

Surprise 201

Chapter 206 Victor's Justice

Bill still had matters to deal with in Eldham Town. Therefore, he promised Courtney that he would finish everything he needed to do and head to Melrose City within a week. After that, Courtney and Alexander left Eldham Town.

Inside the car, Courtney suddenly asked, "You mentioned before that a part of the control rights of Sunhill Enterprise was held by another person five years ago. Is that true?"

Alexander had both hands on the steering wheel as he looked to the front attentively. When he heard her question, he didn't get distracted and casually responded to her question. "James is one year younger than me. At the time, he was already working in the company after finishing his undergraduate degree at a local university.

It was based on the premise that he gave up the chance to continue his master's degree at Yale University. Therefore, he was already the vice president of Sunhill Enterprise before I even came back to the country. Grandpa cherished him very much at the time."

Speaking of James... James left a deep impression on her when she met him at the Duncan Residence the other day. The man was in his thirties. He looked rather similar to Alexander and was quite effeminate. Moreover, he was always smiling at everybody. However, it was hard to read his true intentions clearly despite how friendly he seemed.

"So, your return made James feel threatened." Courtney looked at Alexander unflinchingly.

"Yes." Alexander nodded. His gaze was quite cold as he continued, "In the beginning, I only participated in the board of directors' meetings as a shareholder of the company after my return. I later raised some questions about the company's financial affairs. After Grandpa investigated the matter, he arranged for me to participate in the management of the company. At the time, my authority was not as great as that of James."

Regardless of whether Alexander had participated in managing the company, his return, in and of itself, presented the greatest threat to James. After all, the entirety of Sunhill Enterprise belonged to Scott. As the largest shareholder in the company, Scott held absolute authority over the company. Furthermore, Alexander was Scott's one and only grandson. As such, the company would be handed over to Alexander, sooner or later, so long as nothing major occurred.

"What did he do?" Courtney continued asking.

Alexander sneered, "You've got the right idea. What did he do? If he had not done anything, he would still be managing the company up until today. He is part of the Duncan family after all. Besides, the company fared pretty well under his management during those years he was working there. Unfortunately, he is too suspicious for his own good."

After Alexander joined Sunhill Enterprise, James orchestrated many things as part of a smear campaign against Alexander. He wanted to make Alexander look bad in front of Scott, even going so far as to spread the rumor about Alexander's sexual orientation. It was due to that ridiculous rumor that Scott later forced Alexander to marry by threatening him with the inheritance rights to the company.

Listening to the story made Courtney gasp in disbelief. "Then, is Jordan's inability to speak related to him?"

James was so vigilant against Alexander. Furthermore, his position in the line of succession would be pushed back even more if there was another heir in the line. Therefore, Jordan's existence was disadvantageous for him.

The question came out of nowhere, and Alexander frowned upon hearing it. "Are you really looking into Jordan's affairs?"

"Did you think I was joking?" She became unhappy, her eyebrows furrowing together slightly.

"That wasn't my intention. I won't stop you if you want to investigate the matter. Please speak up if you need help. Don't try to solve it on your own."

"I know." Her expression softened. "From what I can tell, your cousin has a plausible motive. I will look into it from this direction. In any case, you should be wary of him too. I met him at the Duncan Residence the other day. It seems like he has not gotten over what happened back then."

When she said that, she carefully observed his expression. She didn't want to let any minor changes in his expression go unnoticed.

He frowned slightly as if recalling something. A trace of guilt flitted across his dark eyes, but he soon relaxed again. "Don't worry about it. Winner takes all."

There were many ways to interpret the saying 'winner takes all'. The simplest explanation was common knowledge: as long as one won the battle, the end justified the means. It did not matter what nasty means one used to achieve victory. Upon hearing that, she felt her hands go cold.

She couldn't help thinking about the possibility Oliver had mentioned to her previously. It was about the possibility that Jordan's high fever the other day had been manipulated. Thus, she tried to probe him by asking, "He must be quite a complex man. Otherwise, you wouldn't need to compete with him for so many years."

"That's right. Even so, he shouldn't have done those wicked deeds." Alexander's expression was cold. "No matter how fierce the business rivalry, we should only stick to business approaches. Besides, Grandpa values family harmony above all else. He should never have touched family."

"What did he do?"

