

Nothing Matters, except YOU & Me Chapter 546

Even Heather—who was usually uninterested in space—got into character. She looked at Matthias, and he answered, “This is more interesting than I thought.”

She nodded in assent. I seem to have underestimated modern tech. I totally didn’t expect simulations to be so realistic now.

“Pardon me for my rude behavior earlier, dear guests. Do you have any questions for me?” the captain asked politely, unlike how he acted earlier.

Matthias stared at the screen and asked, “Will we be landing on Kepler-452b?” That was the question he wanted answered the most.

The serious captain finally cracked a smile. “Yes, we shall be landing on Kepler-452b.”

Matthias looked at the captain up close. Since they were just simulated humans, they should be different from real humans. If he can smile, that means he has a real-life model somewhere. There were a lot of simulated humans around the deck, but most of them had a deadpan look on their face. The details were lacking, but obviously the creator had poured a lot of soul into the captain. It must have been hard to make even one character like that, so Matthias didn’t nitpick.

A moment later, a timer appeared on the screen, much to Matthias’ confusion. Then, the captain answered, “We’ll be landing in three minutes. Please remain seated and buckled up.” The captain started going back to the helm to get ready for a bumpy landing.

Heather was keeping her silence, since everything that was happening was already beyond her. She was hoping Matthias would explain the science behind it, but the most important thing at the moment was the landing.

Every second felt like an eternity, and a minute felt like infinity. The timer on the screen was accurate to milliseconds, and the tension was growing in the spaceship; even the deadpan crew members were starting to look serious. "This is the longest three minutes I've ever experienced," Heather blurted. Only a minute and a half had passed, but it already felt like forever.

"Patience. It'll be over in a minute," he calmed her down.

As if stopped by something, the crew put down their work and stood at their stations, staring at the screen. The robot started creaking, and Heather looked at it. Is it getting rusty? Why'd it creak?

"System error. Rebooting." The robot malfunctioned right before they landed, and it was just beside Heather.

Heather thought it was weird, then the spaceship shook violently, as if it had crashed into something. The screen blacked out, and the lights kept flashing. Heather arched her eyebrow, while Matthias held his forehead. An inevitable crisis was descending upon them.

Obviously, a landing was impossible. So much for that, Matthias thought. Time to get back to reality, I guess. Modern tech was still insufficient to simulate a landing on another planet, so they threw in a crisis at the last moment.

They started getting nervous; even though they had seen the trope countless times in movies, getting plunged right into the chaos was still heart pounding for them.

"Captain! We crashed into an unidentified object. The ship sustained heavy damage," a crew member said shrilly. That was not good news.

However, the captain was still calm and collected. "Activate the backup plan." He was too calm, as if the crisis was nothing to be scared off.

Heather and Matthias were slowly getting into the feel of it. The plot was smooth, and the suspense was thrown in at the right time. They thought they were in a Hollywood set, but they were just in a museum. The crisis was enough to make them nervous and fill them with adrenaline though.

The whole crew had descended into chaos, but the captain was still as calm as ever. Matthias and Heather were also starting to feel the despair surrounding everyone. As the

story went on, the ship was sucked into a black hole, which gobbled it up, making it disappear into nothingness.

Everyone was trying to escape the black hole, though Matthias was still holding Heather's hand tightly. It was a good thing none of them were claustrophobic, or they would have had a panic attack right there and then. Even though they were in a crisis, they were still calm.

The crew was starting to spit out jargon, and they listened closely. Simply put, the ship was badly damaged, and the black hole would destroy it. Some of the crew members were starting to write down their last will and testament, but it offered little comfort, since they had lost contact with Earth.

The robot had rebooted some time earlier, and he went up to Matthias and Heather. "The ship will be destroyed soon. If you have any last words, I can send it back to Earth."

Even the robot was starting to get sentimental. Matthias and Heather looked at each other, but they could see nothing in the darkness. All that was left in the final moments was to come up with their 'last words'.

"Dying with someone I love is one hell of a way to go. I have no regrets," Matthias said.

For a moment there, Heather felt touched. Even though she knew it was all fake, it didn't stop her from feeling the love in it though, and she got into character as well.

"What about you, Miss Langston?" the robot asked her.

Thanks to Matthias, Heather actually had something worthwhile to say. "My only regret is that I've never truly been myself. My life is nothing but a façade."

She blurted it out. It was something she would only think about, but she never expected herself to say it out loud. Heather felt like she had gone overboard for a bit. For some reason, she thought that she wasn't herself, then she realized it was because of Matthias.

Matthias' mood was simply infectious, so she wanted to be herself that day. She would get tired of wearing the mask, so she needed to take a breather every now and then.

The darkness went on for a long, long time, threatening to devour the very souls of everything caught in it. Everything around them was spinning, and time went on for eternity. After what seemed like forever, a bright light broke through, and Heather covered her eyes.

For a moment, the light felt painful to look at, then they heard the captain heave a sigh of relief. The captain, with all his wisdom, had managed to lead the crew members across the black hole for a chance of survival. The guests, Matthias and Heather, had a chance at a new life. Everyone was enjoying the sunlight, breathing in the fresh air. It was a great feeling after going through the black hole with barely any air to breathe.

The experience was a challenge, and those with bad health should never attempt it. A large part of the ride demanded decent physical ability, which meant the guests should be healthy and disease-free at the very least. It was more like a life-and-death simulation than a super realistic ride, but a meaningful ride nonetheless; one that made its guests honest to themselves.

