

Surprise 141

Chapter 141 No One Wants to Do Anything With You

While Courtney was playing with the children, she was slightly distracted. From time to time, she glanced at the silver sedan that was parked at the entrance of the cemetery; she was restless.

After a long moment, she heard the sound of the car door opening. Alicia and Alexander got out of the car one after another. They had the same calm and collected look on their faces—she could not detect any change of emotion from their appearances.

Staring at their expressions, she was depressed.

Alicia waved at Tina. “It’s summer break. Do you want to stay at my house for two days?”

Upon hearing that, Tina’s eyes darted between Courtney and Alexander. Instantly, she had an idea. “Sure, Great-Aunt Alicia. Can I bring Jordan along with me?”

Alicia looked toward Jordan; uncertainty flashed before her eyes when she saw his features.

People said that birds of different feathers don’t flock together. Although Jordan was not Courtney’s own child, he looked somewhat similar to Tina and her.

“I can’t make the decision.” She glanced at Alexander. “I can only bring him along if his father agrees.”

Tina turned toward Alexander. Blinking, she began, “Mr. Alexander, you’ll agree, right? When you and Mom are married, my great-aunt will become Jordan’s great-aunt too.”

In response, a faint smile appeared on Alexander’s face. Looking at Alicia, he said with respect, “I’ll leave my kid to you, then, Aunt Alicia.”

The moment Courtney heard him calling ‘Aunt Alicia’, goosebumps crawled all over her body.

Later, Alicia led the two children into her car.

When Alexander was staring at the car that was leaving the cemetery, he heard Courtney mumble, “Who’s your aunt? Did anyone agree for you to call her that?”

“What did you say?” He turned his head and asked deliberately even though he already heard her.

“Nothing.” Throwing him a single glance, Courtney changed the topic casually. “You don’t have to worry about Jordan’s safety. Although my aunt doesn’t have children, she’s more careful than anyone else in doing things. Your kid will be safe with her.”

However, Alexander did not respond to her words.

“Where are you going? I’ll give you a ride.”

“It’s fine. I’ve called a taxi. It’ll be here in a moment.”

“The news is not what you think it is.”

“What do you think I’ve thought, then? Suspecting that you have an affair with Britney? If you’re really going out with her, why did you still come to me? I’m not that stupid,” Courtney deflected.

Yet, Alexander waited patiently for her to finish her words before he began slowly, “Cameron went to find Gale, and Gale thought I released the news deliberately. He accidentally spilled it to Cameron, and that’s why you guys believed it. Isn’t that what you assumed?”

As soon as he mentioned that incident, Courtney’s expression hardened.

“I know what happened. Isn’t it too late for you to confess to me now?”

“What if I said that I didn’t even plan to do anything dodgy from the beginning?”

Upon hearing his confession, Courtney was caught off guard. Startled, she stared at Alexander.

“Get into the car.” Taking two steps forward, Alexander pulled open the door to the passenger seat. “I can give you a reasonable explanation about every assumption you have made. And, if you think my explanations are unacceptable, you can leave the car at any time.”

The car went onto the highway, and Alexander’s deep voice echoed inside the vehicle. When he mentioned the ideas Gale had suggested, he sounded unnatural.

“So, Gale was the one who told you to buy those things and ignore me?”

Alexander nodded, and he avoided her gaze.

“Why did you do as he said? Haven’t you ever been in a relationship? How can there be only one standard when it comes to this kind of thing? If he knows so much, he should’ve published a book about tricks in relationships!”

A series of questions went on and on inside the car. Not being able to hold back her anger, Courtney took her phone out. “No way. I have to tell Cameron about this. Ca…”

Her voice trailed off, and her expression changed. As if she had suddenly thought of something, her hand that was holding her phone halted.

“What happened?” Alexander asked.

Ahem. Courtney coughed dryly. “It’s nothing. Now that this matter is over, I don’t think there is anything to tell her. I should just let it be.”

The truth was, Cameron had always suggested stupid ideas like that to her too. It seemed like Cameron and Gale were competing with one another on the tricks they could pull on both of them. They were truly a match made in heaven.

“Where are you taking me to? Aren’t you going to send me home?”

When Courtney looked at the scenery outside the window, she came back to her senses.

“To an interesting place.”

As the sun went down, the car left the highway. Both of them took their lunch and dinner in the rest area.

