

Surprise 371

One Night Surprise Chapter 371 Are They the Children You Had With Me?

As soon as Courtney and Alexander went out, there was a downpour. The cold rain in the frigid winter was extremely cold, and though the shopping mall was full of heaters, Courtney still felt unreasonably chilly.

“What’s left to buy?”

“Looks like there’s nothing left.” Courtney shook her head.

“Then wait for me here; I’ll go get something.”

“What is it?”

“Our wedding rings.”

“I see.”

Courtney nodded. “Alright, off you go. I’ll just wait for you here.”

Alexander bought custom-made rings for the proposal. There were 10 different designs of bride’s rings custom-made, but the groom’s ring could not be made in time, so it had been delayed until today.

After Alexander left, Courtney sat down on one of the public sofas in the shopping mall with shopping bags piled at her feet. Right as she sat down, she received a call from Alicia.

“Are you coming back soon?”

“I’m at the shopping mall. Alexander will send me back after shopping. Don’t worry. I promised you that I will be at your house for the eve of the mid-winter holiday, so I won’t run away all of a sudden, okay?”

“Well, a married daughter is just like water that has been poured—she doesn’t belong to her family any more. So who knows if Alex will use his sweet talking to get you to stay with him.”

Courtney was obviously amused by what Alicia said. She got up and laughed while leaning on the railing.

“Do you really think Alexander is capable of sweet talking?”

“Uh... Well...”

On the other side, Alexander entered the jewelry store and explained his intention to the store clerk. Soon, the store manager came out with the ring.

“Oh, Mr. Duncan, you didn’t have to make this trip in person. I could have sent someone over with this!”

Alexander glanced at the ring. He didn’t care much about the design, but he was in a good mood, so he replied casually, “I happened to accompany my wife here for some shopping, so I figured I should pick it up on the way, lest I forget about it.”

“Your wife sure is a lucky lady.”

The store manager followed Alexander's gaze and glanced into the distance before smiling. "I saw the video on the Internet. I thought I was mistaken, but you and Miss Hunter are a match made in heaven. Who would have thought that the both of you would end up in such a good marriage because of one necklace!"

"Necklace?" Alexander's expression changed slightly. "What necklace?"

The store manager was stunned for a moment. "Didn't you come to the store before to ask about the necklace? Miss Hunter was the one who came with that necklace to enquire, and we told her it was yours..."

Seeing that Alexander's expression had changed, the store manager seemed to realize that he had said something wrong, and his voice gradually weakened.

"You... didn't know about this? I saw the wedding video on the Internet and thought you knew, so I didn't call to tell you about this."

Alexander frowned. He stared blankly at the woman with her back to him in the distance. Clenching the ring box in his hand, he strode over.

"Okay, I know. Alexander is collecting the ring, and we'll leave after that."

Out of the corner of Courtney's eyes, she caught a glimpse of Alexander's figure and said with a smile, "There he is. I'll hang up first. Don't worry. I'll be home in a while."

Once Courtney hung up the phone, she stretched out her hand toward Alexander very naturally. "I want to see what they look like."

Alexander handed over the ring box and was still in shock when he thought back to what the store manager said just now.

Courtney looked at the ring. "The design is very minimalistic. That's great! I'll keep it for you first—we don't want you losing things this important."

Looking up and seeing Alexander staring at her strangely, Courtney was a little puzzled. "What's wrong?"

It took a long time for Alexander to regain his senses, and his brows frowned slightly.

"It's nothing—let's go."

"Oh, let me go to the washroom first!" Courtney smiled at him. "Wait for me. I'll be out soon."

Seeing Courtney trotting away, Alexander felt his heart gradually sinking. Perhaps it was a misunderstanding. If the necklace is in Courtney's hands, and she knew that the necklace was mine, why didn't she give it back to me? 6 years ago, when did I lose the necklace, and how did it end up in her hands?

What happened then was too long ago for him to remember, just as he couldn't remember how the necklace was lost all these years.

In the next second, the phone vibrated in his pocket, and after looking at the caller ID, he pressed the answer button.

“What is it?”

“President Duncan, Poppy Waller opened up at the police station.”

“What did she say?”

“She said...” Josh’s voice was very hesitant, but after a while, he finally mustered the courage to speak. “She said that Britney found out that Little Master Jordan’s biological mother was Miss Hunter, and that there was a mistake regarding the girl who was set to be the surrogate mother six years ago. At that time, Miss Hunter just happened to be drugged and sent to the wrong room by her sister, and the children she gave birth to were not one, but two—they were twins...”

Alexander’s hand that was holding the phone suddenly tightened—even his knuckles turned white from how tightly he was clenching his phone. Right then, he felt as if his heart had sunk to the depths of the ocean.

“She said that before James’ accident, Britney had already found out that Miss Hunter was approaching you on purpose. Miss Hunter had met a lawyer from America who specialized in custody lawsuits, and she had already collected all the evidence that you abandoned Jordan in the old house after he was born...”

At this point, all he could hear were muffled words with a constant ringing in his ears, but he still managed to maintain his reasoning and asked, “Did she have any evidence for what she said?”

There was silence on the other end of the phone for a moment, then came Josh’s heavy voice. “I’ve checked it, and there’s nothing suspicious about what Britney said. Miss Hunter found out your identity shortly after returning, and she even has a paternity test certificate in her hand. The American lawyer was arranged by Elijah Grant, and there are various hospital records where Jordan has been injured over the years in the lawyer’s hand. If... If she fights for custody, they would probably build the case on child abuse...”

After Josh finished talking about everything, Alexander hung up the phone. He received a document from Josh, which clearly recorded everything he had investigated over the past six months.

The veins in Alexander’s hands popped out, and he almost crushed the phone with his bare hands. Without a second thought, he left behind the pile of festive wedding gift bags and strode toward the bathroom.

Courtney had just finished washing her hands and was tidying up her messy hair in front of the mirror. In the next second, the sound of the door opening came from behind, and at the same time came the voice of a woman exclaiming, “Excuse me, sir! This is the women’s washroom!”

Hearing that, Courtney looked back subconsciously. When she turned around, the man had already pushed the woman out of the washroom and locked the door.

“Alex?” Courtney looked astonished. “What are you doing?”

Alexander's expression was sullen, and his eyes seemed to hold back a sea of fire. He kept staring at her intensely, as if he wanted to burn a hole right through her soul.

After a long time, there was a low voice in the bathroom. "Jordan and Tina—are they the children you had with me 6 years ago?"