Alexander did not reply and fell silent for several seconds. "Grandpa suppressed the incident back then. I can't say much about it."

She squeezed his hand and smiled reluctantly. "I understand."

She had always thought of James as nothing more than a despicable good-for-nothing. However, now that things had progressed this far, she couldn't help feeling suspicious about the incident at the Duncan Residence the other day. She had a feeling that James had known about Alexander's return in advance and angered Alexander on purpose. Then, he later manipulated her into leaving Sunhill Enterprise and orchestrated the falling out between her and Alexander. At the time, the company's PR team was in a

chaotic mess dealing with the aftermath of the fire at the hotel. Thus, the share prices fluctuated significantly.

This entire series of events all started from that incident that occurred at the backyard of the Duncans' ancestral home the other day. Just thinking about it filled her with horror.

Even such a shrewd man had been defeated by Alexander. Moreover, he suffered utter defeat from only one blow. Ever since James had been dismissed from the position of the vice president of Sunhill Enterprise, he failed to get involved in any matters involving the company ever again.

James' conniving nature was detectable, but Alexander's shrewdness was not. Therefore, it was doubtful as to whether or not Jordan's high fever had been a decoy in one of their power struggles.

Just as the sun was about to set, Alexander's car got off the highway. Furthermore, the phone messages indicated that they had entered Melrose City. A soft female voice rang out from the navigator, directing them to their destination.

"Where are we going?" Courtney asked, looking at the road puzzledly.

"I'm taking you to the hospital," Alexander casually replied from beside her.

She snapped back to the present and said, "Oh, yes... We should go and check on Cameron."

Inside the car, he wondered out loud in amusement. "Courtney, do you think that I am omnipotent while you are invulnerable?"

"Huh?" What nonsensical question is this?

"How would I know which hospital Cameron is staying at?" He glared at her. "Did you forget about the injury on your leg?"

Stunned, she finally remembered the burn wound on her leg. The doctor had advised her to change the dressing frequently for the next two days to avoid any infection due to the hot weather.

"Can you please take care of yourself first before you worry about others?" Alexander sighed helplessly. "How am I supposed to not worry about you?"

Courtney felt a sense of warmth filling her heart. She couldn't help smiling as she teased him, "It won't be easy. Didn't you apologize to me? An apology isn't just about lip service. Let's see if you dare to put work aside during this period, stay by my side, and take care of me 24/7."

"Do you think I won't dare to do that?"

"You—"

Alexander said nothing in response.

Chapter 207 Now There's Only One Woman Left

“Don’t regret it.” Alexander raised his eyebrow at her as he dialed Josh’s number. “Cancel everything that was scheduled for this week. Also, find somebody you can trust to oversee the renovation of Courtney’s company. Don’t contact me for the next two days unless it’s for something urgent.”

Courtney seriously doubted her ears when she heard the sounds inside the car. Did Alexander, the workaholic, just postpone his work for the entire week because of a joke I made? She had been to the president’s office at Sunhill Enterprise before.

It was not an exaggeration to say that the documents were sent in continuously. The documents would pile up on his table if he was so much as absent for half a day. If he doesn’t go to work for a week, won’t the entire office be buried under the documents?!

“Miss Hunter, how much are you paying for caregiving fees?” When she heard that question, she finally recovered from her shock and accepted reality calmly. “Hmm, I’ll pay according to the market price.”

“That’s too low. A nurse doesn’t warm your bed for you.”

The corners of her mouth twitched. “Who asked you to warm my bed?” I’m sure he was aiming for this all along! This dirty pervert!

Without a change in his expression, he said, “Then, I’ll give it to you as a freebie. You’ll get a free bed-warmer along with the caregiving services you paid for.”

Who asked for that freebie?! She laughed until her sides hurt.

By the time they finished with the physical examination at the best hospital in the city center, the sky had turned completely dark. Pressing the cotton swab against her arm, Courtney had a weary expression on her face. All I did was receive emergency treatment for my burns in the countryside. Is there really a need to worry about bacterial infections? He even made me take a full-body examination as well as a blood test.

The dressing on the wound was a little crude, but it’s not a problem. You can leave after changing the bandages. You can come back next week for the results of the blood test.”