The view outside the window changed from the scene of skyscrapers to borderless fields. The twilight painted the sky orange and red—the colors deepened as they came closer to the distant hills.

The car finally stopped on a spacious mountain top. At the foot of the mountain was a fast-flowing river and the mountains in the distance seemed endless.

“Wow; The air here is so fresh.”

Spreading her arms open, Courtney looked up at the sky and took a deep breath.

This was the first time she came out after a long time, and she was revitalized.

When the cool breeze hit her collar, she sniffled from the cold.

A pair of hands passed through her underarms and wrapped around her waist. When she finally came back to her senses, Alexander had rested his chin on her shoulder. His magnetic voice rang in her ears.

“If you like it here, we can visit more often.”

“Visit more often? You just brought me here without making any plans. Are we going to sleep in the car tonight?” Courtney pouted, and she tried hard to calm her heart from beating too quickly.

“There is no one here. No one will be able to see what we’re doing.”

“No one wants to do anything with you.”

Courtney’s face flushed from the twilight, and her voice was soft.

It was cold on top of the mountain. After standing outside for a while, both of them felt cold. Alexander took Courtney by her hand and pulled her into the car. He poured out a cup of warm milk from the thermos and handed it to her.

Her eyes widened.

“You even brought milk? I thought you left without a plan.”

“If I left without a plan, you would have to stay hungry all night. Only irresponsible men would do that kind of thing.” He stared at her as he grabbed a food incubator from under the seat.

“For instance, romantic young men like Shay. Except for poems and dreams, they usually don’t guarantee their woman anything.”

“Just say what you want to say. Why are you involving Shay again?” protested Courtney. Reaching out, she pointed at the box beside his feet and inquired, “What’s in there?”

With a ‘click’, Alexander opened the lock and was welcomed by a rush of heat.

Inside was a dinner for two which had been kept warm throughout the journey.

Staring at the dinner, Courtney had to give him a thumbs up. “I have to admit that you’re indeed a very respectable man.”

Alexander was a young master that the Duncan Family brought up with love and affection since he was a child. If he could do things to such an extent for her, she would be too small-minded if she continued to reject him.

Besides, what happened with Britney was the result of the terrible ideas suggested by the two good-for-nothing advisors.

When both of them were enjoying their warm and cozy dinner on top of the mountain, two people—one in the apartment in the city center, and another in the resort hotel in the Maldives—sneezed.

Achoo!

Chapter 142 Don't You Dare to Ruin It

When the night came, the wind at the top of the mountain became harsher.

The pair took a stroll around the mountain with their hands locked together. Noticing that Alexander seemed to be familiar with the mountain, Courtney couldn't help but ask, "Do you come here very often? Why are you so familiar with this place?"

"Sunhill Enterprise holds the development rights of this place. We originally intended to build a resort here, but the plan was left on hold because of some other things. So, this place became a deserted mountain."

"Deserted? It looks like someone has been taking very good care of this place. There are flowers and trees here. And I saw a lot of raspberries over there too."

Studying his expression, Courtney continued, "But, you haven't answered my question."

Alexander's expression froze. After a long moment, he let go of her hand and walked toward the channel alone. The cool breeze on the mountain blew a small bulge in his shirt, and he looked exceptionally lonely.

"I came here very often when I was a child." He looked indifferent. "After my dad passed, I haven't been here since. The plan to build the resort was suspended because of his death."

Alexander's dad passed away in a car accident. Courtney's brows snapped together. "So, Mr. Duncan..."

"Yeah."

He took a deep breath, showing her his rarely-seen sorrow. "My dad passed away on this mountain."

Listening to his words, Courtney's heart flinched. She walked up and grabbed his palm. "I'm sorry."

"It's nothing. So many years have passed. Moreover, I was the one who brought you here. I'm planning to restart the plan to build the resort. So, this is probably the last time we can enjoy the beautiful scenery here."

He took her palm and pulled her to his side. "The next time we come, there will be a place for you to stay."

A flush crept up Courtney's face in an instant. "How can you relate everything to that thing?"

"What thing?"

All of a sudden, Alexander took her into his embrace. "I didn't think about anything. I just hope that on this same day in the future, what you can think of is not only the anniversary of your mother's death but something happy too."

Leaning against his chest, Courtney's voice was muffled. "For instance?"