In the huge washroom, the man's voice reverberated like a roar from hell, and it was as if Courtney's mind had shattered into millions of pieces. She was stunned for a moment. "How did you—"

"Are they?" Alexander took a step closer. "I'm asking you: Are they?"

It was untrue to say that she had never expected such a situation to unfold. Courtney would even think about this in her sleep—that if she didn't confess soon, maybe one day, Alexander would find out the truth and come to question herself, just like what he was doing right now.

She had actually imagined and replayed this scene countless times in her mind.

One Night Surprise Chapter 372 We'll Bring This to Court, Then

After what seemed like forever, Courtney finally calmed down and slowly raised her head to meet Alexander's intense gaze.

"Yes." She clenched her fist and frowned. "Since you know it all now, then I don't see the need to hide it from you any more."

She was honest.

She knew very well that what happened 6 years ago was not her fault but Alexander's. And now, they had fallen in love, so she chose to forgive and see it as a surprise—it wasn't the case in the start, but it was now.

Seeing her calm appearance, Alexander grew even angrier, and the flames in his cold eyes gradually burned even more vigorously as he continued to ask, "You found out about this soon after you returned?"

"Yes."

When she saw his angered face, Courtney frowned and explained, "If you want to blame me for not telling you. I'll have you know that I was just worried that you'd try to take custody over Tina. I mean, we weren't getting married at the time, after all. Maybe it was because I didn't trust you enough then, but I was also worried—I had to look out for myself too..."

"Oh, really?" Alexander raised the corners of his lips mockingly. "Well, if that's the case, since we have already set a date to get married, why did you still go to see a lawyer?"

When Courtney heard that, her expression froze immediately. "H-How did you know?"

"If I hadn't found out, when were you planning to tell me all these?"

Alexander looked at her with extremely cold eyes.

“On one hand, you want to marry me so that you can be Jordan’s mother and at the same time not lose your daughter, while on the other hand, you left a way out for yourself. If things go south, what reason are you going to use to fabricate evidence of my abuse of Jordan and to compete with me for his custody?”

Courtney’s face gradually turned pale. “I didn’t plan on doing that.”

“Do you dare to swear on your children’s wellbeing?” Alexander’s eyes were full of contempt. He grabbed Courtney’s arm and forced her to look into his eyes. “Swear that you have never thought of this—that you have never thought about snatching Jordan away from me.”

“Alexander Duncan!” Courtney was in pain, and her facial features were almost twisted together from the pain on her wrist. “Let me go!”

“Let you go?”

Alexander’s eyes were full of contempt and disappointment, and he roared, “Courtney Hunter, you approached me from the very beginning all for the child’s custody. You were meticulously planning it every step of the way, from the beginning to the end. You’ve obviously never had me in your heart—not even for a moment!”

It was only now that he figured out why she would always be submissive every time Jordan was mentioned in a quarrel, but she would always only treat him coldly. It was because she had never put him in her heart from the beginning.

As for their marriage, she only chose the next best option. To her, it was just a price she had to pay temporarily for the custody of her children!

Such a woman was sleeping in the same bed beside him everyday, yet he couldn’t see it clearly until today.

“You really think I’m such a person?” Courtney looked at him in disbelief. “Someone who planned things out from the start—from approaching you to even marrying you—just for custody over my children?”

“Are you not?” Alexander asked with a frown. “If you didn’t have these two children in the first place, would you have still married me?”

The air became stagnant and heavy. Courtney looked at him blankly with a deep self-deprecating look in her eyes. “Assumptions about the past are pointless—you’re just being unreasonable right now.”

The assumption of what ifs was meaningless. Life was a straight path, and no one could turn back, so Courtney would never make such assumptions.

However, Alexander misinterpreted the meaning of her words. He then pushed her to the sink and continued interrogating her. “Fine. That question was meaningless, so what about this: If from today onward, you would never see Jordan again, would you still marry me?”

His aggressiveness was full of icy thorns in Courtney’s eyes. One by one, they were stabbing into her heart, rebutting all the stories of the past that she wanted to tell him.

The man who had said that he would always trust and understand her still chose to stand on the opposite side when push came to shove.

After a long time, she felt disheartened and spit out a sentence with determination. "I wouldn't."

Surprised, Alexander never thought that she would be so decisive. The fire in his eyes faded a little, and he was filled with shock. Looking at her in a daze, he actually felt a little flustered and anxious.

Courtney broke free from his hand and said coldly, "Since you don't want to get married, then don't. That's fine. According to my original idea, we'll take this to court and compete fairly for Jordan's custodian rights. No matter what the court decides, after everything ends, I will take my child back to America and never come back."

After saying this, she tried to walk toward the door.

"Over my dead body." The moment these words rang out, Courtney was pulled back by a strong force.

Alexander clasped her two wrists and nailed them to the door with monstrous anger in his eyes. "After you get custody, you will take your two children to America to continue your life with Elijah, right? Courtney Hunter, let me make it clear to you: Don't even think about it!"

Her back slammed against the door panel, and there was a sharp pain spreading from her back. Seeing him being unreasonable, she also roared in anger, "That's my business, and it has nothing to do with you!"

This sentence ignited all the anger in Alexander's heart. He really thought that Courtney's plans all these while were all for the children. As soon as she got custody, she would take the children back to America to be with Elijah.

Elijah had always been a thorn in his heart, but this thorn had finally pierced his last line of defense, and his anger flooded out like a broken dam, destroying everything in his path.

He looked down at Courtney condescendingly. With a cold tone that she had never heard before, he said, "Are children what you want? I'll give them to you, and I'll give you however many you want! But Jordan? Don't even think about it."

Before Courtney could react, his large hand reached under her skirt, and he violently tore off the stockings and panties inside. In the next second, Courtney felt a cool breeze on her lower body.

Courtney's pupils shrank while her whole body trembled. Her eyes were instantly filled with horror, and she screamed, "What are you doing?!"

Alexander was already consumed by anger and had completely lost his mind. Even in Courtney's struggle and screaming, his mind was flooded with images of her going away to live happily with her children and Elijah.

He pushed Courtney down onto the sink and lifted the hem of her black dress. The crisp sound of his belt buckle being unfastened rang in Courtney's ears and left a buzzing sound in her ears.

“Alexander, no, don’t! Let me go! Let me go!” Courtney screamed. Her voice was hoarse, and there was only a broken cry for mercy. She was afraid of Alexander’s impulse—afraid of what he would do next that would push their relationship past the point of no return.