Once they came out of the spaceship, Heather smirked. "Happy ending, huh?" She sounded sad though when she said that.

"Yeah, it's a happy ending. Don't you like it?" Matthias asked.

She shook her head. "Life is always cruel. It's always better to have multiple endings." She got out of character because everyone survived in the end.

"Oh, I should have chosen the bad ending if I had known about it." He looked at her and grinned.

"I see, so you can choose the endings." Realization struck her when she heard that. Looks like he knows more than I thought.

"The voucher mentioned it." He then took out a voucher. Heather looked at it, but she didn't pay much attention to it, though she suspected he might have more vouchers in store. "We can experience it again if you don't like the ending," he suggested.

"No. The ending's the only thing different, not the plot. I don't want to go through the same thing twice," she said in refusal. Since they chose the happy ending at first, there was no need for a second trip, even if the ending was a bad one. It would be pointless.

"But business is usually repetitive and boring. How do you go through it then?" Matthias asked in reflex. Whenever he was with her, he'd always try to debate.

She gave him a weird look, wondering why he would always try to argue with her. Why can't he just talk like a normal guy? Is debating with me that fun? "It's my job. Not like I can

choose what I like, unlike my personal life," she answered him, though she was annoyed about how he could ruin the atmosphere so easily.

Because of his question, she felt like ignoring him again. However, she was also frustrated that she couldn't talk to him normally. Every time she was with him, they'd end up arguing, and both sides would refuse to back off. That was especially true for Matthias, who could ruin the atmosphere single-handedly. She didn't know how she should handle him.

Matthias held back the urge to argue, since Evan had told him to change that habit no matter what. Matthias had been paying attention to that the whole time, but he'd still unconsciously argue with her. He couldn't do anything about his reflex, which was really frustrating. A moment later, Matthias started some small talk. "Are you hungry?"

Heather nodded. Thanks to Matthias, she didn't eat much that morning, and after that whole ride, she needed to refuel, so she needed to eat.

"This place is nice. Let's go." Matthias wanted to please her by showing her some good place to eat.

In response, she narrowed her eyes. Matthias was being too out of character, so she wasn't used to it. Since she was used to their constant arguments, it was hard to adapt to a nice Matthias. "I don't want local food." Heather started being unreasonable to see how Matthias would react to it.

"There's a Southeast Asian place there. It's great, and I think you'd like it." Matthias was still gentle toward her, but it wasn't like him. Usually he was sharp, snarky, and annoying.

"I don't like sweet stuff." Heather went a step further, obviously having a little plan going on in her head.

Nothing Matters, except YOU & Me Chapter 547

Matthias was getting really confused after getting played around by Heather. He never realized Heather was a picky eater until that point.

“What about Thai then?” he asked.

“Isn’t that Southeast Asian too?” she shot back.

Oh d*mn. He was feeling awkward. I was in too much of a hurry. “What about spicy food?” he asked patiently.

Heather only smiled, and it sent a chill down Matthias’ spine, for he had a feeling that he had done something wrong. A while later, Heather said, “You’ve eaten with me a few times before, but you don’t seem to notice my preferences.” She wanted to see how patient he would be with her, and if he would accept her unreasonable actions.

He gazed at her with a look of resignation, since he never did notice the details. Thus, Matthias tried to think back on the times he shared a meal with her, but it didn’t help. All he could recall was that the first time they had a meal date was at a Western restaurant.

Since that was his only lead, he decided to bet on it. “So, Western then?” He hoped she’d say yes, so he stared at her closely, trying to get an answer from her expression.

“I don’t really like to have Western food for lunch.” She refused him with a flimsy excuse, apparently being as picky as she could.

Matthias was frowning now. Wow, women are hard to handle when it comes to meals. No wonder they’re always called fussy. If it weren’t because she was the woman he liked, he would rather spend his time with his boys. After all, women were frustrating to handle.

“What about some light food then?” Matthias was running out of ideas, and he was wondering why Heather was being so picky.

She rolled her eyes. “That’s not filling at all.” Heather was laughing in secret when she noticed how confused Matthias was getting.

Matthias was still trying to come up with an idea, so he didn’t realize she was setting him up on purpose. Love could turn anyone into a fool, so the usually sharp Matthias was looking a bit dumb at that moment. “Do you have any ideas then?” Matthias didn’t want to give any suggestions anymore, since Heather would refuse it and insult him.

Heather shook her head, pretending to be as lost as Matthias was. “I have no idea. Why don’t you make the choice?” She kicked the ball back to his court again. Heather had decided that it would be his fault no matter what.

In response, Matthias stared at her hand, and he remembered how he held her hand back at the spaceship. The sensation riled his urge up, and he wanted to hold her hand in public too. A moment later, he went through with that idea, much to her surprise. He felt nervous holding her hand, but he pretended to be calm. In the beginning, Heather struggled, but she calmed down after that, letting him hold her hand.

“Since you have no idea what we should eat, then hotpot it is.” Matthias had made the decision directly. There was no time to waste, and he wasn’t accepting no for an answer. The sky was overcast, and the air was cold, so it was the perfect time for hotpots.

“I don’t like hotpots,” Heather said in refusal. She didn’t like the smell of hotpots, so she refused to go to a hotpot restaurant.

“But I do,” Matthias said aggressively, then he took her away.

