

## Nothing Matters, except YOU & Me Chapter 729

When did Zayne even contact that man? Heather felt that Zayne seemed to be keeping a lot of things from her. However, at this rate, that person would show up at any time if they kept on stalling like this.

Heather sunk into the sofa in distress once again. Since that man was able to come to an agreement with Zayne, he had probably made his fair share of sacrifices. When she put it that way, Heather no longer felt as stressed to meet him. After all, Zayne had always been on her side all this time; to be 'betrayed' by him once in a while wasn't such a bad thing.

Just then, a gust of wind sent the rustling noise of grass into the villa, and Heather was agitated by the slight commotion. From then on, she paid extra attention to pick up any movements from outside while a hint of anticipation tickled her heart.

After all, she had been thinking about this person a lot for the past few days. She had once been in love with him, so how could she erase him from her memory in the blink of an eye? After experiencing that, Heather truly felt that emotions could make a person act in predictable ways. Back then, she was an outsider to all these conventional patterns of human nature; now, she was a part of them. She'd never imagined for this to happen to her, but the truth was right in front of her eyes.

Meanwhile, the white walls around her seemed like a cage; Heather hugged her knees on the cushion, her eyes clouded with weariness and confusion.

At last, a knock on the door cast away her moment of self-deprecation—it appeared that their guest had arrived. Heather waited in anticipation for him to come in on his own, and

she even forgot to speak.

“Is anyone home?” Matthias stood outside the door; he was as nervous and restless as the woman inside. As a result, he went a little heavy on the knock, and the door creaked open under his unintentional force. He realized it wasn’t locked to begin with. It seemed like Zayne had helped them out quite a lot this time. Matthias headed straight inside, for he knew this was an indication that he was welcomed. After entering the living room, he noticed Heather on the sofa right away. Even though her hair was messy and she was wearing a pair of slippers, he still thought that her beauty was unparalleled.

“Hey,” Matthias greeted Heather.

However, she had been looking elsewhere since he entered. She was deliberately avoiding his gaze and wasn’t planning to respond to him either. Instead, Matthias went up to her; as his footsteps approached gradually, Heather’s heart sped up steadily as well. He finally came to a stop when he was about three steps away from the sofa.

He stood there and looked down at Heather for a long time, but she wasn’t willing to spare him a glance. Hence, he leaned toward her and nudged forward a little, slightly closing the distance between them.

“Are you really going to ignore me, Heather?” Matthias’ voice was as soft and soothing as ever, and his expression couldn’t be more kind.

“Why are you here?” Heather acted like she didn’t know about his visit. Matthias took another step forward. Heather finally turned to him, and the two shared a moment of silence as they locked eyes. Just then, Heather found her words stuck in her throat; similarly, Matthias couldn’t seem to voice out the sweet talk that he had planned

either.

“I missed you, so I came to see you.” Matthias wanted to keep staring at Heather like this without a care in the world.

On the other hand, the woman was fully prepared so that she wouldn't be caught off guard.

She wasn't planning to keep on conversing with Matthias, nor did she want to have any physical contact with him. Thus, she instinctively scooted to the side. “I've already made it clear last time,” she said firmly. She couldn't bring herself to be with him, after all.

Meanwhile, Matthias promptly sat down next to Heather when she turned away. The moment she felt him beside her, she darted far away in reflex like she was being scalded.

“You always pretend to hate me, but I know how you truly feel.”

Matthias didn't want to lose her anymore, and he wanted her to understand his feelings.

“Please behave yourself, Matthias.” Heather stood up immediately, not being able to do it anymore.

The man reached out and grabbed her by the arm, for both sides were unwilling to give in.

Heather struggled to break free from his grip, but she couldn't seem to muster the strength to do so.

“I know that you've been thinking about it for the past few days, Heather.” Matthias wanted to take control of the situation this time. In other words, he refused to be on the passive side forever and to be led on by Heather all the time.

“I don't know what you mean by that,” Heather said coldly with a scoff as she flung away his hand. Unfortunately, his fingers were so tightly clasped around her arm that she couldn't shrug it off at all.

“Running away isn’t going to help us, Heather.” Matthias’ voice became cold as well.