“I will hate you!” Her shrill voice echoed in the bathroom. She was shouting over and over again, “Alexander Duncan! I will hate you!”

“Then hate me. Hate me fiercely for the rest of your life.”

Alexander’s red eyes were like stares from the abyss; he lifted her waist with his big hand and penetrated her fiercely.

The screams converged into one syllable at this moment, which echoed for a long time.

At that point, Courtney had only one thought left in her mind—that she and Alexander were really over.

One Night Surprise Chapter 373 What Grounds Do You Have to Negotiate With Me?

The stagnant air in the bathroom became extremely humid.

The faint musk of sweat accompanied with Courtney’s broken and painful moans created a sorrowful ambience in the small space.

The sounds of security guards banging on the door, as well as the sound of passersby stopping and whispering from the other side of the thin bathroom door, was frantically stabbing into Courtney’s eardrums.

Her consciousness began to fade; with the man’s hoarse grunts, a new, sharper pain—one that exceeded the countless previous ones—stabbed into her already numb lower body. Her pupils contracted, and she raised her neck high up as a scream tried to escape her throat.

“I will give you whatever you want, but you will never see Jordan again. As for your daughter, since you’ve signed the contract at the beginning, it doesn’t matter how many children you have—they won’t have anything to do with you.”

Alexander fastened his belt and stared at her coldly, letting her slip off the sink like a broken, lifeless toy.

“No.” Her voice was low, and she gritted her teeth before making the final broken sound. “Don’t you dare lay a finger on Tina.”

She used her remaining strength to pull up her clothes as she staggered against the wall and stood up, albeit shakily, while looking at Alexander with an ashen face; it was as pale as dying embers.

“Alexander, I’m begging you. I don’t want Jordan anymore. I’ll take Tina with me, and I’ll never appear in front of you again.”

“What right could you possibly have to even think of negotiating with me?”

As they spoke, a loud bang bounced off the walls of the bathroom as the door was smashed open by the security guards. Immediately, a group of people rushed in, and when they entered, they were surprised to see Courtney and Alexander standing about and talking civilly.

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“On today’s news, a customer at Pinnacle Shopping Center had called the police, claiming that a man had broken into the women’s restroom. The security personnel arrived soon after and realized the restroom was locked...”

Back at the Duncan Residence, Oliver was answering the phone, and the live news broadcast on the TV was playing in the background. As he was facing away from the TV, he did not see the mosaic of the familiar figure on the screen.

“She’s not back yet. There could be traffic on the road, so don’t worry.”

Whoever was on the other end of the line did not buy what Oliver said and continued to express their worries.

“I’m going to Grandpa’s place, so I’ll drive out and have a look while I’m at it. If I manage to contact them, I’ll call you back immediately.”

After hearing what Oliver said, the person on the other end of line finally seemed to be more at ease.

After hanging up the phone, Oliver took the jacket from the servant and accidentally overheard the two servants cleaning the house talking.

“Oh, I heard it was all a misunderstanding—it was a couple quarreling in the washroom of the mall. The security guard thought something was wrong, but when they finally smashed the door down, only then did they realize it was a misunderstanding. When everyone dispersed, the woman came out to run after the man, but after taking just two steps, she fainted...”

Oliver’s expression froze when he heard what they said. For some reason, even though he had already walked to the door, he had a nagging feeling to turn around and look at the TV. Coincidentally, he did it just in time to see the picture of the paramedics wheeling an unconscious person into the ambulance. The moment he saw the familiar beige coat on the stretcher, his eyes immediately narrowed, and his face turned into a scowl.

At the Emergency Department.

When Cameron and Gale arrived, the doctor had already dealt with Courtney’s injuries and had arranged for her to be hospitalized, while Oliver was guarding the hospital bed.

“What happened?”

Oliver shook his head. His expression froze, but he managed to say with difficulty, “The doctor said it’s nothing major. It was just that...”

“Just what? Where is Alexander?” Cameron looked anxious. “Gosh, Oliver. You’re killing me here!”

When she received Oliver's call, she was having a reunion dinner with the Langley family. The dishes had just arrived on the table when she heard Oliver say that Courtney had been wheeled into the operating room, but he didn't explain the reason.

"U-Uh... you should ask the doctor. I-I can't explain it clearly to you."

Oliver's voice was a little dull.

When Cameron saw him like this, she knew that he couldn't tell her anything, so she turned around and tried to go out.

Gale originally wanted to chase after her but was stopped by Oliver instead.

"Gale, don't go."

"Why?" Gale turned around in confusion.

Oliver didn't explain why, but only lowered his head and took a deep breath while running his hands through his hair irritably. "Just listen to me. Don't go."

Gale was floored when he heard the news abroad about Oliver being Alexander's younger brother. He had met Oliver in Melrose many times before, but this was the first time they met after Gale found out about their relationship.

Oliver, in Gale's opinion, had always looked like a young adult, but he didn't have Alexander's dull personality. Instead, he felt like the sun—warm, and always playing with the waiters of Sunhill Hotel all day long. While he was there, the hotel would always be filled with laughter.

His dejected look now was completely different from his usual appearance.

Seeing that, Gale felt a little uneasy in his heart.

10 minutes later, Cameron came back and walked in with bloodshot eyes, as if she had cried, which startled Gale. "Cameron, what's the matter? What did the doctor say?"

"Where the hell is Alexander Duncan?"

Cameron asked as soon as she came in—her eyes were blistering from the anger.

Oliver frowned and shook his head. "I don't know. I came to the hospital immediately after seeing the news. I-I can't reach Alex..."

"What exactly is the matter here?" Gale looked puzzled. "What happened?"

Cameron pushed him away after shaking his hand off.

"You stay away from me. All of you men are pigs."

Gale was stunned. "What does this have to do with me?"

"Get out."

Cameron glared at him angrily, then looked at Oliver. "You too. Get out."

Gale wanted to say more, but Oliver immediately stood up, pushed Gale out with him together, and closed the door to the ward behind them.

There was only Cameron and Courtney left in the room; Cameron walked to the side of the bed and held Courtney's hand.

"I used to think that my life was sh*t. I used to think that I probably chose the wrong life when I was reincarnated in my past life—the first half of my life was filled with bad memories and traumas, but why you too? You were obviously born a daughter of a rich family, so why did you have to go through all this bad luck?"

Courtney lay on the pillow pallidly—her delicate face was devoid of color, and even her lips were white as paper.