In the meantime, Heather stared at her hand, feeling dismal. She never expected herself to end up like that. Matthias didn’t get mad with her, nor did he keep throwing out ideas until Heather said yes. Instead, he went straight for a hotpot, much to her chagrin and amusement. That wasn’t in her plan though.

The hotpot restaurant’s air was filled with the smell of seasonings and boiling soup. Heather never liked hotpot restaurants, since she didn’t want the smell to linger on her. No matter how classy a hotpot restaurant was, the smell would still linger in the air, and having that kind of smell wafting off a lady like her was unbecoming.

After they found a seat, Heather sat down across from Matthias. He was going to sit with her, but she chased him to the opposite side. "You actually like hotpots?" she asked in disbelief. Heather thought Matthias was just joking, since she thought there was no way he actually liked hotpots.

"Is that a problem?" Matthias then proceeded to order the side dishes without any hesitation, while Heather watched him.

"Don't you think hotpots smell weird?" Heather asked. She could feel the smell starting to stick on her, and she had decided to dump the shirt she was wearing.

Matthias smiled. "My mother was a Clysedalean, so she brought me to hotpot restaurants all the time when I was a kid. I like spicy food." That was the first time Matthias brought his late mother up, and Heather couldn't say anything to that. She knew that his mother had passed a long time ago, so Matthias might see hotpots as a way to pay tribute to his mother. No wonder he likes hotpots.

"The Lockes forbade me from having any hotpots and forced me to acquire table manners. They wanted me to be a gentleman, and they saw hotpots as nothing but a pleasure for the lowly men. They think Western food is classier, but I beg to differ. Taste is a subjective thing," he said seriously, and he had a good point. Thanks to that, Heather's distaste for hotpots lessened, even though only by a bit.

"Well, preferences should be respected, but I'm not really interested in hotpots." Instead of 'dislike', Heather was now 'uninterested'.

"What would you like then?" Matthias was holding the menu while staring at her seriously, expecting her to come up with an idea of what she liked.

However, Heather didn't have any idea, and she was getting nervous from being stared at. Furthermore, she was feeling guilty for playing him like a fiddle earlier. "Hotpot it is then," she answered gently, since there was no need to argue with him.

At that, he smiled victoriously while asking, "Would you like it to be slightly spicy or moderately spicy?"

To his surprise, she answered, "I want it to be super spicy." Heather put on a steely look, though her obstinance was part of her charm.

Matthias was surprised, so he tried to confirm with her once more. "Are you sure you want that?" He liked spicy food, and the hotpot was made in authentic Clysedale style, so it was really spicy. Thus, he was worried she wouldn't be able to take it.

"Yeah. I can take spicy food," she answered adamantly.

He nodded. "Sure. Super spicy it is then." She can be a kid sometimes. Well, let's see how she likes it then.

Their hotpot was served a short while later. In true Clysedale style, it was separated into nine parts. The soup was dark in color, and the smell was as spicy as it got, which made Heather sneeze. The smell was spicy enough, but Heather still tried to make herself look unfazed.

At the same time, Matthias was staring at her, waiting for the moment she would take her first bite, but Heather simply smiled at him nonchalantly. Then, she stared at the hotpot; she couldn't handle spicy food.

Heather couldn't understand why she would try to one up Matthias every time. Every time they met, she'd act like a child, losing her usual cool. Because of that, she set herself up for a torture session this time.

Also, Heather was averse toward mutton, for she hated the strong scent, so Matthias only dunked the mutton in one space, leaving the others clean. "This place's mutton is nice though." He spoke as he munched on the mutton.

"No. I hate the smell and its texture." She stood her ground. There was a line she wouldn't cross, so she wouldn't even give any mutton a chance.

"Oh, have more beef then." Matthias then put the beef in another space. He wanted Heather to have more meat, but she waved him down.

"I don't want any meat. I'll just have the greens," she replied. Even though Matthias was enjoying the meat, Heather thought it was viscerally disgusting to see him eat. The smell alone was spicy enough to make her stomach hurt, so she couldn't even work up an appetite. Quietly, she dunked some greens into the hotpot, thinking that it wouldn't be too spicy.

Matthias smirked. She's cute when she's not honest with herself. Heather was eating her greens bit by bit, while Matthias was already working up a sweat, so he took his sweater off.

As the spiciness started bursting in her mouth, Heather was struck by an urge to cry, but she stayed calm. D*mn. I shouldn't have pushed myself if I knew this was going to happen. That's it. No hotpots from now on.

They only ordered the side dishes, so there were no drinks around. "Alcohol or juice?" Matthias asked after noticing that Heather's face had turned scarlet from the spiciness.

He used to think she was too fair, so she was cute when she turned scarlet, not to mention alluring. By now, Heather looked like a ripe peach ready for the picking, and Matthias wanted to pick it.

Having alcohol would just make it worse, and Heather didn't want to torture herself further, so this time, she chose to be honest. "Lemon water, please." Some sour drinks should lessen the spiciness, she thought.

Matthias tried his hardest not to laugh at her. She was just too adorable, and he wanted to record her, but she might think it was rude and get upset.

After the waiter came with the warm lemon water, Heather gulped one big glass down in an instant. The warmth was soothing, though it only alleviated the spiciness by a bit. The hotpot was too hot for her to go on, and she had forgotten all about her hunger.