According to the prescription provided by the doctor, they obtained some more medicine before leaving the hospital. Black business cars wove in and out of the heavy traffic. The contrasting differences between the prosperity of Melrose City and the simplicity of Eldham Town seemed to create an illusion of traveling through space and time. They collided with each other in Courtney’s head, rousing subtle emotions in her.

“It’s very late. Do we still go and visit Cameron?”

“Yes.” Courtney nodded. “She told me before that she mostly spent her time sleeping whenever her condition arose. So, it doesn’t make much of a difference to her whether it is daytime or night-time. I’ll go and check on her. You... should have a talk with Gale.” If he can’t endure this life-changing event, then there is no need to force himself.

Alexander understood the meaning behind her words. Thus, he nodded. “I will talk to him about the reality of the situation. But... it will ultimately be up to him, whatever he chooses. Do you need me to convey anything to him?”

“No need.” She shook her head. “I’ll talk to him after you finish your talk.

“Okay.”

When Cameron’s condition relapsed, Gale brought her to the hospital for a physical examination and was given some ointment for minor abrasions. After consulting with a psychiatric expert, they suggested admitting her to the hospital for treatment. However, he refused to do so. Despite only going to a psychiatric hospital to check out the environment once, he simply could not bring himself to allow her to live among those people.

Therefore, she was currently living in his apartment. He quit his job at Sunhill Enterprise as a result and was practically watching over her 24/7.

When the door opened, Courtney was greeted by an unshaven face. If she had not seen Gale at his sloppiest before, she would have been extremely shocked by the sight of him at this moment.

“Sorry.” Gale’s condition looked pretty good. When he saw her staring at him, he touched the stubble on his chin in embarrassment and explained, “I got rid of everything sharp in the house, so I couldn’t clean myself up. Come on in.”

With a patient suffering from depression at home, this level of caution was necessary. After all, nobody knew when the depressed individual would suddenly become suicidal and decide to leave the world without telling anybody.

“Is she asleep?” She walked into the house and glanced in the direction of the master bedroom.

He shook his head. “Nope. She’s watching TV in the room. Why don’t you go and see her?”

“Okay.” Courtney went straight to the bedroom and left the living room to the two men. She believed that Alexander would consider the worst possible situation and let Gale know that the future ahead was a long and difficult one.

Putting aside whether he could stand living with a person suffering from depression, the question of whether or not his parents could accept Cameron’s existence was also a serious problem to be considered. I’m afraid he doesn’t have the ability to convince his parents.

Closing the bedroom door behind her, she temporarily cleared her head of those worries. She carefully studied the figure curled up at the head of the bed. In the past, she had never noticed that Cameron was actually rather small and thin. Cameron looked like a weak and helpless animal curled up on the bed, seeming very insecure.

The tablet placed on a bracket in front of her was playing a Disney cartoon, and she was watching it attentively. Her gaze had always been sharp, but now it only held innocence and naïvete. Looking at those eyes, Courtney felt her heart melting in response. At the same time, she also felt a sense of panic. Anybody who looked into those eyes would be filled with compassion to love her, especially Gale who was utterly in love with her and was determined to marry her.

“Cameron,” Courtney called out very softly for fear of startling her.

The figure on the bed covered in response, abruptly pulling up the blankets and burying her entire face in the blankets. A long while passed before a pair of eyes slowly appeared from behind the blankets. They were filled with suspicion and disorientation.

Courtney stood still without moving as she tried to explain, "Do you not recognize me? Cameron, it's Courtney. Courtney Hunter. I'm the mother of Tina, your goddaughter."

Cameron's eyes seemed a little confused. After a while, she finally seemed to recognize Courtney and nodded hesitantly. She slowly said in a hoarse voice, "Court-ney."

"Yes, it's Courtney." Courtney nodded happily. After hesitating for a bit, she pointed at the tablet. "Are you watching Snow White? Can I watch it with you?"

Cameron's reaction seemed rather slow. She considered it for a long time. Approximately half a minute went by before she nodded and replied with some difficulty, "Okay."

In the movie, Snow White had just received the poisoned apple from the witch. It was an exciting moment.

"Do you plan to continue living like this?" In the living room, Alexander's voice was as cold as ever.

Sitting opposite him, Gale laughed. "Is there anything wrong with that? Didn't you always feel that I slept around too much and kept a bunch of strange women around me? Now there's only one woman left. I got rid of all the others."