After what seemed like forever, Courtney's hand that was held in Cameron's palm moved. Following that, she slowly opened her eyes and stared blankly at the ceiling for a while.

What she saw was blinding whiteness. She frowned, and when she moved her body ever so slightly, she felt a sharp pain in her lower body—one so painful that it had completely woken her up—and that was when she could hear the faint sounds of her name being called.

"Courtney, you're awake! Are you feeling uncomfortable anywhere?"

She turned her head slowly and saw that it was Cameron. "Who brought me to the hospital?"

Cameron was stunned for a moment as she heard her. She then bit her lip and said hesitantly, "It should be the ambulance called by the manager of the mall. When I arrived, Oliver was already with you in the ward."

Whatever little anticipation she had faded away as soon as she heard those words, and her eyes turned a little hollow.

How could she forget that it was totally Alexander's style to just disappear whenever he was enraged?

She thought that after going through hell and high water with him, something like this would no longer be an issue. However, Alexander thought of her as a woman who was scheming and deceitful—that she had only approached him with the plans to gain custody over her children and to get back at him for what he had done to her in the past.

The deep affection and trust that she finally mustered up to be with him were all in vain from the very beginning.

One Night Surprise Chapter 374 Don't Let Anyone In

Cameron learned about Courtney's injury from the doctor in charge. Her lower body had been torn, and she needed two stitches—she didn't even have to think twice to know what had happened.

"So what if he found out everything? You're the victim here."

In the ward, Cameron was livid, so much so that she was turning blue from the anger. "Let me find him."

“Cameron.” Courtney fought through the pain and grabbed Cameron. “Don’t go.”

Seeing Courtney’s sickly face, Cameron’s anger grew even more, and her expression became even more unsightly, but she finally sat down in a snit.

“So are you just going to let this go? If he doesn’t apologize to you properly this time, why would you still marry him? No matter how rich and powerful he or his family is, he can’t just trample over people like this. If Aunt Alicia finds out about this, she would feel super bad for you; you know that, right?”

Courtney was silent for a moment, then she continued to say, “Don’t tell Aunt Alicia about this.”

“Are you kidding me?” Cameron raised her brows. “What makes you think you can hide this from her? Today is the eve of the mid-winter holiday, and your aunt is going crazy looking for you. I don’t know how many calls she’s made so far.”

“I’m not getting married,” Courtney said all of a sudden.

Cameron’s expression was deadpan for a long time, then she sighed deeply. “I don’t think the marriage will work out now, but even if you don’t tell your aunt, I don’t think you should marry Alexander—he is just too stubborn and extreme. Why couldn’t he put himself in your shoes?”

“I’m tired.”

Courtney didn’t seem to want to hear anything about Alexander anymore and rested her head on the pillow with an exhausted look.

When Cameron saw her like this, she knew it was her cue to stop talking about him or anything related to him now.

“Then take a rest and don’t worry. I’ll find a way to handle the rest. As for your aunt... I’ll figure something out too.”

“Okay.” Courtney nodded weakly. She then pulled the quilt up and covered it all the way to her face, only revealing a pair of tired eyes, which she slowly closed.

After closing the door behind her, Cameron stood at the door with her brows furrowed. After standing there for a while, she pulled out her phone and made a call.

The call was quickly connected, and a man’s low voice came from the other end.

Cameron took a deep breath; her tone was upset. “Something happened to Courtney. Come back when you can. I feel like this won’t be the end of it; something else is going to happen.”

The call continued for a while.

After hanging up the phone, Cameron glanced at Gale, who had been standing by the door.

“Courtney won’t marry Alexander anymore. I’m going to Courtney’s aunt’s house to clarify this matter. You don’t need to accompany me. Go home first, alright?”

Gale left with her during the Langley family’s reunion dinner, and she was afraid that everyone in the family was still waiting for them to return.

“No. I’ll come with you.” Gale frowned.

Although he wasn’t any clearer on what had happened, from the moment he was abruptly kicked out and ignored by Cameron, he could roughly guess that it was all related to Alexander.

“No.” Cameron looked at him with a complicated expression. “If you really want to help, just stay here, and don’t let anyone in until I come back. Should anything happen to Courtney, let me know as soon as possible.”

“Don’t let anyone in?”

Gale hesitated.

Cameron gave him a deep look. “Including Alexander.”

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At the Detention Center of East Side of Melrose City.

It was already late at night. The dim light in the interrogation room shone on the woman’s bony face, and her sunken eye looked particularly hollow.

The interrogation had lasted for half a month. The people in the detention center did not let her sleep and only gave her small amounts of water and food every day. It was only a matter of time before the constant interrogation reduced her into a husk of her former self.

She could barely survive the time she promised Britney, but fortunately, it was all over now.

“Poppy Waller, your detention period is up. Someone has come to bail you out; let’s get moving.”

All of a sudden, the woman’s eyes lit up with a glimmer of hope, and she forced her already weakened body to stand up.

After going through all the paperwork, she followed the man dressed in black and left the detention center until she got into the car. Once the car left the detention center, she asked, “Did my sister tell you to pick me up?”

The man had his hands planted firmly on the steering wheel—the black hoodie over his head hid his sinister expression. Poppy’s heart started racing, and she started feeling agitated as soon as she saw him.

“Where is my sister? Where are you taking me?”

“Shut up if you don’t want to die.”

The man coldly spoke. His eyes under the cap were particularly gloomy, and he glanced at her impatiently.

After driving for more than 5 hours, they arrived at the riverside far away from the suburbs of Melrose City. At first glance, it was an undeveloped tidal flat area; their feet were covered in mud after walking merely a few steps.

Poppy followed behind the man obediently and didn't dare to say much. From a distance, she saw a covered fishing boat parked on the edge of the river.

"Where are we going?"

"Oh, are you afraid?" The man turned his head and glanced at her. "My boss told me that if you refuse to come with me, then I'll have to take care of you on the spot, just to make sure we have no loose ends."

When Poppy heard what the man had said, she immediately felt nervous, and her expression turned timid. Almost immediately, she climbed onto the fishing boat without any resistance.

"Who said that I didn't want to go?"

The man snickered and got on the boat as well. The fishing boat stocked, and with the rowing of the oar, the two of them headed toward the middle of the foggy river.

On the deserted Riverark Island surrounded by green trees, there were several wooden houses in a row in the woods, and there were several sentry towers in the nearby areas which provided the best views. There were even a few men standing guard equipped with guns.