Since all she did was drink, Matthias took some beef for her, which made her shoot him a glare. "I told you I'm not having any meat." So why are you still giving me meat? I thought I told you I don't want them. Her face turned redder, though part of it was because of Matthias.

"All you had was some veggies. That's not enough. You need your protein," Matthias said, insisting on her having the meat. He couldn't understand why some people choose to be vegetarians, though he knew Heather wasn't one. Heather finished a whole steak the last time they had Western food.

"No. I don't feel like eating." She frowned, feeling something burning in her stomach, and she knew her condition would blow up if she kept it up.

That was when Matthias put his cutlery down. "Right, I'm stopping now then." He grinned at her, much to her confusion.

What is he thinking?

Nothing Matters, except YOU & Me Chapter 548

A waiter came over to clear the table after a while, and the hotpot was turned off before getting taken away. Heather looked at him in confusion, since clearing the table while the guests were still there was inappropriate.

Before she could say anything, he answered, "They'll change it into a mandarin pot later." He could guess what she had in mind based on what she was doing.

However, that didn't cheer her up the slightest. She didn't want to have any more hotpots, even if it was a mandarin pot, which would have one side of the pot with soup that wasn't spicy. By now, she couldn't work up an appetite, and she lost all interest in hotpots after the earlier experience. The spiciness still lingered in her mouth, and her stomach was still churning.

"I have some important business to settle, so I might have to leave." She tried to say goodbye in a roundabout manner as much as she could, but still, she was actually busy recently, for she needed to work on her company.

Matthias wasn't surprised about it, so he wiped his hands calmly. D*mn, I ruined the date again. "I'll send you off then," he offered, though it was hard to say goodbye. Matthias kept failing in the pursuit of Heather, and it was slowly eating away at his confidence.

"It's fine," she said. "You go ahead. I can go back by myself." She was going to see Leon, so she didn't want Matthias to bump into him, since Matthias didn't like Leon.

Matthias wanted to send her off, but he couldn't come up with an excuse. Soon, she stood up, obviously trying to leave. Matthias hesitated for a moment, then he followed her.

In response, she looked at him awkwardly. "Why'd you follow me?" She had tried her best to be gentle in order to get along with him, so the atmosphere between them was getting more awkward by the minute.

They used to argue and fight, showing their worst sides to each other. However, now that they were toning down so they could show their best sides to each other, the change came as a bit of a shock. Being nice and getting a reward in return was unusual for them, so they couldn't get used to it.

Dating was supposed to be all about honesty, not just a feel-good illusion, but the inexperienced wouldn't know that. Should a pair of inexperienced people date each other, the result would be a disaster.

After they left the restaurant, Matthias was still following Heather. He had spent too much time on her recently, neglecting his work. Thus, Nikolai had been calling him nonstop that day, but he ignored all the calls, even powering off his phone halfway through. However, Nikolai didn't give up, and he called Heather.

Heather received a call from an unknown number when she was waiting for her ride, while Matthias stayed behind her; even though she had refused his offer, he insisted on sending her off. When Heather picked up the call, she was surprised to hear Nikolai's voice, then she was even more surprised to hear him sounding so panicked. "Miss Langston, I need Mr. Locke to take my call. This is urgent. He's turned his phone off."

Matthias didn't know Nikolai had called Heather, so he was still looking at her silently. Then, Heather turned around before she ended the call. Once she hung up, she looked at him sternly. Instantly, Matthias felt a chill running down his spine, and he knew something bad was happening. Then, Heather questioned, "Why did you turn off your phone?"

Oh, so that's what happened. "I don't want to be disturbed," he answered seriously. He never expected Nikolai to reach him through Heather.

"Go back to your company right now. I have my own matters to settle, and that seems to be the case for you too. Stop wasting our time," she demanded. Heather disliked how frivolous Matthias was being, since she was someone who prioritized work. No matter what, their

private lives shouldn't get in the way of their work, so she was angry at Matthias. It was a sign of his immaturity, and the more she knew him, the worse her disappointment became.

At that point, she couldn't even tell if her meeting with Matthias in Italy was real or a dream. Back then, Matthias looked like a god when he spoke on stage. His speech encouraged her, and that was when she fell for him. She respected him because she didn't know him well, and it was then she knew she liked him.

But now, the more she knew about him, the more disappointed she was about the real him. He was a far cry from the perfect match she imagined. She didn't like how immature and random he was, for she wanted to control everything. She wanted everything to happen like how she imagined.

Even after getting into the car, she was still thinking about her relationship with him. The more she thought about it, the more she realized it was impossible for her to accept the real Matthias. Everyone was telling her to date Matthias, so she wondered if they were actually a perfect match in their eyes. The more she thought about it that way, the more she couldn't understand how she felt about Matthias. At the same time, Bradford City was undergoing an overhaul, so the plan was thrown out the window.

Matthias resumed his cold persona once he came back to the company. Just like what Heather said, it was Matthias' fault for not prioritizing work, and he knew he couldn't blame Nikolai for his actions.

On the other hand, Nikolai wanted to disappear right away when he saw Matthias. He wanted to be as insignificant as possible, but Matthias never shifted his gaze away. Nikolai was terrified, even though Matthias wasn't angry at all.

"Give me the file." Finally, Matthias shifted his gaze away, since he knew how Nikolai must feel.