"I am not against any of the decisions you make. But before that, I need to tell you about what you will experience in the future, as a friend. Will you listen to me?" Alexander's voice was overly calm. It instantly dispelled the relaxed atmosphere Gale had been trying to create.

Thus, Gale understood that he could not avoid the conversation. Scratching his head, he slowly let out a sigh. "Sure. Say what you want. I've already made up my mind anyway."

"You might believe that you are determined now and that your love is stronger than everything else. Therefore, it is impossible to persuade you to give up from your perspective. So, I'm going to ask you this; have you told your parents about this?" Alexander started the discussion by cutting straight to the most realistic aspect.

Gale had obviously considered this question before. Even so, he frowned when he heard the question. "I'll conceal it for now. I'll let them know when the time is right."

"When will the time be right?" Alexander's questioning voice grew colder. "Are you planning to wait until Cameron regains her sanity?"

Chapter 208 I Have Something to Confess to You

Gale felt a little irritated that his thoughts had been seen through. "Is that wrong? Cameron will get better."

“You’re wrong.” Alexander’s tone was firm. “Your parents will certainly perform a check on the person you wish to marry in the future. If, at that time, they discover that you concealed Cameron’s medical history from them... they will never give you their blessing.”

He had known Gale’s parents since childhood. They closed an eye toward everything Gale did because he was already an adult. However, they could not condone lies and deception. It was not hard to imagine their resentment toward Cameron if they learned that he had concealed something so important from them.

“If you want to risk Cameron being hated by your parents for the rest of her life, then you can do just that.” With that one sentence, Alexander, more or less, blocked all the solutions Gale had thought up previously.

Gale’s eyebrows were furrowed so deeply that they were nearly knotted together. “To be honest, being open with them is nothing. I’m not worried about my parents being unable to accept this. Right now, Cameron has lost all rationality. I’m worried that when she recovers, she might be angry at me for declaring our relationship on my own while she was in no position to make decisions. After all, we broke up and have not reconciled.” I just brought her back because she isn’t herself right now.

After saying so much, Alexander felt that there was no need for him to continue trying to persuade Gale. Thus, he patted Gale on the shoulder. “I’ve said what I needed to say. As for the rest... I believe Courtney has something to say to you.”

“As she should.” Gale nodded.

Courtney was Cameron’s best friend. It could also be said that Courtney was her only friend. She shared her secrets with Courtney—Courtney was the only person in this world that knew about her mental illness. Now that she is living with me, it’s only natural for Courtney to have something to say to me.

A while later, Courtney walked out of the bedroom. Then, Alexander tactfully stood up. “I’ll get the car from the garage.”

After saying that, he gave Courtney a look before leaving.

“Have a seat.”

“It’s fine.” Courtney’s expression was aloof. “It looks like you didn’t listen to anything Alexander said.”

“I heard it all,” Gale explained. “His words were very kind. It was all for my sake. However, it doesn’t consider Cam at all, no matter how I think about it. After all, he doesn’t stand in my shoes.”

“Well, I’m speaking from Cameron’s standpoint.” Her gaze was as sharp as a blade; its sharpness was unconcealed. “What I’m going to say won’t be as nice.”

“Go ahead. I’m ready for it. From the day I learned about Cam’s medical history, I’ve prepared myself for everything.”

“Among all your preparations, did you consider the possibility that you might not be able to remain committed to her anymore and abandon her one day? Did you prepare for that?” Her tone was extremely serious. It was neither a joke nor an insult; she was simply asking a question. If the day comes

that you no longer love her, or you become so exhausted with life and cannot bear supporting her anymore... what will happen to her then?

He clenched his fists. "Wait a moment."

After saying that, he walked to a corner where there was an open reading area, opened the cabinet door on the bottom of the bookcase, and took out an aluminum portable safe. "These are the certificates of all my non-liquid assets. There are 36 properties under my name. The most valuable asset among them is a property located in Kyoto. Moreover, three out of six properties in Melrose City are commercial properties that have been rented out. The rest are mostly spread out over the tourism areas across the country. Also, this is a car in my name, and this is the proof of share ownership under my name—"

"Why are you showing these to me?" She felt extremely confused when he started telling her all about his assets. She listened to it for a while and noticed that more than half of the items in the safe had yet to be taken out. Thus, she couldn't help interrupting him.