"For instance, today is the day you came to this world. Without this day, I wouldn't have met you."

"But, you would've met someone else." Courtney made fun of him deliberately. "Like Britney. If it were not for me, you would have married her, right? You guys would probably have a kid soon."

"What exactly are you trying to say?" Alexander's forehead furrowed.

Why is she bringing this up?

Courtney blinked and with regret, she said, "I'm sorry for messing up your marriage."

As she said that, she looked like a sly little fox. Alexander looked at her as he held his head low. He couldn't see her clearly under the dim light, but he could feel her heart beating through his own heart; their heaving chests leaned closely against one another.

The coil in his lower stomach tightened.

Ahh... Courtney's screams echoed on the top of the mountain. "What are you doing? Let me down, you rascal..."

"You can scream as much as you want. No one will come to your rescue no matter how loud you scream."

Pushing Courtney into the backseat of the car, Alexander pulled the door closed. He pressed her down into the seat and started unbuttoning his shirt. His voice was hoarse, and his breathing was rapid.

"Do you know what the consequence of teasing me is?"

Courtney lay on the backseat fearlessly. Her chest heaved like beating waves while her inky black hair spread underneath her body. As she panted heavily, she wrapped her arms around his neck. Alexander was caught off guard by her action, and he fell on top of her.

A seductive voice rose in his ears.

"Of course, I know."

As a result, Alexander could no longer restrain himself. His large hand tugged at the hem of Courtney's chiffon shirt on her shoulder, tearing it away. Half of her shoulder was exposed and a familiar scent exuded from her curvy figure, alluring him in every way.

"Don't you dare ruin my clothes. I didn't bring an extra set to change into," Courtney muttered with discontent, but her hands were quick to remove his belt.

The intense sound of clothes sliding against one another was heard as the moans of the man and the woman fused into one. The car shook violently under the cover of the trees, startling flocks of birds out from the forest.

On Saturday, Courtney went to her aunt's house to pick up the children.

It was a coincidence that her uncle was at home too. "You're here, Courtney. Just in time for lunch. You should stay."

"It's okay." Courtney rejected quickly. "I'm just here to pick up the kids. I promised to visit Alexander's house this afternoon and have a meal with his grandpa."

Scott called her a day in advance, asking her to bring the children over for a meal. His purpose was obvious; after all, he only had one precious grandson and great-grandson. He needed to know more about her—the rumored wife-to-be of Alexander—in order to put his mind at ease.

"Where's Aunt Alicia?" She looked around the house, but Alicia was nowhere to be seen.

"You'll have to wait for a while. Come and take a seat. She brought the kids out for a morning walk."

"Morning walk?" Courtney's mouth twitched. The children loved to stay in bed, and it was especially so for Jordan. He had been spoiled since young. He sat and stood whenever he wanted. He even decided when he should sleep depending on his temperament.

However, Alicia had the habit of going on morning walks. She would always wake up at 6 AM. It was probably fine for Tina, but what about Jordan? Could he get up so early?

"Uncle William, the kids didn't cause you any trouble in the past two days, right?"

"Nah." William waved his hand. He smiled and gestured for her to sit down.

"It's just that yesterday your Aunt Maryse visited with her two troublemakers. They broke Alicia's record player and blamed it on Tina. In the end, although Jordan couldn't speak, he managed to write down everything that had happened to prove Tina's innocence. The kid is remarkable."

Upon hearing that, Courtney couldn't help but look proud. "He has always been a smart kid."

"He's such a smart kid and has his own ideas about how the world works despite being so young. Plus he seems very comfortable around you. It's like he's your own son."

William put a teacup in front of Courtney. His words were meaningful, and they touched something inside Courtney's heart.

Clenching her fists, Courtney smiled awkwardly. "I think Aunt Alicia will be back soon."

"Yeah."

He checked on the time. "It's almost time. By the way, there's something Alicia wanted me to give you."

"What is it?"

"This is the key to a duplex apartment at Blossoms Garden. You can't always live in your friend's house. Move there from now on."

Staring at the key, Courtney was stunned. When she finally caught on to what her uncle said, she quickly rejected, "Uncle William, I can't take this."

“Your aunt’s bark is a lot worse than her bite. The apartment has always been under your name. We didn’t give it to you before this because we were afraid that that woman from the Hunter Family would target the things your mother had left you. We know Lucian gave you a villa located at Golden Water Park, but that area is too remote, and not many people live there anymore. Take the key and bring the kids there.”