Matthias had been going overboard lately. Even though Regan was keeping an eye on him, Matthias still skipped out on work all the time. Regan thought Matthias was doing it all for a woman, and since it was good news for him, Regan didn't stop Matthias. He was waiting for Matthias to make a huge mistake because of that woman, and that was the reason he stayed in Locke Group.

Then, the perfect chance presented itself when Matthias kept skipping out on work, so he orchestrated a financial overlook with his lackey in the company. Matthias didn't give Regan

full power over the company's finances, so any transaction that exceeded a certain amount had to be approved by Matthias before it was handed to Regan.

Since Matthias wouldn't grant him full power, Regan would use that to launch an assault on Matthias. He had been waiting for a long time, and Matthias finally made a misstep. Not long ago, Matthias approved a huge expense, but that expense was just a smokescreen created by Regan's lackey.

His lackey had swindled the money and escaped overseas. Regan knew that had happened, so he would use that chance to confront Matthias. The perfect chance presented itself again when Matthias went on a date with Heather. He was late for more than three hours, giving Regan enough time to call the whole board of directors to hold a meeting.

Regan sacrificed a trusted lackey all so he could deal a heavy blow against Matthias. The board of directors were getting disgruntled about Matthias' recent actions, and coupling that up with the fiasco Regan orchestrated, it would spell disaster for Matthias. However, Regan never thought about the fact that his conspiracy had already dealt a blow against the company.

Meanwhile, Nikolai wasn't worried just because of Matthias' actions. He was also worried about his future, for Regan's assault came all too suddenly. On the other hand, Matthias was reading through the file calmly. Regan went through all this just to topple me?

The more he read, the colder his smile became. Nikolai had seen how disastrous a storm Matthias could stir up, so he was feeling nervous about what was to come.

"When's the meeting going to start?" Matthias looked at the time.

"Two in the afternoon." Nikolai was worried for Matthias, but the latter didn't look concerned in the slightest.

"Half an hour away, huh? Well, this file is useless then." He then tossed it into the trash can.

"This is going to be hard to handle, Matthias. Do you have a plan?" Nikolai called Matthias by his name, obviously because he was overwhelmed by his nerves.

Matthias smiled confidently. "No, because I don't need a plan to reveal this lie."

Nikolai stared at him, looking confused. But this happened for real. You only considered this for like half a day before giving it your approval. Nikolai knew something was going to happen, and eventually, trouble came knocking. However, Matthias looked unfazed, much to his confusion.

After that, he got up from the chair and took his suit off. "I'll take a shower right now. Get me my clothes." He couldn't go to the conference smelling like hotpots.

You're going to shower? Nikolai stared at him in disbelief, but he was in no position to speak up. Maybe he does have a plan. Thus, Nikolai went to search for Matthias' clothes, while Matthias went to the bathroom.

The CEO's office was absurdly large, and the bathroom alone took up thirty square meters. He wasn't worried about what would happen, since he knew what Regan had in mind all along. Regan might be a scheming one, but he was still too inexperienced in the business world. His imagination was limited, and all his tactics were child's play for Matthias.

How should I humiliate him, hmm? Matthias allowed Regan free rein, but apparently, all that power had gone to his head, so he thought it was time to teach Regan a lesson. He started training his lackeys right after he came to work. Laughable.

Matthias enjoyed the bath and the feeling of water cleansing every inch of his body, taking away his fatigue. When he was done, the whole bathroom was filled with the scent of his body shampoo. He liked that brand for its fragrance and long-lasting scent. Matthias could relax while he was showering, but when he was done, it was time to hunt.

He had been lying in wait for that very moment.

Outside, Nikolai had already prepared all the clothes for him, then he opened the door quietly and put them on a dry spot.

Matthias' hair was wet, and his eyes were closed. Once Nikolai was done, he quietly came back out and closed the door. He knew that the worse the situation was, the more relaxed Matthias was. I guess he's going to the conference right after he dries his hair.

Nothing Matters, except YOU & Me Chapter 549

The board of directors were engaged in hushed conversations as they waited for Matthias' arrival. Regan was all smiles, confident that Matthias would be struck down from his sudden attack. There was a hint of smugness in his smile when he imagined how gloomy Matthias must look, but when Matthias came in, Regan realized he was smiling confidently, as if unfazed by the recent events.

Matthias sat in his spot, silencing everyone with a glance, then he threw a mocking grin at Regan. Oh, looking confident, huh, Matthias? No matter. You'll be the butt of the joke soon. Regan had distributed the file for everyone present, and the board of directors had finished reading the document that recorded all the mistakes Matthias did recently.

The biggest mistake recorded in it was about the eastern suburbs' project manager swindling a huge sum of money from the company. A scandal like that would have been censored, but Regan made it known publicly.

However, that was a huge mistake on Regan's part. He was only doing it to topple Matthias, but he forgot one thing—his tactics were just child's play for Matthias, who had seen worse in the business world.

"What's the main agenda of the meeting?" Matthias asked casually. He had to, since nobody would talk. At the side, Regan was smirking, while everyone was whispering, but Matthias was smiling mirthlessly.

"No answer?" Matthias asked again, but sternly this time. He was going to get serious.

In the end, Regan answered, "Have you finished the file I gave you, President?" He looked around him.

The windows were closed, and the lamps hanging above were radiating a warm light, shining on Matthias' face. His every move was magnified, and one frown was enough to silence the board of directors. "I did. Nonsense. All of it." He made that statement in a straightforward manner, and he stopped smiling. Instead, he started radiating a dangerous aura.