He stopped in the middle of taking out his certificates of assets. Looking up, he solemnly said to her, "If it really is like what you said; if the day really comes when I can no longer bear to support her anymore... I've also considered that. Even though I don't believe that I will ever stop loving her or be unable to withstand anything, I did consider that I might lose my life due to a disaster or an accident. So, I've thought about it."

She remained silent.

"These are all the current explicit assets that are in my name. I have asked a lawyer to draft out a contract. If the situation you mentioned were to ever arise, all my assets will be handed over to Cam."

"What if she is unable to use them?" She said those words with some difficulty.

"There will be three parties managing it on her behalf, namely the trust institution, the welfare organization, and the psychiatric hospital. They will supervise each other and take care of Cam for the rest of her life."

After listening to his explanation of what he had arranged for the future, she had no choice but to believe that he had done his homework when it came to taking care of Cameron. It might be nothing more than a whim, but this passion had not affected his rationality. Rather, he was overly rational about this. He even considered the possibility that the trust institution and welfare organization might jointly defraud Cameron of her assets. Hence, he requested that Cameron had to live until at least 80 years old, and all her organs and tissues were at least at the same functioning level as others in the same age group. If those conditions were fulfilled, the leftover money would then be donated to the welfare organization. Therefore, Courtney had nothing left to say.

When Courtney was about to leave Gale's house, weeping sounds came from inside the bedroom. Gale seemed to be used to it. "I won't keep you company anymore. She is probably crying because of the movie. I need to go and comfort her."

"Go ahead." Courtney had reason to believe that Cameron was receiving better care at Gale's place than anywhere else. However, she was also vaguely worried that being Cameron's personal caregiver would bring great complications to his normal life.

After getting into the car, Alexander did not talk about the events in Gale's house today. Instead, he asked about other things. "Do we go back to Grandpa's place to visit Tina?"

When they learned about what happened to Cameron, he had sent Tina over to Scott's place to stay for the time being. On the other hand, Courtney seemed reluctant. She sighed and said, "No. If I meet Tina now, she will surely ask me where her godmother went. I haven't figured out how to answer her question yet."

"Then, let's not visit her yet. I heard from the butler that Tina is doing very well at the Duncan Residence. Besides, school is about to start. She will need somebody to send her to and from school. So, it won't affect her too much whether you visit her or not."

"Who said that?! I can still send her to and from school even after the company is up and running." She did not agree with his statement. It made her sound as if she was only sitting around enjoying life without knowing what was good or bad.

"Josh can oversee the renovation of your company, but the designers..." Alexander glanced at Courtney, seeming to consider how to word his thoughts. "You still need to build up a team of designers aside from Bill. I've asked Josh to post up a job offer in Citron Apparel's name. I hope you don't mind."

Courtney slowly brought her senses back to the present. "Let's leave the position of chief designer open for now."

"Yes, I left it alone."

It was a night where the moon was bright and the stars were few. Even on a night like this, Melrose City was still filled with bustling streets lit up with thousands of neon lights. To what extent can a person love? Cameron was most afraid of being abandoned. Her ego simply did not allow for something like that to happen, and she had unconditionally concealed her mental illness. Even so, Gale found out about it anyway.

Courtney leaned back against the seat and carefully observed Alexander, who was sitting in the driver's seat, for a long time. "Alexander, I have something to confess to you."

Chapter 209 Is It That Man Named Elijah Grant

"Confess?" Alexander was driving. "About your medical history? Do you have depression too?"

Those words stopped Courtney from saying what she was about to say. Thus, she simply half-jokingly and half-seriously asked, "What if I do too? Maybe I met Cameron because we were in the same patient group, right?"

"What if you have it too?" He glanced at her, seeming to confirm something. "Do you want to hear the truth?"

"Aside from the truth, everything else is nonsense."

Pondering for a moment, he drove slower. "If you have depression too... I don't have as many commitments as Gale. I don't have parents and Grandpa is almost 80 years old—"

“Touch wood; touch wood...” She couldn’t continue listening any longer. “Hurry up and say ‘touch wood’ too! If Grandpa heard you saying such things about him, he would surely be so angry that he would kick you!”

“Getting old and dying is all part of life.” His expression was light.