Heather didn’t expect him to be so headstrong today, and she couldn’t reject him when he acted this way. At that moment, she was a little regretful that she had decided to wait for him in the living room.

“We’re on two opposite sides, Matthias. It wouldn’t do us any good to keep hanging onto each other.” Heather would rather put everything on the table at this point.

“You seem to be the only one thinking we’re on opposite sides,” Matthias reminded her.

“Am I wrong, though?” Heather stared condescendingly at him; she was now standing while he was sitting down. Meanwhile, Matthias’ calm and collected demeanor made it seem like he had full confidence of winning the woman back.

“I’ve always been with you, so how could we be on opposite sides?” Sometimes, Matthias felt like he didn’t understand Heather at all. Why wouldn’t she voice out her doubts? Instead, she was always beating around the bush and blindly making assumptions.

“We’re both businesspeople, so you should know how pros and cons work.” Heather’s eyes were emotionless as they remained fixed on Matthias. In reality, she wanted to hide the panic in them.

“Businesspeople are entitled to be in love too, and they’re fully capable of giving up their profits for the one they love.” Matthias returned her eyes without any reservation. He was aware that she had her own considerations and doubts.

“Well, I can’t do that, so I don’t want you to force yourself to either.” Heather felt it was quite unfair for Matthias to be stuck in this situation. Moreover, she still couldn’t trust him fully.

“Are you a fool, Heather? The world we live in isn’t dead—one plus one doesn’t always add up to two. No matter what happens, I love you and I’m willing to stand on your side.”

Matthias was transparent with his words for he no longer wanted to play the guessing game with Heather.

“When the time comes, can you guarantee that you’ll be able to do something that could hurt yourself all because of love?” Heather never believed in love; she was also unconvinced that a slick and cunning man like Matthias would actually offer such a naive compromise out of the blue.

“I can guarantee that, but I’m not sure about you.” Matthias was spot on with his response.

Heather was touched by the sincere look in his eyes, and she was nearly convinced by his words. However, there was a voice inside of her constantly reminding her to not be swayed by Matthias’ honeyed words in the heat of the moment.

“You’re right, I can’t. Compared to love, I’m more willing to put my trust in human nature.”

Heather gave him her answer. There was nothing he could do about it, for she didn’t believe in love no matter what.

Matthias chuckled in response; his laugh was candid and radiant even in such a tense atmosphere.

“I’m sorry, I know it’s my fault for not making you feel safe. I’ve never given you a definite answer since the beginning, so it’s only normal for you to feel this way.”

Matthias unhesitantly put all the blame on himself.

Heather stared at him suspiciously; the man before her felt like someone she’d never met.

More than that, she couldn’t understand how he could see through her thoughts so easily.

Needless to say, Matthias' words had reached her heart, and it would only take another second for her to give in entirely. However, her rationality pulled her back, stopping her from surrendering and agreeing to it.

"Why can't you give up on us, Matthias? It's a path full of obstacles and hardships," Heather couldn't help but ask him. After all, she was curious about the reason behind Matthias' perseverance.

"How is this giving up when we haven't even gotten together yet?" Matthias saw through her conflict inside, for he knew that she was currently in a dilemma and beating herself up.

"You're getting harder for me to understand, Matthias," Heather said in resignation. The look in his eyes were terrifying to watch—his eyes were passionate and warm, and Heather had nowhere to hide in front of them.

"Just don't leave me. You'll understand everything about me sooner or later." Matthias finally let go of her arm. He was confident that she wouldn't be rushing to head upstairs anymore, for her resolve had already begun to falter.

"I'm afraid I don't have the time." Heather felt like time was ticking rapidly. There were still many things waiting to be done, and it wasn't right for her to be in a relationship now. Thus, she simply couldn't agree to be with him.

"I have a lifetime ahead of me, so why would you be short on time?"

Matthias could easily refute her every claim. He'd been taking control of the situation since the start of it, and Heather found herself unable to counter his unyielding attitude.

"Why do you have to be so stubborn? In this day and age, a lifetime of happiness isn't possible in a relationship anymore..." Heather was pessimistic all the way.

Matthias didn't want to hear her carry on, so he interrupted her immediately and said, "I'll do my best to give you a lifetime of happiness." After all, it wasn't easy to convince Heather with just a few touching words. She glared at Matthias fiercely while hiding the sliver of delight she felt from his words—she didn't want to let him know that she was feeling that way.