Regan was feeling awkward, and the directors didn't say anything. They knew how terrifying Matthias was, so nobody helped Regan out.

"If that is what you think, then may I ask you to explain yourself?" Regan was still courteous, since he couldn't just fight in the open. He still needed to be polite, even though it wasn't genuine.

In response, Matthias looked at him. "You're suspecting me of mismanagement and called a board meeting all on your own. Are you trying to force a resignation?" he asked calmly, but Regan was still terrified nonetheless.

Meanwhile, Nikolai was just beside him, and he felt like clapping for Matthias. He managed to shoot that question calmly. Nice one.

Regan smiled. "This is my job. It's my duty as the Chief Financial Officer to question anything regarding the finances once a problem rears its head." He was trying to calm himself down. Don't get scared, Regan. Stay calm.

"What about the board meeting then? Usually I'd be the one to call it, so what is the meaning of this? Can I interpret it as insubordination?" Matthias wanted Regan to explain himself no matter what.

Regan was really feeling the heat at that point, and his smile started to freeze up. He never expected Matthias to be so insistent, but then he realized Matthias was just distracting everyone and delaying the inevitable. "President, an employee has swindled a huge sum of money, impacting the company gravely. Everyone here has the right to know about this." Regan calmed himself down and explained himself.

"That is no reason for you to call a board meeting on your own." Matthias still wouldn't let it go, since he wanted to see what kind of tricks Regan had up his sleeve.

“President, we need an explanation about Harper’s swindling. You approved the deal.” Regan didn’t want to argue anything unrelated, since he noticed that the board was starting to chicken out. I have to get this back on track.

“I approved it, so? Do you need an explanation? Does everyone need an explanation? Anyone?” He looked at the board of directors and scoffed when none of them met his eye.

“I checked the papers, and there’s a lot of problems there. You shouldn’t have approved the deal so easily. A board meeting should have been called for a big deal like that. Besides, you’ve approved a huge sum of expense for the eastern suburbs’ project. Harper’s list for the expenses was just a trap. You’re the boss, but still Harper managed to play you like a fiddle.” Regan was still acting polite, but he was already starting to attack Matthias, obviously trying to dump the blame on him.

Matthias looked at Regan nonchalantly. “Ah, so that’s what you’re getting at. You think this is all my fault, and you want me to get the money back huh?” Matthias’ collected demeanor despite the crisis was scaring everyone there. This family feud is really... thrilling.

“You haven’t been coming to work a lot lately, President. I heard you were visiting the Langstons a lot, presumably because you’re courting Miss Heather?” Regan grinned and brought up Matthias’ recent activities so the board could see that Matthias had wasted his time on a woman.

Matthias’ face fell the moment Heather was brought up. He glared at Regan, gnashing his teeth. “We’re in a meeting, so don’t bring my personal life into it. That is disrespectful, Mr. Locke.” He didn’t like Regan dragging Heather into this.

Regan was delighted to see Matthias getting riled up, because that was what he was aiming for from the start. The angrier Matthias was, the easier he’d slip up. Regan wanted to expose Matthias’ true colors to the whole board of directors. “But that’s related to work, so I have a duty to point it out. Your recent actions have been disappointing, President. It is never wise to bring personal matters into work,” Regan shot back. Now that he had gotten the chance, he wouldn’t let Matthias gloss it over.

“So you believe that my recent actions are affecting the company.” Matthias put on a calm composure again. Since Heather was already brought up, he thought there was no problem admitting to it.

“Yes. You have always been a shrewd businessman, President. You seldom make mistakes, but you have been making nothing but mistakes recently. Minor slip ups won’t hurt the company, but this is a big case. I don’t think calling a board meeting to demand an explanation is too much, eh?” Regan was fashioning himself out to be a defender of the company so he could force Matthias to explain himself.

“According to your logic, people like us should abandon our emotions and become nothing but heartless machines then? After all, our judgment will be affected, and we’ll inevitably slip up if we’re human after all. According to your logic, being human will affect work.” Matthias refused to get back on track, only talking about irrelevant matters. Regan would start to get frustrated as time went on, eventually exposing his true colors.

“Please get back on track, President. Not everyone will make mistakes just because they have emotions. The point is that people like you should never let their emotions get in the way of work. You can’t make mistakes at work just because your love life isn’t going well.” Regan was mocking Matthias’ failure. He had been observing Matthias closely, so he knew it wasn’t going well with Heather.

Then, the directors looked at each other in confusion. They were wondering why the Locke brothers were talking about something irrelevant. I don’t think they need to bring this up during a meeting.

“This case is top secret. I see no need to give any explanation,” Matthias answered adamantly.

Regan didn’t see that coming, and the directors’ face darkened. They thought Regan was just making a mountain out of a molehill in the first place, but after seeing how arrogant Matthias was, they thought Matthias had to explain himself.

Even though everyone was forcing him to explain himself, Matthias still looked as calm as ever. Then, Regan asked, “So three hundred million is nothing to you, huh, President? Harper ran away with three hundred million in cash, and you’re telling me you won’t explain yourself just because it’s top secret? That is disappointing.” Regan was representing the whole board of directors, though he himself was angered by Matthias’ attitude.

“Do you even know Harper as a person? According to this file, Harper is now uncontactable, so how can you be so sure he’s the one who ran off with our money? That’s unfair to him,” Matthias retorted.