William had aged a lot over the years. When Courtney listened to his words, she had mixed feelings. It was not a pleasant feeling. Her nose sniffled, and her tears ran down her cheeks.

Chapter 143 Why Should I Give Up

As they were talking, Alicia came home with the children.

“Mommy!”

The moment Tina saw Courtney, she plunged into her embrace and cheered. On the other hand, Jordan looked exhausted. Dragging his feet, he went straight to the sofa and sank himself into it. He clung to Courtney’s arm, looking as if he was going to fall asleep on the spot.

“This kid is too weak. We only ran for a while. How can he be so tired already? He has been spoiled.” Alicia appeared to be disappointed by his performance.

Slightly speechless, Courtney patted Jordan’s head and explained, “It’s not his fault. He has been weak since young. After that high fever he got when he was younger, he couldn’t speak anymore. Ever since, his physique has been particularly weak.”

“He couldn’t speak because of the high fever?” Alicia put her drinking glass aside and stared at Jordan thoughtfully. “He never spoke after that?”

Courtney knitted her brows. “He didn’t stop talking completely. From what I heard from Alexander, he spoke twice this year.”

“I think there’s more to it.” Alicia gave her a long, deep look. “The Duncan Family is prestigious, and Alexander is the only child. If the family becomes extinct after Alexander, many people will benefit from it. I don’t think this kid can grow up safely.”

Upon hearing that, Courtney was dumbfounded. She looked at her aunt in disbelief.

In the past, her grandfather told her that Alicia had had a child before, but no one knew how she lost it. However, after that incident, William and Stephen, whose families had been close to each other, stopped seeing each other. It was only until Stephen’s divorce and remarriage that both families reconnected.

Courtney did not know much when she was young. Nevertheless, when she looked back at what happened back then, it sent chills down her spine.

Most people would lose their rationale in the face of huge amounts of assets.

She realized that her aunt was trying to warn her that the high fever Jordan had during his childhood might not have been an accident. It was highly likely that this kind of 'accident' would continue to occur more frequently in the future. Instantly, she remembered the first time she met Jordan when a chandelier smashed down on him.

"Take precautions in advance and don't trust anyone." Alicia's voice pulled Courtney back from her thoughts.

She stared at her aunt. Although Alicia was standing in her sportswear drinking coffee in front of the kitchen counter, her posture was upright even though she was in her fifties. Her aura was extraordinary, and the words she said went straight into Courtney's heart.

After chatting for a while, Courtney left with her two children.

"I'll leave with the kids, then. I'll bring them back to see you again when I have the time."

"Wait a minute." Alicia came over and handed her a key. "Don't forget your things."

"I can't accept this."

"You were the one to talk when you came asking for your mother's inheritance before! This is only a small part of your mother's inheritance that has been left with me so that you would have a place to live when you came back. Don't go boasting around like Lucian. Why learn to become a wolf in sheep's clothing from him? Don't tell me. The Hunter Family didn't leave any money for you, so he's trying to make you inherit his sheep's clothing?"

Not only was Courtney being scolded by Alicia, but the whole Hunter Family was being criticized as well. Although she did not use any four-letter words, Courtney felt chills on her neck, and her scalp prickled. Alas, she could only take the keys from her aunt.

When they left the Hunter Residence, Jordan was sleeping as he leaned into Courtney's embrace. However, Tina was wide awake. Curiously, she asked, "Mommy, why does Great-Aunt Alicia hate Grandpa so much?"

"Didn't she tell you the reason?"

"She did. She said she has a deep-seated grudge toward Grandpa, and she even scolded him in front of me. I didn't understand what she was saying, but she was quite scary." Tina blinked. "But, you said we can't only listen to one person's words, so I decided to hear it from you too."

Smiling helplessly, Courtney flicked her forehead softly. "What a kid. What I said was not to listen to only one side of the story. This is an adult problem; kids shouldn't ask too much. And kids shouldn't carry too much of the burden too."

"What is 'burden'?"

"Burden is..." Courtney was tongue-tied. After a moment of hesitation, she continued solemnly, "Burden is the things in the small school bag you carry to school every day. You need to carry some of the snacks you like to eat and you also need to carry some books. These books are things you don't like, but you have to carry them anyway. Let's say that you're too tired one day, and you have to give up part of the things in your bag; what would you give up?"