"The boss must be happy to have brought back such a fine woman. Every night, my heart is itching from her moans, yet he wouldn't let anyone touch her. Damn it."

"Don't you dare. She's the boss' woman. Don't you even think about it."

"Hey, where did Buffy go? I haven't seen him all night."

"The boss told him to go out and pick someone up."

"Who is it, though? Didn't they say that we're all wanted recently, and that no one was allowed to go out before the mid-winter holiday?"

"I heard that Britney was the one who told him to pick the person up. Don't you know? The boss listens to everything she says now."

"Hehe." Both men exchanged a wretched look. "Well, they say that even if his body should perish, girls he'll still cherish. Isn't that right?"

The two of them subconsciously glanced at the second floor of the cabin below in unison and both had ambiguous expressions on their faces.

The second floor of the log cabin was different from the ice and snow outside the house. There was charcoal fire inside, and the bed was covered with fine mink fur. The house was simple, but the furnishings inside were all very valuable.

A mighty man leaned over a woman's body and thrust with all his might. He kept pushing and wishing he could melt into this person under him. The bed was creaking from their intense session.

"Ah, ah! Dragon, please spare me. I-I can't hold it anymore. You're amazing!"

The louder the woman moaned, the harder the man thrust. Seeming that he wanted to hold on longer, he panted and shouted, "You little b*tch. I'll make you scream till you lose your voice today!"

After a while, the man let out a low growl and finally stopped. He then laid his exhausted body down on his side.

The woman was panting from their love-making session as well. Her face was crimson, and she seemed to have lost all her strength. Her snow-white chest was exposed in the air, and they were rising and falling from her heavy breathing. When he saw that, his passion grew once more, but as he was about to crawl atop her, there was a knock on the door.

"Boss, Buffy is back with a woman."

One Night Surprise Chapter 375 I Want to at Least Try

Dragon frowned and said with absolute displeasure, "Can't you tell I'm busy? Why are you telling me every little f*cking thing?"

Outside the door, his subordinate didn't dare to speak.

The woman on the side carefully studied the man's expression and said cautiously, "Dragon, did you forget that it was you who asked Buffy to pick this person up? With Buffy's stubborn temper, if you don't see him today, he will definitely stand outside all night with that person he brought—they will freeze to death."

The man called Dragon was originally displeased, but his expression softened when he heard what Britney had to say, and he pinched the woman's cheek. "Why did you ask me to send someone to pick up your sister? Are you not afraid that I will want her when she's here?"

The woman's eyes were calm, and her face was docile. "This is your territory. Since we have decided to take her in, she is all yours. And not to mention, I brought my sister over just to serve you in the first place."

Hearing this, the man was overjoyed. After laughing twice, he rubbed the woman's body hard again with his hand. "Well said. Don't worry. I'm not interested in your sister—I'm just taking her in for your sake. As for how she'll live here in the future, I'll leave it to her to decide."

The woman lowered her eyebrows and smiled. "Of course."

Riverark Island was deserted, and there was no woman on it except her. Once Dragon left, she would be at an absolute disadvantage facing this group of men alone, so although Poppy was of little use or value, she would be able to help her with this here.

The man yelled at the door, "Buffy can deal with it himself. Don't bother me again."

As soon as he said what he said, he pressed his body against the woman's again. She cried out, and their bodies began to move with the bed frame once again.

Within the ecstasy of her screams, the woman's dark and vicious eyes lay hidden.

She was patient. She had been forced to the point where she was now, and she was not afraid of anything. Since she was already going to hell, she would bring those two people to be buried along with her when she died.

Right now, the two families are probably in a mess! She thought.

...

“Don’t worry about your aunt. I’ve hidden the truth from her. I only told her that you had a quarrel with Alexander and realized that you both are no longer a match, so you canceled the wedding.”

“Did she ask about anything?”

Courtney’s face was pale. Although she had rested all night, she still looked weak and fragile, as if the wind could send her tumbling at any moment.

“No, she didn’t.” Cameron frowned. “But she seemed to have sensed something, so she only kept asking me where you are now. I said you were in a bad mood, so you went to travel. She didn’t ask any more questions after that.”

Courtney nodded with a light expression.

Before setting the wedding date, she had confessed to Alicia about Jordan’s background and said that if she didn’t handle it well in the future, she might have a certain disagreement with Alexander. Perhaps at that time, Alicia had already made such mental preparations for this probability.

It was just that Alicia still didn’t know that the situation was this serious. She probably believed what Cameron said, that it was just a quarrel between the two, and that she went abroad for a trip.

As for the Duncan family, she thought that Alexander must have said something when he went back. But that was fine by her too—it was likely for the best that the two families didn’t have to meet again, so the wedding would be canceled by default.

“What are you going to do?” Cameron asked.

Courtney leaned against the bed and glanced out the window.

Because of the mid-winter holiday, it was very lively outside. The streets and alleys were full of decorations; there was an ancient church not too far from the hospital, and the sound of its bell ringing could be heard occasionally.

“After leaving the hospital, I plan to take Tina directly back to America with no plans on returning here. Citron Apparel will be handed over to you and Bill in the future.”

“What about Jordan? You don’t care about him anymore?”

“He seems to be doing fine with the Duncans. No one would dare to lay a finger on him again, and even if I wanted to do something, I’m afraid that’s out of the equation because Alexander won’t let me.”

“When are you going to leave, then?”

“Within these two days, I guess.”

Courtney's eyes were dark; there was no light in them, as if she had been completely and utterly disappointed. A man had made her lose all hope in a city.

Cameron didn't know how to persuade her to stay, so she could only sit silently and accompany her. She was sighing even more than Courtney, who was the victim.

At the door of the ward, a hand with well-defined joints had just withdrawn from the door handle. When he heard what Courtney said, his hands slowly clenched into fists, and the blue veins on the back of his hands throbbed, indicating that he could no longer hide his anger.

Just because her plans were exposed now, she planned to leave the mess behind her and walk away?

Alexander squeezed his hands together, and his fingers cracked—his heart was full of anger and could not be quelled. In the end, he didn't open the door or enter; he simply turned around and left the hospital inpatient department without looking back.

Two days later, Elijah came back and went straight to the hospital after getting off the plane.

On the phone, Cameron didn't tell him about Courtney's injuries in detail. She only said that Courtney and Alexander had a fight, and they resorted to violence. Courtney was too frightened and was hospitalized. Despite this, Elijah still dropped all of his plans and rushed back as soon as he could.