“Forget it; asking you was a waste of time.” She seemed slightly annoyed. Did I forget who Alexander is? He is somebody whose expression won’t change even if the world collapsed in front of him! He will never be as passionate as Gale. Why did I even ask him that question?

“What were you going to tell me?” He increased the speed he was driving at. There was still quite some distance to Courtney’s apartment.

Looking at the speedometer of the car, she frowned. “It’s nothing. It’s not that important. We can talk about it at home.”

A complicated look flashed across his eyes and vanished. To be honest, when he heard her saying that she had something to confess, he immediately thought of that man named ‘Elijah Grant’. If she could confess about everything, then the issues between them would no longer be an issue anymore.

Half an hour later, the car parked at the entrance of the apartment. Alexander sighed softly. Courtney was leaning against the passenger seat, sleeping deeply. She didn’t look like she was about to wake up any time soon.

As promised, Alexander canceled his work for the entire week and stayed by Courtney’s side 24 hours a day to take care of her. He barely took a single step away from her. By the third day, Courtney began to regret making this request on a whim. Alexander was a boring person. Aside from staying at home and reading all day, he only left the house to bring her to the Duncan Residence to visit the two children. He refused to even go downstairs for a stroll.

“What’s wrong with you going for a stroll downstairs? Aren’t you bored staying at home with me all day long?” She looked at the figure sitting on the sofa across from her. The tone she took with him was quite exasperated.

“Alone?” He looked up from the book and glanced at her.

“What else could it be?” She pointed at her leg. “You can’t mean for me to be walking about with you with this useless leg, can you? Have mercy on me.”

“That’s not impossible.” The other party closed the book he was reading with a ‘thump’. It was a book written in French that looked very difficult to understand. More than 10 minutes later, his assistant, Josh, dropped by to confirm that he was not going to attend the board of director’s meeting. At the same time, he left behind a brand-new wheelchair.

“It was originally prepared for Grandpa. But, we might as well use it now.” While trying out the wheelchair, Courtney nearly spat out a mouthful of water upon hearing what Alexander said. Just like that, she looked very reluctant as he pushed her out of the house in the wheelchair.

It was September. Moreover, it had just rained not long ago. It felt quite cold when the wind blew. Thus, he considerably covered her legs with a blanket. Inside the elevator, she couldn't help glancing at herself. I look like a disabled person with amputated limbs.

That thought of hers was instantly confirmed by the nosy ladies in the community as they took turns to come and talk to her. "Hey, aren't you Miss Hunter from the 22nd floor? What happened to your legs? Are you okay?"

Throughout their stroll, Courtney had to explain about her injury until her lips were practically worn out from the friction. She fawningly glanced at Alexander. "Let's go somewhere else." I must never speak on a whim again; I only wanted him to come out for a stroll. In the end, I am the one who suffers. Why?!

"Sure. Where to?" Alexander was not very happy about constantly being disturbed during their stroll. Therefore, he wanted to change a place to continue their 'romantic stroll'.

"Anywhere. Anywhere is fine. There's a supermarket there, and a park on that side."

"The park won't be any different from the community."

"Let's go to the supermarket then." She covered her face nervously. "Hopefully, nobody will recognize me at the supermarket."

"Okay. It just so happens that we are out of eggs. Let's go and buy some," he said with a straight face.

She glanced at him. "Can we not buy eggs? What else can you make aside from hard-boiled eggs?"

The last time he mentioned that he could cook, he cooked ten eggs. Moreover, all of them were fully cooked hard-boiled eggs. She nearly choked to death trying to finish them.

When he heard her contempt for his cooking, he pushed the wheelchair while mulling over it for a while. "I can try cooking something else. I studied some recipes last night. It's not that difficult."

She gave him a withering look. "Is that so? Then, please allow me to experience what you mean by 'not that difficult'." You are cooking for the first time; do you even have any idea about how much salt you should add?

At the vegetable section, Alexander picked up a packet of potatoes and green peppers that were pre-cut into strips and packed in a plastic box. Then, he turned to Courtney for confirmation. "I can use this to make stir-fried shredded potatoes and green peppers, right?"

"Yeah," Courtney replied listlessly. The corners of her mouth tugged upward as she added, "Is buying pre-cut and ready-to-cook dishes your idea of cooking?"

"It saves time. The supermarket's marketing strategy is quite good." He tossed the packet into the shopping cart without minding her. He was pushing the shopping cart with one hand and pushing her wheelchair with the other.