"Do you know the current situation in Bradford, Matthias?" Heather went all business-like all of a sudden.

Her change in attitude told him that she was giving him a chance. He replied calmly, "Yes, I do. In fact, I know everything—I know that Bradford is in a mess right now. I even know that Myra has been kidnapped and that Tony is being threatened." Sure enough, Matthias knew everything—it was just as he said, but Heather was surprised.

She didn't expect him to know this much. It turned out that he was only pretending to be oblivious, for he certainly knew more than Heather had imagined.

"Since you know everything, you should also know that we Langstons are the heart of the storm. I can't promise you that I'll be able to leave everything behind." Heather had long since accepted the truth; since she was already being hunted down, there was a huge possibility that her family's name wasn't the only thing on the line this time. Hence, she had to put her life on the line as well.

"I know. I know that you're in a horrible situation right now, and you must be feeling awful inside too. However, I'm willing to face it all with you even if I have to put my life and the Locke Group at stake," Matthias said firmly. He gave Heather full confidence that he would protect her at all costs.

“It’s not worth it—I’m not worthy of such kindness from you,” Heather replied miserably. The more Matthias was being kind to her, the more she felt lowly and inferior. How could someone as heartless and impatient as her deserve such compassion and tolerance from him?

“It’s up to me to decide whether or not you’re worth my efforts and not anyone else—that’s including you.” Matthias stood up abruptly. As he used his taller stature to his advantage, he stared down at Heather. Despite that, his eyes remained soft and affectionate.

Heather looked up at him, and she was dumbfounded. Since he had already put it this way, she was now stuck in a dead end with no way out. However, she still couldn’t say yes to him.

Meanwhile, Matthias felt that he was almost there—he knew that he was just one step away from victory, but the final step was a tough one to cross. Nevertheless, he patiently waited for Heather’s response. He was positive that he’d be able to get through to her, for he knew that the woman had a soft heart.

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Heather crossed her arms after having escaped Matthias’ strong grip, and her lips curved into a sardonic smile. She stared at Matthias without a word, and her eyes were emotionless. It seemed like they were trying to bore into his soul. Matthias no longer wanted to run away, so he stared back at her. The two of them maintained eye contact in utter silence, and the rising tension almost made Zayne panic for them as he watched the show from the floor above.

“Are you still unwilling to give in?” Matthias chuckled helplessly. Heather was much more



persistent than he had imagined. As such, he couldn't think of a better way to go around this matter anymore.

Heather took a step back, wanting to make more distance between them. After all, some things couldn't be solved just by giving in. Since she didn't know how to respond, she simply

looked at him quietly, hoping that he'd give her more time to consider. "A problem like this can't be solved simply by giving in," she finally said. Sure enough,

whatever was between them was too complicated; they wouldn't magically be 'happily ever after' the moment they gave in.

They had different ideals, so there would naturally be conflicts between them. Matthias

wasn't able to see eye-to-eye with Heather, but he couldn't convince her to agree with his

views either. Things often weren't as simple as they seem. Since Matthias wasn't rushing for

an answer, he was willing to take things one step at a time if they couldn't resolve their conflict at the moment.

"Perhaps it's because I don't understand women—I really don't know how to make you happy," Matthias said bitterly. He felt like he wouldn't be able to handle her even with a few extra brains.

"Since I'm giving you so much pain, why don't you just give up on me?" Heather really didn't

understand what made him so determined to be with her, for the slightest amount of kindness and warmth she had given him in the past couldn't possibly be enough to motivate him for all this while.

At the end of the day, things were back on square one—there was an irreparable disparity

between them, and they were separated by the strife between their families. At the thought

of that, one wouldn't help but compare their situation to the story of Romeo and Juliet.

Nevertheless, Matthias didn't want his story with Heather to end in a tragedy.

An uncomfortable tension hung in the air; under Heather and Matthias' calm composure, a war was going on between them in the loud silence. Matthias didn't know how to control his emotions anymore, for Heather never failed to torment him mentally every time he faced her.

