa?” Everly mustered up her courage to say that, since she

didn't know what else she could say. But even that short question drained all the color from her face, obviously exhausting her.

“Why not? Don't you trust me, your grandpa?” Robert tried to wheedle it out of her. He felt sorry for Everly, but he needed to nip the forbidden relationship in the bud, or else Everly would be hurt. He thought Everly liked Matthias, as Matthias was the gentle, shining knight every girl liked. If he knew Caleb was the one she liked, Robert would have had her under house arrest until she gave the idea up.

“No. I won't betray the family, nor would I shame the Langston name. Can you stay out of this, Grandpa? Just let me crush on him for a bit. I know what I'm doing, and I won't get in Heather's way,” she said, embarrassed, as well as nervous, as if she was thrown into the public in nothing but her birthday suit.

Robert didn't want to force her either. Even if Everly did like Matthias, that didn't mean she'd

compete against Heather for him. But he didn't want her to wallow in her sadness any longer.

“I know you're a good girl, so keep that love deep in your heart, okay? You'll feel better once

you meet your true love, so don't be too hard on yourself.” He spoke in a roundabout way.

That was all he could say. There was once where he fell in love with someone he couldn't get, and he did something crazier than all of his descendants did, so he had no right to judge them