"Just push the shopping cart. I can take care of myself." Before she could grab hold of the wheels on both sides of the wheelchair, she heard the young voice of a little girl coming from behind her. "I can help you, miss."

Courtney looked back to see a little girl around five or six years old with two high ponytails on both sides of her head. The little girl was energetically standing behind Courtney's wheelchair. She was innocently holding the handles of the wheelchair with both hands, and the two people following behind her were probably her parents. The young mother looked like a very gentle person. She immediately apologized. "I'm sorry." Then, she frowned and pretended to be angry at her daughter. "Nana, let go immediately. You cannot do that."

"But, she can't walk! I want to help her."

Courtney lowered her head, feeling embarrassed.

"Nana, you can't say that!" The young mother turned pale. "Don't you know you can't talk about other people's... Come here quickly."

"Um," Courtney couldn't help interrupting when she saw the little girl looking glum after being scolded. "To be honest, this is only temporary. I will recover." After that, she glanced at the little girl warmly. "Do you want to help me?"

"Yes." The little girl nodded.

"Then, can you please push me to the place where they sell candy?"

The little girl looked at her mother hesitantly. The young mother was concerned about being polite to Courtney, so she nodded her head when she heard those words. "Be careful, Nana. Don't push too fast."

"Okay." Then, the little girl pushed Courtney away.

"This chocolate is very tasty." Courtney took a box of imported chocolates from the shelf. "Both my son and my daughter like to eat this too."

Chapter 210 Diapers for Your Use

"Are you called Nana?" "Yep." The little girl nodded seriously.

"Thank you for pushing me here, Nana." Courtney supported herself with the wheelchair and smiled. Then, she stood up under the shocked gazes of the little girl's parents. "Look! Because you helped me, I can stand up again, Nana!"

The little girl widened her eyes in surprise, and she looked amazed. "Wow! Miss, your legs!"

"As thanks, I'm giving you this chocolate, okay?" Courtney took the box of chocolates and handed it to the little girl. Then, she patted the little girl on the head. "Thank you so much. The next time you see somebody else needing help, don't forget to be just as brave as you were today, okay?"

The little girl accepted the chocolates and solemnly nodded her head. She stared at Courtney's legs for a long time before she reluctantly followed her parents as they left.

Courtney finally sat back down on the wheelchair again after the little family walked away.

"You're good at talking to children." A mischievous laugh came from above her head.

She rolled her eyes at the person. "It's all because you forced me to come out with you in a wheelchair! Besides, it would be bad to dampen such a young girl's enthusiasm for helping others."

"You're right." Alexander picked up a box of chocolates. "But, this is a supermarket. Are you sure it's okay for you to randomly pick something up and give it to somebody else while calling it a gift?"

She abruptly realized something and immediately tried to stand up. How embarrassing! That couple doesn't look particularly well off. However, that brand of chocolate is not cheap! Although there are only a few pieces of chocolates in that box, it costs hundreds!

Before she could stand up, a large and powerful hand pressed down on her shoulder and forced her back into the wheelchair. "It's fine. I talked to the manager of the supermarket. All the snacks that the little girl buys today will be free of charge."

She breathed a sigh of relief. Then, she couldn't help but ask, "When did you do that?"

"During the most exciting moment of your magical act where you were showing her your legs."

Upon hearing what he said, she felt her face turning red in embarrassment. Of all the things in the world, why did he have to bring that up?! Blushing furiously, she explained, "You don't understand; that's how you should be speaking to children. No wonder you don't have a good relationship with Jordan. Do you understand now?"

"Nope." He smiled nonchalantly. "All I need to know tonight is how to make fried codfish."

The ladies working at the supermarket were even friendlier than the ones in the community. When they saw that Courtney had trouble walking, they enthusiastically gave her a lot of freebies and food samples. However, the most embarrassing incident occurred when Courtney made Alexander push her to where they sold feminine hygiene products. She wanted to buy several packs of sanitary pads since she was nearing her menstruation. Since she wanted to watch him embarrass himself, she deliberately waited somewhere far away and made him buy them on his own.

"Don't buy the wrong ones, okay? If you don't know what to buy, you can ask the lady behind the counter."