Despite her young age, Tina gave the question some serious thought. After thinking for a while, she looked back at Courtney and questioned, "Why do I have to give them up? I can ask Mr. Alexander, Mommy, and Jordan to help me carry some of them!"

Courtney was startled by her answer. In the end, she caressed Tina's head with a wistful expression.

Tina was right. When one didn't think that it was difficult to make a choice, or there was even no such choice to be made, it was because there was someone else carrying the burden for them. Courtney did not have much hatred for the way her father had abandoned her mother because no one had ever told her about that when she was young. It was her grandfather, William, and Alicia who were carrying that burden.

It was just after 11 AM when Courtney and the children arrived at the Duncans' ancestral home.

When Courtney got out of the car, she was amused by the greetings.

There were a total of twenty servants standing in two rows. Ten men and ten women lined up on each side and bowed in unison.

"It's a pleasure to meet you, Miss Hunter, Little Master, and Little Miss."

Courtney tensed up at the sight of them. Holding onto her children, one on each of her sides, she was afraid to take another step.

In the meantime, Alexander came out of the house. The moment he noticed her expression, his face stiffened. Gruffly, he huffed, "What are you guys doing? Don't you have work to do? What are you doing here?"

The two rows of servants exchanged glances with one another. Like a mouse confronting a cat, they scattered away.

After everyone left, Courtney let out a chuckle. As she walked into the house with Alexander, she asked, "Did your family start their business in the underworld? I thought your family was trying to show me who's the boss from the earlier greetings."

When she mentioned that, Alexander grimaced.

"Those putting up an act at the entrance were the servants picked by Grandpa. They are usually loud and clumsy, and they never do things seriously. They only know how to spread rumors and look for drama every day."

Courtney looked back and her eyes met with a little girl, who was hiding behind the bushes in the garden as she peeked at her. She waved her hand at her. Rather than shying away, the girl waved back.

"Hannah, if you take another peek, I'll have the butler send you back to the orphanage tonight."

The girl behind the bushes shrank back and ran away, vanishing in a flash.

Courtney tugged Alexander's elbow. "You scared her. She was just curious. Why were you so mean to her? She looks like she's only twelve or thirteen."

"Is she scared?" His brows knitted and impatience was evident between his brows.

“Hey, I thought no one is allowed to hire child laborers. That girl is not your servant, right?” Courtney suddenly remembered something, and she looked toward the direction where the girl had run away, but there was no one to be seen.

The butler, who was leading the way in front of them, turned around and explained with a smile, “Miss Hannah is a student from the orphanage sponsored by Mr. Alexander. She came here six years ago and took the Duncans’ last name. She’s very quirky, and Old Master Scott is very fond of her, so he decided to adopt her. Considering that, Mr. Alexander technically should address her as his aunt.”

Chapter 144 Is There No Other Room?

“Aunt?” Courtney was stunned, she couldn’t stop herself from laughing out loud.

That girl looked at most twelve or thirteen years old, yet she was more senior than Alexander. Courtney could not imagine what he would look like when he had to call her ‘Aunt Hannah’.

Glancing at Alexander from the corner of her eye, she noticed that his expression was ugly. Holding back her laughter, she decided to let him off the hook. “Mr. Harry, she must be his aunt in name only. I don’t think Alexander ever called her ‘aunt’, right?”

However, whether accidentally or intentionally, the butler shook his head. “He still has to address her as his aunt. Although Miss Hannah is only an adopted child, she has been recorded into the Duncans’ genealogy record book. When she celebrates her birthday and the Duncan Family visits their ancestral grave every year, Mr. Alexander needs to address her as Aunt Hannah.”

Alexander threw the butler a cold glance. “Mr. Harry, you’re a lot more talkative the older you get. I think it’s time for you to retire and go home.”

Courtney held her head down and stifled a laugh. Immediately, the butler shut his mouth and changed the topic with a smile. “There’s a doorsill over here. Watch your steps, Little Master and Little Miss.”

The Duncans’ ancestral home was a protected property in Melrose City. It was a traditional mansion with connecting courtyards. The group passed through the winding corridors and built-in external doors under the butler’s lead. It took a while for them to arrive at the dining room.

Although Scott’s hair had gone gray, he was still healthy and had a back as straight as an arrow.