"Courtney told me everything. I've already arranged everything for you if you want to go back to America. You can go back whenever you want, okay?" Elijah stood beside the hospital bed and spoke with concern hidden in his eyes. "How are you feeling now?"

"I'm fine. Cameron is just making a big fuss out of this."

Courtney was already able to get out of bed. Seeing that Elijah came back all of a sudden, she didn't respond for a while. "I will go back no matter what, but I still have some things to deal with."

"Is it about Jordan?"

Courtney nodded as she looked at Elijah. "Well, I want to end things nicely and peacefully. I want to talk to him. Although I'm sure he will definitely refuse to give me custody of Jordan, I don't want to make things ugly. I won't file a lawsuit, but I do want to ask him if he can let me see Jordan regularly."

Elijah frowned. "Do you think he will agree?"

"I-I just... I want to at least try."

Courtney smiled bleakly—her voice did not carry even an ounce of confidence.

Alexander's paranoia far exceeded her expectations. She just wanted to try it one last time. Even if he didn't care about the relationship they had built recently, taking into consideration that she was Jordan's biological mother, letting her meet Jordan regularly wasn't too much to ask.

Elijah sighed deeply, and there was a hint of hostility between his brows, but he still agreed in the end. "Okay, I'll make arrangements."

That afternoon, Courtney was discharged from the hospital. Elijah had a manor on the hillside of Purple Peak Mountain to the west of Melrose City; it was far away from the urban area and was suitable for

recuperating. It was also to prevent Alicia from running into them accidentally, so he arranged for Courtney to live there instead.

Even well after nightfall, the study in the Duncan family villa was still lit.

Alexander sat in front of the desk and passed the whole afternoon without turning over a single page of the financial magazine in his hand.

The phone rang for a while before he glanced at the caller ID. It was then that his expression turned stone cold.

After tapping on the answer button, a man's icy voice came from the other end. "Let's have a conversation at 2.00PM tomorrow, shall we, Mr. Duncan?"

Alexander clenched the phone tightly and said coldly, "It's time to talk indeed, but I want to know: What identity are you going to use to talk to me?"

One Night Surprise Chapter 376 How Long Will You See Him Once

"Her ex, or her current husband?" Alexander asked menacingly.

He recognized that his and Courtney's wedding was a sham from the start. It all started with Elijah and ended with him too. There was no space in her heart for him all along.

Speaking with hints of anger, Elijah said, "I don't care about the status as long as she's happy. But I'm afraid that this problem has nothing to do with you now. You should know very well what we want to discuss with you."

The word 'we' stabbed Alexander's heart, making his face darken with anger.

"Ok, then. I'm curious to see what terms you will offer when discussing my son's custody."

After hanging up, Alexander simply stood at his desk for quite some time.

Just then, his servant knocked on his door to tell him his meal was ready. Raising his head, he had a devilish look with extremely bloodshot eyes. With a deep voice, he bellowed, "Get out!"

Petrified with fear, the servant only closed the door after a while before going away.

With a swoosh, all the things on the table were pushed onto the ground; along with it were expensive porcelain pieces that were smashed into pieces. Just a few minutes later, the whole study was left in a state of chaos.

Then, the usually calm man sat on the sofa with his long slender arms grabbing his hair in frustration.

It wasn't until a long time had passed that he suddenly remembered something. His seething anger calmed down as a cold sneer began forming at his mouth.

Let's see who will have the last laugh for the custody case!

The next day, at 2.00PM, Courtney had arrived early for the meeting at a private club with Elijah. Only after waiting for more than one hour did Alexander arrive.

After sitting down, he glanced at Elijah.

“If you want to talk about Jordan’s custody rights with me, then I don’t want any outsiders present.”

Just as Elijah was about to act up due to his words, Courtney interrupted.

“Wait for me outside.”

Seeing Courtney so determined, Elijah decided to hold his tongue. “Call me if anything happens.”

“I will.”

Replying faintly to Elijah, Courtney watched as he stepped outside the private room.

Left inside the teahouse’s enormous private room then was only Courtney and Alexander.

This was the first time they met after the eve of mid-winter holidays.

Regarding the issue of Alexander’s tardiness, Courtney chose to not bring it up. Whether it was intentional, or just that he was occupied, she didn’t have a lick of interest in knowing about it. She only wanted to get this over with as quickly as possible and settle the things regarding Jordan.

Before going out, she had purposely applied light makeup, which made her look radiant, to cover up her pale visage.

But in the eyes of Alexander, Courtney’s look only annoyed him.

Observing Courtney loosely, he mocked, “You look very radiant after not meeting for a few days. You’ve been anticipating this day to arrive, haven’t you?”

Calmly, Courtney set down her teacup and said, “I’m not here to argue with you. Since you seem to think that I approached you with ulterior motives, I won’t bother to explain anything. But know that I always do things with a clear conscience.”

“A clear conscience?” Alexander sneered hearing this. “Women like you really can say anything, huh?”

Besides foreseeing that the talk this time wouldn’t go smoothly, Courtney also guessed that Alexander would mock her. After staying silent for a short while from his words, she cut straight to the chase.

“I know you will not hand over Jordan’s custody to me, so I did not plan for that. But if possible, I still wish to see him periodically.”

“Periodically?”

With his gaze easing up, he asked, “How often will you see him?”

Seeing him loosening up, Courtney breathed a sigh of relief; she thought they could still smooth things over, so she said, “Once every three or six months. As long as you agree, I can fly back from America anytime.”

When Alexander heard this, his face darkened suddenly.

“America? You’re going back?”

She’s just going to drop everything here to go back to America? Is her aim only to visit Jordan even if she does come back?

Not knowing what Alexander was thinking, Courtney just simply explained her standpoint.

“Since we have fallen out, I’ll still be bringing Tina back to America with me. You don’t have to worry about me affecting your and Jordan’s life; seeing him periodically will be enough for me.”

After Courtney stated her piece, Alexander fell silent without a reply.

Casting her gaze on him, she asked carefully, “What do you think?”

After a while, a mocking laugh came from Alexander in the opposite seat.

“You’re going back to America and coming back to see Jordan once in a while?” Alexander laughed as if he had just heard a joke. With his voice deepening, he uttered, “Who do you think you are? Do you think you are qualified to make such demands?”

Going pale, Courtney rebuked, “Jordan is my own flesh and blood; I am his biological mother. In the first place, I wasn’t even the one you chose for surrogacy.”