Regan stared at him in disbelief. He didn't expect Matthias to counter the attack with that point, but he scoffed. "President, I'm not the first to notice Harper's crime. It was Travis, Harper's old friend. If you have any questions about the matter, I can get Travis here to explain everything." Regan found Matthias' question laughable. I orchestrated this whole thing. As if you can get past me that easily. Laughable.

"Ah, no need for that." Matthias waved him down and took his phone out. He scrolled down until he found Harper's number, then Matthias called him on the spot. The speakerphone was turned on, so everyone heard the beeps. They waited with bated breaths, wondering if Harper would pick it up. Regan didn't think he would, since he knew Harper would have changed his SIM card at this point.

As expected, the call didn't get through, and Regan heaved a sigh of relief. Hah, what a farce. He then shot a look of disdain at Matthias. Let's see what you have left up your sleeve.

Matthias smiled. "Harper should have landed in France by now. He must have changed his number. Silly me." After saying that, he dialed Harper's other number.

What? Harper has another number? Regan never knew that. His face darkened, and his heart started to pound. If this call gets through, then that means...

Nothing Matters, except YOU & Me Chapter 550

The most nervous person in the room was Regan, who thought, in retrospect, that everything had gone unexpectedly smooth from start to end. Even though Harper was the person he wanted to rope in as his henchman when he first joined the company, he didn't know much about him, and he now felt that he was being set up as he listened to the things Matthias had just said.

This time, the call really went through, and Harper's voice sounded from the other end, making Regan's heart gallop in anxiety. All of a sudden, it dawned on him that this was such an ironic situation; he had carefully planned to set up Matthias, but he was the one being set up in the end.

"Hello, President Locke," Harper answered politely.

"Are you in France now, Mr. Lewis?" Matthias asked while looking at Regan, deliberately asking the question so he could hear it.

"Yes, President Locke," he answered. At the moment, he was at Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport, France, and he would be carrying out an important task in France.

"Director Regan Locke told me that you couldn't be reached and he thought that you had run away with a huge amount of money," Matthias said nonchalantly, but Regan's forehead was already breaking out in cold sweat.

On the other end, Harper was silent for a while before finally answering, "I'm sorry, but the signal isn't good in the airport. If Director Locke has any suspicions about me, I can confront him once I return."

It was as though Harper was a changed person, and Regan finally understood that it was a trap laid out by Matthias and Harper. This meeting with the board of directors on this day was meant to snare him, and now, he had made a fool of himself in front of all the directors and suffered a complete defeat.

After hanging up the call, Matthias gazed at him and said solemnly, "Director Locke, can you offer me an explanation now?" Upon hearing the conversation over the call earlier, the other directors all stood on Matthias' side immediately.

Regan's forehead creased deeply from his tightly knitted brows as he had no words to say. Now that things had developed to this stage, there was nothing else he could say to defend himself. "President Locke, I'm sorry that I didn't investigate the matter properly and made the wrong judgement," he said, pretending to be composed.

In the same room, Nikolai tried his best to suppress his smirk. Who would have thought that Matthias had been planning this? he thought. So it turned out that Harper didn't betray the company, and this was merely a ploy used against Regan.

“Director Locke, you should understand that there are consequences when an adult makes a mistake. This isn’t something you can just brush off by saying that you made the wrong judgement.” The tables were turned now; Regan was constantly finding ways to throw him off his position, so naturally, Matthias wouldn’t be soft-hearted against him either.

Speechless, Regan thought frantically, Does it mean that I have to resign to be held accountable for this huge mess? There’s no way that I will go along with his idea. I don’t mind any other punishment as long as I get to keep my position in front of the directors.

“I’ll be responsible for this matter, but it was the truth that Harper took away three hundred million. As the Chief Financial Officer, I have the right to know where this huge amount of money has gone,” Regan argued, making his desperate attempt to question Matthias and to emphasize that this was the reason why he asked for this meeting in the first place. That way, he could reduce his own punishment.

“I’ve told you that it’s a company secret. Besides me and Harper, there’s no need for another person to know about it.” Matthias purposely kept it a secret from Regan. Besides, it was true that Harper was on a secret mission now, so he had a reason to keep mum about it.

The other directors agreed with him because the Locke Group would have a few secret missions in a year that were not announced to the public, and only the person carrying out the task and the president would know it.

Tongue-tied, Regan realized that he had lost the battle as all the directors were now on Matthias’ side, and all he could do now was secure his position as a director. “I’m sorry, President Locke. I shouldn’t have suspected you.” At this point, he couldn’t stubbornly insist that he was right, so he had to lower himself to Matthias.

On the other hand, Matthias wasn’t interested in listening to his fake apology because he knew that he was trying to keep his position. “Do you remember what was my first working position when I joined Locke Group, Director Locke?”

Although he wasn’t sure what Matthias was up to, he had to play along with him now and answer his question appropriately. “A regular staff in the sales department,” he replied.

Matthias nodded. For him to get to his current position wasn’t easy at all, and he had done it step by step. “Exactly. People from the Locke Family had always started from scratch, and there are very few people like you who started with a high post. Personally, I don’t agree with giving such an important position to a newbie, and it was proven that you’re not suited for

this position. Maybe you should train for some time from the basic level, Director Locke.” Finally, he had made his intentions clear. After beating about the bush, his aim was to throw Regan off his position. How could he possibly allow him to keep his post as the Chief Financial Officer?