“President Duncan,” Courtney greeted respectfully.

“There’s no need for that. This isn’t a work occasion. Besides, I’m already retired. You don’t have to call me President Duncan. Just follow Alexander and call me Grandpa. Make yourself comfortable.”

Courtney blushed at his words. Hesitating for a while, she uttered, “Grandpa.”

Alas, Scott was satisfied. With a smile, he moved his attention to Tina and Jordan. “Come here, both of you. Come and take a seat here with your great-grandpa.”

Not afraid of strangers, Tina grabbed his hand and gave him a peck on his cheek. “Great-Grandpa, I want fried ice cream.”

“Okay. The kitchen has prepared it for you. You can eat it later.”

Staring at the harmonious interaction between Scott and Tina, Courtney was full of doubt. “When did Tina become so close with you, Grandpa?”

Puzzled, Scott’s brain stopped processing for a moment.

Instantly, the butler took over. “After they met once in the hospital, Old Master Scott became very fond of Little Miss. When he heard that Little Master and her play well together, they both exchanged phone numbers. Sometimes, Mr. Scott would call Little Miss to ask her about Little Master’s progress at school.”

“I see.” Courtney did not suspect anything further. “It’s Jordan’s first time attending school outside and spending time by himself in school. It’s normal for you to be worried.”

However, Alexander’s expression was incomprehensible; his eyes were fixated on Scott for a while.

Scott, who had always been calm and collected, let out a dry cough when he met Alexander’s gaze. He pretended to avoid his gaze inadvertently. His unnatural act was an indication to Alexander that the kids had been keeping a secret with his grandpa. Scott was so close to Tina that it was unlikely because of that one encounter.

“Grandpa, did Tina tell you about the fried ice cream over the phone?” He exposed them without giving face.

Scott was shocked once again. He glanced at the butler through the corner of his eye, but the latter did nothing this time.

Both Scott and Alexander stared at each other for a few seconds, and the former let out a cough nonchalantly.

“I knew Tina was coming, so I asked her what she would want in advance. Did I do something wrong as a great-grandpa? But, look at you. You’ve known Courtney for so long, and what did you tell me when I asked you about her favorite food?” He retaliated.

This time, Alexander’s expression hardened.

“What did you say?” Courtney raised her eyebrows and looked at him. “What’s my favorite food?”

“Ahem.” He tensed up. “I remember that you’re not a picky eater, and you don’t have any food taboos. So...”

“So, you remember nothing.” Scott glared at him. At this moment, he finally regained his face as the elder. “You’re lucky that Courtney is easy-going. If the one sitting here is some little girl outside, she would have broken up with you long ago.”

Alexander frowned at the criticism, but he was at a loss for words.

Contrarily, Courtney observed the confrontation between the pair as if she was watching a fire from the other side of the river. Mr. Scott is probably the only person in this world who can scold Alexander to such an extent without having a valid reason.

The family enjoyed the dinner happily. The children sat on each side of Scott; Courtney and Alexander sat separately facing each other. It was true that the Duncan Family had a great chef. The dishes were not at all worse than those prepared by the best chef at Sunhill Hotel.

After dinner, the children went upstairs and played. Meanwhile, Courtney and Alexander sat in the living room and drank tea with Scott.

“Courtney, tell me when you’re free. We have to pick a date.”

“What date?” Her heart pinched all of a sudden.

“I think we should announce Alexander’s relationship with you to our relatives and friends so that the women out there won’t keep on hanging around him not knowing how the wind blows.”

When Scott was talking to her, he was originally smiling. However, the moment he talked about the ‘women out there’, he threw Alexander a vicious glare. “I told Alexander to cut ties with that actress a long time ago. Look at all the trouble she caused after all this time. If it were not for Courtney’s generosity, it would have been too late for you to regret it.”

Pertaining to the news about Britney, Courtney was a little bit guilty. Therefore, she decided to help Alexander and said, “It’s actually nothing. The media were just scratching fleas on a stuffed dog. Besides, the matter is resolved now. You don’t have to worry about it anymore, Grandpa.”

Scott’s heart bloomed when he heard her calling him ‘Grandpa’.

“You’re indeed a well-educated girl and more generous than the others. All of us agree on this, then. The tenth day of next month is a good day, and I’m celebrating my birthday too. We can take the opportunity to announce your relationship.”