“Nevertheless, you signed the contract.” Alexander stared icily at her. “Since the contract was signed, whether it’s a son or daughter, they all belong to the Duncans. Also, besides Jordan, you should return my daughter to me too.”

“That’s out of the question!”

Suddenly, Courtney stood up, her calmness from just now nowhere to be seen. Instead, she said hurriedly, “Tina is my daughter. She doesn’t have anything to do with you.”

“Nothing to do with me?”

Looking upward at Courtney with contempt, Alexander spoke with a deep tone. “Then did you get pregnant all by yourself six years ago? Did you have such a great ability that you could conceive a child alone?”

“Alexander Duncan!” After slightly collecting herself, Courtney was going to grab her bag and leave huffily. “Alright. Since you don’t want to talk it out with me, then nevermind. Jordan was raised by you, so I have no say nor custody over him. But don’t you dare touch Tina. I’ll be bringing her back to America tomorrow, and we can pretend that I never came back.”

“Too late.”

Courtney, who already reached the door, heard Alexander’s cold voice coming from behind her. “Do you know why I didn’t show up and was one hour late?”

As Courtney’s heart skipped a beat, she also stopped in her stride.

"I was out looking for you and Elijah's nest. You left your daughter all alone in the apartment for your crazy best friend to watch over her. If the court really did give a judgment, I don't think they would even consider giving you custody."

With her face becoming pasty white, Courtney asked, "What have you done to Tina?"

"She is, after all, my daughter and the esteemed princess of the Duncan Family. What do you think I would do to her?"

Alexander then stood up slowly.

"Of course I brought her back to the Duncans' to let her regain her rightful status."

"No, this can't be. I don't believe you." Courtney felt her world turning upside down. She even called Cameron before going out. Through the phone, she said that everything was fine and that Tina was napping at her place.

"Then, by all means, feel free to find out."

With eyes full of hostility, Alexander walked to her side and slightly lowered his head.

"You are free to come find me anytime after you're done investigating. Since you wanted to discuss with me about our son's custody issues, it's only polite of me to return the favor to you. Now, it's time for me to discuss with you the issue of our daughter's custody."

One Night Surprise Chapter 377 I Beg of You Please Return Tina

Once Alexander left the club, Courtney called Cameron, but nobody picked up.

While ordering the driver to drive faster, Elijah comforted her by saying, "Don't worry, Courtney. We are going to Cameron's house right now to take a look. I don't think she's that unreliable..."

"Alexander never says things that he isn't sure of." Courtney was really in a state of panic now.

Half an hour later, the taxi arrived at Cameron's apartment. Then, after knocking on the door for half a day, Cameron finally opened it, with her face still looking sleepy.

"What are you guys doing here?" Seeing Courtney surprised Cameron. "Why are you here, Courtney? Are you not afraid of bumping into your aunt?"

Not wanting to waste words answering her, Courtney asked in a rush, "Where's Tina?"

Yawning, Cameron replied, "In her own bedroom, napping. Didn't I tell you that just this afternoon?"

After hearing her words, Courtney rushed inside. Opening the door, she saw that the blanket had a little hump, which made her breath a sigh of relief.

"What is up with you?"

Not making sense of anything, Cameron slowly walked over and looked at Elijah and Courtney. "Didn't you say you were going to meet Alexander for the negotiation this afternoon? How did it go?"

The mention of the negotiation made Courtney frown. Then, she proceeded to recount what happened that afternoon.

Right then, Cameron's facial expression changed before she slammed the table and said, "Is he insane? He even wants Tina's custody? On what grounds? You should have sued him for the the sexual assault plus blackmail he did back then. What a shameless man."

"I will not hand over Tina's custody to him. I will be bringing Tina back to America tomorrow."

Since Melrose City was the territory of the Duncan Family, Courtney was afraid of staying in it for even one more day. After all, it had always been difficult for even outside powerful organizations to deal with local strongholds, not to mention them, who were practically nobodies.

"The girl is very obedient. After lunch, she went to sleep on her own, and she didn't even make a scene about wanting to see you like the last two days. It feels like she's all grown up now."

Cameron said this comfortingly while patting Courtney's shoulder.

Hearing this, Courtney nodded. But suddenly, she thought of something, and the look in her eyes changed. "You said that Tina went to sleep after lunch?"

"Yeah."

Startled by the look of panic in Courtney's eyes, Cameron asked, "What is it??"

Not replying, Courtney instead rushed to Tina's bedroom and directly lifted the blanket from the bed.

Following her, Cameron and Elijah only saw that beneath the blanket was a small pillow. Nobody was sure when this happened, but Tina was already long gone.

Going pale, Cameron said shockingly, "Where is she? I saw her go to sleep with my own eyes!"

Feeling her chest suddenly undulate rapidly, Courtney stumbled after clutching her heart. Fortunately, Elijah and Cameron's quick reactions saved her from falling.

"What's wrong, Courtney?"

"It's nothing." Courtney squeezed out a sentence from her clenched teeth.

"I'm afraid she ran out all on her own."

Ever since she was young, Tina always had a lot of tricks up her sleeve. As this incident was kept secret from her, she must have devised her own plan. If she couldn't see Courtney, she would simply go out and find her. The only destination she could go then would be obvious.

As the sun slowly set, the glow of the sunset made Melrose City look like it was covered in gold.

Standing outside the Duncan Residence's door like a statue was Courtney.

Both Elijah and Cameron had been dismissed by her. One went to Gale for help while the other went to a lawyer for a solution. Now that the child was in the Duncan Family's hands, everything just got more complicated.

“Master, Miss Hunter has been standing outside for an hour.”

The servant told Alexander this as she served him a cup of tea. Since Courtney came, he had been sitting in his study, reading.

“I don’t want to see her.”

The indifferent tone came from behind the book.

Because Alexander treated her well, the servant hesitated for a bit, then picked up her courage and reminded him, “The weather forecast said it would rain tonight. Are you going to let Miss Hunter just stand outside like this? What if she gets drenched?”

As Alexander raised his head from behind the book, his cold icy stare sent chills down the servant’s spine.

“That is of her own doing. Everyone is to ignore her.”

Since she can easily leave the city for the kids, then I could just as easily make her beg me for their sake. Did she really think I would make it easy for her to simply leave as she pleased?

As night slowly fell, the cold winter rain started to hit the window. The sound was more akin to hail hitting glass, as it sounded extra heavy.

Illuminated by the yellowish light inside the study, Alexander was still reading an old book with a steaming cup of tea in front of him. Whatever happened outside the window did not interest him at all.