Meanwhile, the board of directors were quiet—nobody opposed or agreed to it, let alone put in a good word for Regan. Even though they didn’t say a thing, they basically gave their silent consent as Matthias shot Regan a provocative look. Recently, Regan had really been such a hindrance that he had to do something against him.

“You’re right, President Locke. I do have to train myself for some time at the basic level.” Besides accepting the judgement, Regan had no other way out. If Matthias brought this matter back home, he would have to return with his tail between his legs.

Just when he finally made it into Locke Group, Regan vowed that he wouldn’t rest until he had thrown Matthias off his post, and even if it meant that he had to start from the bottom, he didn’t want to leave the company.

“Looks like you have sincerely repented, Director Locke. I’m sorry but you’ll have to work from the basic level, so you’ll be starting in the same position as I was before—a regular employee in the sales department!” As he had experience in the sales department before, Matthias knew about the pressure and difficulties in that position, and it wouldn’t be a breezy task for Regan, who had always been pampered.

I’ll be waiting for the day when he calls it quits, Matthias thought. Since he’s here in Locke Group, then I have to play along with him accordingly as well.

When the whole fiasco ended, the board of directors all saw it for what it was—a fight between brothers. Despite the fact that Regan was not a likeable person, Matthias’ recent performance hadn’t been exactly satisfactory either, and it was clear that the directors were unhappy with him in the meeting.

After the meeting, Matthias returned to his own office with Nikolai gloating happily over Regan’s situation next to him. Engrossed in his work, Matthias ignored him and didn’t give him any reaction even though Nikolai had said so much. In the end, he had to shut his mouth.

“You don’t seem so happy, Matt,” Nikolai said tentatively.

Upon lifting his head from the document he was reading, Matthias said, "There has been a huge backlog of work recently, and there are many things I have to attend to. I don't have the time to be gloating over another person's misfortune."

In order to create an opportunity for Regan, Matthias had done a lot of background work, resulting in his backlog of work. It was a fact that he had neglected his work, and of course, part of the reason was because of his own personal relationship. Thus, it wasn't entirely unreasonable for Regan to question him at the meeting earlier.

"The reason why you've been acting abnormally recently is because you've been waiting for this day, Matt?" Nikolai asked sheepishly. Finally, he was able to vanquish the resentment in his heart, so he was over the moon right now.

"You can either go out or keep quiet," Matthias said without lifting his head while skimming through the document in his hand. There was still tons of work awaiting him.

Lowering his head with an innocent expression, Nikolai thought that Matthias was terrifying when he was working seriously, and he didn't dare to disturb him further. Although it was obvious that Matthias wasn't in the mood for chitchat, he had an unfathomable look on his face. Instead of rejoicing over his victory, he looked a little depressed.

After Nikolai sneaked out of the room, he went to Lara, who was rather free at the moment and was flipping through a book casually. On both theory and actual practice, Lara had been enriching herself recently, and she wanted to read more books.

Silently, he crept up behind her and gave her a scare when he asked, "What are you reading, Lara?"

Lara rolled her eyes at him and returned to her book. Seeing that she ignored himself, Nikolai then plopped himself next to her.

Sensing something amiss with him, Lara nudged him with her hand. "Who bullied you? You look so pitiful," she remarked with a bright smile on her face, gloating over his unhappiness.

"The president has been really weird recently. I can't understand what he's thinking about anymore," he explained in a defeated tone. It was true that he didn't understand what plans Matthias had in his mind.

He didn't even discuss it with him beforehand regarding the plan this time against Regan, and it looked like he had a growing interest to plan things by himself. This made Nikolai suspect if there was a gap between them; otherwise, he would have always discussed everything with him. Regardless, he had to look at himself in retrospect because of Matthias' abnormal actions.

"Why do you have to figure out what the president is thinking about? We're his subordinates and aides, not his brain," she said, pointing a finger at her own head. After all this while, her principle at work was carrying out Matthias' instructions, unlike Nikolai, who had so many thoughts in his mind.

"Let's drop this matter." In the end, he decided to let this matter go because what Lara said kind of made sense as well.

While she turned back to her book, he leaned in closer out of curiosity, which made her shove his head aside with her own head in annoyance.

"Buy another one yourself if you wish to read. I don't like to share a book with someone else," she grumbled.

Rubbing the spot on his head where she just hit him, Nikolai thought, Her head is so tough that it's a weapon of mass destruction!

On the other hand, in his office, Matthias went through the main points in some files again regarding his recent exchanges with Hart Group. The last time Locke Group attacked them directly, Tony was actually able to remotely control Hart Group from abroad, and Locke Group was not able to benefit from it at all. It was tough to go against Tony, but Matthias received some valuable materials after the huge confrontation previously.

In fact, he had been hiding something the whole time—it wasn't his personal goal to defeat the Hart Group. Despite the directors' disapproval to continue fighting with Hart Group, it was impossible to call everything off halfway when the war was already declared.

Recently, he was wavering in dealing with Hart Group, and he tried his best to avoid any direct confrontation with them; he was planning to stay still instead. However, this is no longer a matter I can decide, he thought as he opened a folder which was airtailed to him from the Locke Family.

There was no way to withdraw the arrow that had been shot. As he read the document in black and white, a sense of helplessness welled up in him. He was merely the front man of the Locke Group; many things were actually beyond his control!