Cold winds were normal in winter. Right then, Heather was attacked by a chilly breeze out of nowhere and she instinctively wrapped her arms around herself. Before she knew it, it was already late winter; the temperature in Bradford City took a tremendous drop all of a sudden, and she almost couldn't get used to it.

"I'm going upstairs." Heather gestured toward the top of the staircase.

The living room was so empty that she always felt like she'd be attacked by the cold wherever she sat.

Matthias nodded. "Just leave the rest to me." He obviously didn't forget his mission for coming here.

Heather let out a silent sigh of relief when she saw that Matthias had stopped pressuring her. It's for the best, she thought to herself. She headed to the staircase and prepared to go upstairs, but she already had one foot on the step when she couldn't stop herself from taking another look at Matthias.

Their eyes stayed locked for a few moments, and countless unspoken words were hidden in

their silence. Matthias' soft and gentle gaze was mesmerizing, but Heather eventually

forced herself to look away. It was getting cold, so she should head upstairs as soon as possible.

Now, Matthias was left alone in the living room. He recalled his meeting with Zayne a few days ago; he had expected the man to reject his terms of negotiation, but to his surprise, the man had agreed to take it.

Matthias was overjoyed, and he felt luckier than winning a lottery. Just then, he recalled Zayne's shady appearance; he didn't think a guy like that would turn out to be quite a nice person.

He knew that Zayne had done a lot for Heather's sake, and he was a little guilty when he compared his contributions for Heather against that man's. Whoever Zayne was to Matthias, be it a romantic rival or a friend, the former had undoubtedly earned the latter's respect.

After that, it was time for Matthias to get to work. The villa was basically inhabitable at this stage, so he had to give it a more cozy ambience; he knew that Heather was longing for a place to feel like home to her.

Similarly, Matthias was desperate to be a part of a harmonious family, yet reality was harsh and ruthless. He could only hope to walk hand in hand with Heather once all of this was done and dusted.

With that, he held back the urge to rush upstairs. It wouldn't help right now even if he stormed into Heather's bedroom; before resolving their conflict at hand, she would never say yes to him no matter what.

Judging by Heather's ambiguous yet suggestive attitude earlier, Matthias had a feeling that they'd only be able to get out of this awkward relationship after everything was over. Love and conspiracy were quite an incompatible pair, and Matthias couldn't tell if he was foolish

or pitiful for trying to make the two work together. However, he had no choice since he had truly fallen in love with the woman.

Matthias asked for help only from his trusted contacts, and he promised Zayne that he'd never expose the location of Heather's temporary home. Even though Matthias knew that the woman's whereabouts in Bradford wouldn't remain a secret for long, he was willing to try his best to prolong it. Therefore, he didn't give out the address to just anyone.

Matthias had used the hidden forces of Bradford as his bargaining chip with Zayne, for these were the details that he had gathered over a long period of time. Nonetheless, he was willing to share it with the other man.

Since he had chosen to love Heather with no regrets, he was clear with his goals this time; he knew that Zayne was Heather's protector, and he only wanted the guy to keep her safe as much as possible.

The role of her protector was supposedly Matthias', but he was unfortunately burdened by many other things at the moment. For example, he couldn't let go of his mother's grudge; even though his mother had told him not to live in hate before she passed, he couldn't do it.

Matthias sunk into the sofa in Heather's seat where her warmth still lingered on the cushion.

He was happy to be sitting here; even though she had hurt him badly, she never intended to cut him off entirely.

Because of that, Matthias refused to give up on Heather either—perhaps he would succeed if he waited just a little longer. Whatever the case, he was confident that he would one day

be able to conquer the impermeable fortress in her heart. As he reveled in the residual scent

of her presence, he felt like this unique smell of hers was even more alluring than any aphrodisiac.

At last, Matthias got up from the sofa and headed straight to the main door of the villa, pulling it open and letting sunlight flood the house through the vast opening. He breathed in the fresh air from outside. Similarly, he wanted to let the light brighten up the entire house and lighten their mood as well.

Naturally, the noise from downstairs was heard by Heather. She came out from her bedroom and peered at Matthias from the top floor. He seemed to be in a much better mood after she went upstairs, and she ended up reflecting on herself after seeing that. Matthias could never be himself in front of her since he would always have something to worry about or even be wary of. He was so in love with Heather, so he couldn't help but constantly care about her opinion of him.