"Okay." He walked over to the aisle while pushing the supermarket's shopping cart; he seemed rather calm about what he was doing.

A short while later, she watched as he went on a shopping spree and threw a packet of everything into the shopping cart. Then, his actions became clear to her. You think you can be so casual about this just because you're rich? I won't let you get away with it! Thus, she hurriedly beckoned for a lady working at the tissue section. "Miss, look; that's my boyfriend there. I asked him to help me grab some sanitary pads, but he doesn't seem to know what to choose. Can you go over and help him, please? Please tell him that it's enough to take two packets of day use and night use each. I have trouble moving around so I can't go over."

The lady readily replied, "Sure. I'll go now. Don't move around too much; have a good rest."

"Thanks, miss." Courtney held the bottle of water she brought from the house and contentedly took a sip as she prepared to watch the show.

Sure enough, as soon as the lady arrived, Alexander became as motionless as a statue. At the same time, the expression on his face became extremely stiff.

Meanwhile, Courtney fought against the urge to spit out the water in her mouth from laughing and secretly took a photo of Alexander with her phone. When she was done taking pictures, she suddenly discovered that the two of them seemed to be happily chatting away. The lady pointed at her, then pointed toward the baby supplies. What are they doing? Are they talking about having children?

Five minutes later, Alexander returned with a full haul. Despite the lady's advice, he still bought quite a lot. It was probably enough to last Courtney half a year.

Feeling very curious, Courtney lifted her head and asked, "What did you say to the lady? I can understand pointing at me, but why was she pointing at the baby supplies section? Was she asking you to get milk powder?"

"Nope." He expressionlessly pushed her wheelchair and the shopping cart. "She asked me to buy some diapers."

"Buy some diapers? For what?"

"For you." Those two words were said lightly, but they tore her dignity and intelligence to shreds.

She was petrified for several seconds before utter shame and indignation flooded her entire being. This stupid wheelchair! I must have been crazy to come out in this wheelchair! I'm never doing this again. Is this what they mean by 'trying to gain an advantage only to end up in a worse situation'? After the incident with the diapers, she resolutely refused to move about the supermarket in a wheelchair again. Fortunately, they had already finished buying what they needed. So, they headed home immediately.

On the way back, she forcefully took his coat from him and covered her head with it. She claimed that it was to shelter herself from the limelight, but it seemed like she was just drawing more attention to herself. Luckily, it was almost dinnertime. Not many people were hanging around the community, and the smell of cooking came from most households.

The sound of cooking rang out from inside the open kitchen of the apartment. It was the sounds of the cleaned and gutted fish being placed into the pan, followed by the sizzling sound of frying.

"You can add water once both sides are fried until golden brown. Then, let it stew after adding some ginger slices and tofu," Courtney instructed loudly from outside the kitchen.

To be honest, the sound of the kitchen hood was too loud. She wasn't sure if Alexander heard anything she said. In any case, the general steps of making the dish were the same whether he followed her instructions or the recipe. She was simply bored out of her mind from resting. It's just a burn. Do I really have to recuperate as if I was paralyzed? It's embarrassing.

All of a sudden, she heard her phone ringing. Looking down at the caller ID, she saw that it was from America. She hesitated for a moment before tiptoeing into the bedroom to answer the call. "Hello, Elijah."

Alexander finished cooking and turned around only to discover that Courtney was missing. He vaguely saw a figure pacing about in the bedroom and frowned in response. The wound won't heal well if she walks around like that.

Walking over to the bedroom door, he was about to remind her about her wound when he heard her voice coming from inside. "When are you coming over? Not this week. I injured myself, so I can't go and pick you up. I won't be able to accommodate you either. Okay, next week it is. Okay, I won't tell Tina. You want to surprise her, right?"

From the gaps of the door, he could see the natural and gentle smile on her face. She looked like she was talking to a close friend that she had known for many years or somebody she had a much deeper relationship with.

After hanging up the call, she remained in the room for a while with her phone in her hand. Then, she heard the sound of somebody calling her to dinner from the living room. She quickly responded, "Coming!"

"Were you on the phone?" He pretended to ask nonchalantly.

"Yeah."

"With whom?"

"A friend," Courtney answered casually. She used a fork to poke at the middle part of the chicken wing and smilingly said, "It looks pretty good."

"What friend?" Alexander's tone was becoming slightly grim.