Courtney’s brows knitted unnoticeably; she was flustered.

“Grandpa, you haven’t even met Courtney’s parents yet. It’s not a good idea to set things up on your own,” Alexander spoke up suddenly and spoke on behalf of Courtney.

“Ah, how did I forget about that?” Scott was chagrined. “You’re right. Let’s arrange to meet Courtney’s family first.”

“I’ll handle this.” Knowing the complicated relationship between Courtney and her family, Alexander answered for her again.

“Okay. You better do it as soon as possible.” Scott was worried and reminded him again.

Though Courtney was listening to the conversation between the two, she was distracted. Knowing how quick-witted Alexander was, Courtney knew he must have noticed her hesitation from earlier. She was not sure if he had misunderstood her.

In the evening, Scott made the pair stay at the ancestral home. He simply ignored Courtney’s refusal. When the servant told her that the children had fallen asleep, she had no choice but to accept the arrangement since she could no longer leave. She was not sure whether it was the servant or Scott’s intention when she found herself being arranged to sleep in Alexander’s room.

“Is there no other room?” Standing at the entrance of the room, Courtney felt uncomfortable. After all, the two of them were not married yet. Besides, this house was so quaint that she felt like she had to be more conservative when she was here.

Chapter 145 Do You Think I’ll Let You Go?

The servant nodded with a vexed expression.

“Miss Hunter, the guestroom is musty and the air is not ventilated. Mr. Scott has arranged for you to sleep in Mr. Alexander’s room, and he will be sleeping in the guestroom. Please rest well. You can call me if anything happens.”

As soon as the words were said, the servant ran away at once.

Courtney was clueless. There was no way she could run after the servant now because the mansion was huge. If she wasn’t paying attention, she might have lost her way in the courtyard. It was already dark outside, so she would not be able to find her way back. Now that she was already here, it would be better for her to stay.

Similar to the rustic mansion, Alexander’s room was very old-fashioned too. The furniture was all made of Chinese rosewood, and the room faced south. It was separated into two rooms at the entrance. The study seemed to be located on the east side. From the half-open door, Courtney could see a desk that was facing the door. A writing brush hung over the desk, and there was rice paper spread across the desk.

He still practices calligraphy? Courtney was surprised by the discovery. Pushing the door open, she headed into the study.

The paperweight pressed the properly-cut rice paper firmly on the desk. After taking a closer look at the contents on the paper, Courtney couldn’t help but giggle as she propped herself against the corner of the desk.

The two cursive words ‘Extremely Boring’ were written on the paper.

The study exuded a serious vibe, and the man that owned this room was meticulous. Who would have thought that a man like him would write something like that on paper?

As a result, Courtney got interested in what she saw. Staring at the paper balls inside the trash can beside the desk, she squatted down and took them out.

One was written with ‘This is so annoying’; one was written with ‘The weather is bad’; and another one was written with ‘I have to get up early tomorrow’.

After studying the series of nonsensical calligraphy ‘masterpieces’, Courtney was so overjoyed that she failed to notice Alexander’s arrival.

“What are you laughing at?” asked Alexander as he came in.

“You wrote these?” Courtney’s face was flushed from holding back her laughter.

Looking at the 'masterpieces', his face turned ashen. With a sullen face, he said, "Is it your habit to go through the trash can?"

"I don't have a habit of going through the trash can. But, now that I've seen your masterpieces, I might want to consider picking up this habit in the future."

"Boring."

"No, it's extremely boring," teased Courtney.

Seeing Alexander's embarrassed expression, she was even more entertained. Failing to pay attention to herself, she lost her balance and fell onto the ground. For a long moment, she couldn't get herself to stand up.

Alexander was in the midst of his own embarrassment, but when he saw her sitting on the ground, he was rendered speechless. Walking forward, he stretched his hand out to her. "Enough. Get up when you're done laughing at me. The floor is cold."

Courtney rested her palm on his hand and blinked. Boldly, she teased, "Do you have to get up early tomorrow?"

This time, her ridicule sent fury surging through Alexander's veins. He tightened his grip around her wrist and pulled her up suddenly.

Without any precaution, Courtney was being lifted from the ground by his force. Due to inertia, the moment she got up, she plunged into his chest. Her smile was still hanging on the corners of her mouth. Suddenly, his huge hand pressed onto her waist from behind, causing her to cling to his chest. Looking up, Courtney stared at Alexander blankly.