That was precisely the reason why Matthias had ended up putting himself into a box—he couldn't act freely in front of the woman at all. She didn't want to see this happen to him, and she could already make out the constraint in his eyes. Is love really just a chain after all?

The more Matthias showed outstanding performance of any kind, the more Heather felt like it was unfair for him—she couldn't give him the freedom he deserved. She enjoyed her own freedom, yet she was prone to tying down other people. If the two of them were to get together, one of them had to give up on themselves.

Considering Heather's self-centered personality, how could she ever give up on her lifestyle for Matthias? He was the only one who had been trying to change himself to fit with her.

This was an unfair trade, and it was an investment without any return. Heather couldn't bear

to see him making countless sacrifices just for her even though he couldn't be himself.

Similarly, although Heather wasn't very experienced in love, she understood one thing clearly—the upper hand always belonged to the side who contributed the most.

The scale was heavily tilted toward Matthias' end of their relationship; he was endlessly putting weight onto his tray, making it heavier and heavier. However, Heather couldn't afford for him to do that.

If a disagreement ever broke out between the two of them and they were no longer bound by love, Heather wouldn't know how to carry on. She liked to take control of everything, yet the unpredictability of love made her lose her power to make decisions on her own will. This feeling was absolutely terrifying to her.

Meanwhile, Matthias seemed to have felt Heather's gaze on him. He looked up from the sofa in her direction, completely catching her off-guard.

The unnatural look on Heather's face couldn't reach Matthias since he was quite a distance away. However, the way the corners of his lips lifted was so bright and eye-catching.

As such, the woman quickly whirled around and left. She didn't want to see the radiant smile on his face, for she didn't think she could respond to that. If only she could experience love once in her life without any reservations like a moth to a flame—how great would that be?!

At that moment, she hated her rationality more than anything. For her to still act according to her rational self... Did it mean she wasn't truly in love? The answer to that was evident.

Since Heather was unable to trick herself, she couldn't blindly accept Matthias' feelings either.

The moment she realized the truth about their relationship, she could no longer accept Matthias as if nothing had happened. She was unsure if things would actually change once the obstacles between them were to clear up. In short, Heather didn't dare to bet with her own feelings. If she were to put everything on the line and gain something completely out of her expectation in return, she would fall apart for sure. Besides, it wouldn't be fair for Matthias either. To that, Heather's rationality once again reminded her to stay away from Matthias and to reject his every pursuit. Only when everything had been settled would she be clear of how she felt inside; perhaps they'd have a good ending together by then.

Downstairs, the door was wide open and winds of cold blew freely into the living room. Matthias' heart was warm, so he couldn't feel the chill at all. Right now, he was only less than a hundred steps away from Heather. For a moment, he could even forget all the problematic matters that were going on in the Locke Group—he was willingly running around here in Heather's villa like an errand boy. If it were for a loved one, Matthias was happy to do anything at all, and he even set his phone on airplane mode. After putting behind the troubles of the outside world, he planned to stay quietly by Heather's side today. The way Heather had sneaked a peek at him outside of her bedroom earlier clearly meant that her heart was deeply swayed. Matthias found himself constantly comforting himself with the idea that victory was nearby. In a business setting, a businessman wouldn't rest until the moment a deal was sealed; sometimes, it was the same for love. Matthias had perseverance when it came to every

business transaction, so he was no different in the face of love. Moreover, he almost gave up on her the last time which made them start all over again from zero. Thus, he decided that he wouldn't make the same mistake twice. Matthias had a feeling that the heavens were watching them—he was painstakingly given a second chance, so how could he let it pass so easily? When he took a look at the time, he realized that it'd probably take a few more minutes for his people to arrive. Matthias wanted to prove that his love for Heather had infiltrated into every single part of his daily life. To love was to never back away, and their love story was just about to begin. A triumphant smile tugged on Matthias' lips as those thoughts filled his mind. As he breathed in the same air as her, he could almost feel Heather's heart beating alongside his. However, little did Matthias know that the Locke Group was in total chaos at this very moment. A mysterious figure had just landed out of nowhere, bringing turmoil to the company. The company's higher-ups were in total distress due to Matthias' absence, but unfortunately, no one could find him anywhere.