"Are you still laughing?" warned Alexander as he looked down at her. His voice was deep, and he sounded dangerous.

Returning back to her senses, Courtney started to struggle. "Let go of me."

"Weren't you laughing at me? You can do that however you want now." Alexander didn't intend to let her go. Instead, his grip on her waist tightened, refusing to let her break free from his embrace.

Courtney was anxious. "Grandpa said you're staying in the guestroom. What are you doing here? I'm going to tell him you bullied me."

"Oh?" He dragged out the end of his question. "I was talking business with Grandpa for half an hour, but he didn't mention anything about me staying in the guestroom."

Upon hearing that, Courtney was puzzled and her eyes widened.

"What do you mean? Are you implying that I'm the one who came into your room on purpose? Are you even in your right mind?"

Looking at Courtney's silly, yet serious expression, Alexander did not know whether he should laugh or cry. His intention to tease her subsided.

"Don't you think Grandpa made this arrangement on purpose?"

Courtney was startled at his question, and her face blushed in an instant. “N-No... way.”

“Why isn’t that possible?” Lowering his head, he leaned closer to her face. “This isn’t the first time Grandpa has acted so recklessly. To make sure that I have more children, he would do anything.”

Courtney’s head went down even further. Although both of them had always slept together, this was the Duncans’ ancestral home. The atmosphere here made her feel like she should be more reserved.

But all in all, it was hard for her to restrain herself when Alexander was leaning so close to her!

“Let... let me go.” Her lips pursed; her words came out stuttered. “I’ll go sleep in the guestroom.”

“Now that you’re in my room, do you think I’ll let you go?”

His deliberate words came from the crown of her head.

“What are you doing?”

When Courtney looked up, the grip on her waist tightened before she could recover from her embarrassment. Her world went upside down as Alexander picked her up bridal-style and headed toward his bedroom located on the west side.

She felt slightly painful being thrown onto the smooth brocade quilt. Alexander stood by the side of the bed. He leaned down and hovered above her. Grabbing her hands over her head, he stared straight at her face.

“Don’t look at me.” Courtney blushed under his stare, and she turned her face away anxiously.

Starting from her earlobe, Alexander kissed her all the way down to her neck. When his lips came to her chest, she couldn’t hold her moan back. Her legs that were hanging on the side of the bed retracted in response.

“I’m going on a business trip next week, so I can’t be with you for a while. Is it okay if I satisfy your needs two days in advance?”

As he was saying that, he separated her legs with his knees and caressed her inner thighs through his suit pants.

She almost screamed from the friction. Gritting her teeth, she managed to utter, “Can you please shut up?”

After Courtney started a relationship with Alexander, she had truly understood what a beast in human clothing was. Alexander was two different kinds of people in bed and out of bed.

Usually, he looked like an unapproachable and collected man. However, the moment he was in bed, he was simply a beast that was ready to devour her.

Alexander undid his tie with one hand. His slender fingers removed the buttons on his shirt, revealing his tanned torso. His breathing was heavy, and his dark pupils showed a teasing gaze.

“I couldn’t make it to stay with you yesterday, and you’re already so impatient?”

“Alexander Duncan...” Clenching her fists, Courtney wanted to kick him out of the bed.

Yet, as soon as she spoke, the friction from her lower body hit her sensitive nerves, and she moaned, "Ahh..."

Her sanity shattered just like that, yet Alexander was still hovering above her. As if he was watching a show, he stared at her as he slowly stroked her body.

"What did you call me just now?"

She clenched her jaws. "Alexander Duncan... Ahh..."

He was teasing her but refused to satisfy her desire. Pleasure wandered around the edge, and Courtney was about to lose her mind from the torture. Surrendering, she changed her choice of words.

"Alexander..."

"Do you want it?" He leaned down and bit her earlobe. His breath filled her ears.

She panted heavily and nodded hard. "I want..."

"What do you want?"

"You."

"Say my name."

"Alex..." Her fingers gripped the sheets beside her tightly; her pink lips mumbled in ecstasy, "Alex, I want you..."

Courtney's invitation overpowered Alexander's self-restraint. While his eyes were filled with lust, he lifted her waist and pushed himself inside her. His overwhelming desire swept across the entire bedroom.