The servant, who couldn’t bear to see this anymore, ran outside with an umbrella.

“Miss Hunter, please go back. The Young Master isn’t in a good mood right now and doesn’t want to see you. You shouldn’t torture your own body like this.”

Almost freezing, Courtney turned her head like a robot to look at the servant. Recognizing that she was May, one of the servants within the Duncan Family’s villa, she squeezed her fingers hard to let the pain overcome the freezing sensation. Then, she uttered chatteringly, “I’m fine. Go inside and tell Alexander that he can demand whatever he wants—I just want Tina back. So long as h-he returns her to me, I will leave Melrose City with Tina. I won’t wish to see Jordan anymore—even till my death, I will not appear in front of him.”

Clueless about what happened between them, the servant was struck dazed by her words. After regaining her composure, she said, “I’ll convey your words. Just hold onto this umbrella for now.”

As Courtney’s hands were frozen stiff, she couldn’t no longer hold anything. As the umbrella was pushed into her hands, it slipped right off.

May, who was using her hands to cover her head, ran out of ideas upon seeing this. Picking up the umbrella, she ran back inside. Ignoring her drenched body, she climbed upstairs in a hurry in the midst of other servants’ complaints.

“Young Master.”

May’s pressing voice rang inside the study.

“Miss Hunter still hasn’t left yet. It’s raining cats and dogs outside—she can’t even stand properly in that weather.”

As if he had foreseen everything, Alexander still sat there motionlessly. Calmly, he only asked, “What did she say?”

Slightly stunned, May glanced at Alexander dumbfoundedly.

“S-She wanted me to convey a message to you.”

Alexander remained silent.

“Miss Hunter said, as long as you return Tina to her, she would agree to any of your demands. She is willing to leave Melrose City for good and never appear in front of you again. Also, she is willing to give up on seeing Little Master Jordan.”

Although May felt that this didn’t sound pleasant, she wasn’t aware of the happenings, so she could only pass it on like how Courtney said it.

As expected, Alexander’s gaze suddenly turned icy, with him slowly enunciating, “She really said that?”

Feeling a bit intimidated, May replied carefully, “Yes.”

The book was slammed shut by Alexander. Standing up quickly, he turned his body around and pulled open the curtain that was behind the desk. One could easily see outside the courtyard that there was still a woman being pelted by the rain, looking like a mess.

“Just leave her be. Nobody is to care for her.”

Turning around, Alexander angrily left that order before closing the curtains with a forceful tug.

Frightened, May responded with a squeak while her body trembled. “Okay...”

One Night Surprise Chapter 378 She Cannot Leave Me

After spending a whole night under the cold rain, the last of Courtney’s strength left her body. She was struggling to see even the first floor’s window, and everything suddenly turned into a blur.

Before Courtney fainted, she thought she saw the Duncan Family’s servant, May, running toward her with an umbrella in her hand.

She didn’t know what the future held as she fell unconscious. It was as if she was trapped in an eternal dream.

Inside her dream, there was a huge blaze that made her feel hot all over. She struggled in earnest to escape, but the fiery tongue kept chasing her and scalded her all over...

When she opened her eyes, she saw the big red paper decoration on the window that was extremely dazzling.

The sunlight shone through the window, flashing the word 'Newly Married' that was on the paper decor onto the bed sheets, like a shadow that floated erratically.

After she stared at the paper decor for a long time, her eyes began to redden.

"Miss Hunter, you're awake."

From the door came May's voice, then she proceeded to quickly walk inside the room. "Are you still feeling unwell anywhere? The doctor said you had a fever and should rest more."

As Courtney sat up, she hugged the blanket close to her and looked around blankly.

"Why am I here?"

"Do you not remember, Miss Hunter?" May looked at her. "Yesterday, you stood outside the door throughout the night, but you couldn't withstand the pouring rain and fainted. It was Young Master Alexander who carried you inside."

"He did?" Struck with surprise, Courtney asked, "He carried me inside?"

Didn't Alexander hate me so much he'd rather not see me? Didn't he leave me there to die? Why did he do that, then?

Nodding, May continued, "Young Master Alexander still has you in his heart, you know. Although I'm not sure what happened, Miss Hunter, please don't go against him. Even though he has a bad temper, he's still a kind man nevertheless."

Just as they were talking, a shrill woman's voice came from the door. "Enough with your nonsense. He has her in his heart? I think you forgot all about what Young Master Alexander said last night. Stop trying to play the good samaritan. Wait until he comes back, and I'll tell him what you said. Then, we'll see what punishment awaits you."

Going pale, May said timidly, "Miss Rouge."

Raising her head slightly, Courtney saw a maid she had never seen before bring in a tray. The maid set the bowl of ginger soup on the bedside table carelessly, spilling some soup.

"What Young Master Alexander said was, it would bring misfortune to let someone die at his doorstep. So, he asked us to kick her out after she feels better. You hear that, Miss Hunter?"

Facing the maid's gaze of contempt, Courtney turned from pale to ghostly white.

After all, she knew that Alexander hated her guts, so much so that he would never believe a word she said, nor would he believe that she genuinely did love him. As such, why would he care if she died right there and then?

"Miss Rouge, you can't say that. After all, Young Master Alexander..."

"If you know him so well, why don't you go sleep with him tonight?"

Lana Rouge spoke harshly. Since May was still young, her face flushed with embarrassment as she heard this. "I didn't mean that. I—"

“Where is he?”

Just then, Courtney interrupted their argument. Part of the reason was because she felt a headache coming on after listening to them, and the other part was because her original aim all along was to find Alexander to get back her daughter.

Crossing her arms, Lana looked at her condescendingly and said rudely, “Young Master Alexander is out. I don’t know when he’ll be back. Just go away now if you’re already fine. We’ll all be dragged into the mud if he comes back and gets upset by the sight of you.”

May, who couldn’t stand this anymore, rebuked, “Miss Rouge, Miss Hunter still has a fever. Young Master Alexander said that Miss Hunter could only leave if she had fully recovered.”

“Who told you to butt in? There’s loads of hospitals out there that can treat her.”

Being used to seeing people being bullied by others when they fell from grace, Courtney often saw bootlickers but not many who would help others in their hour of need.

“I’ll wait right here until Alexander comes back. I need to talk to him.”

Hearing this, Lana frowned at her. “Miss Hunter, I don’t suppose you think you’re the madam of the house, right? Humility is a cherished trait.”

“I could say the same to you.”

Staring back icily, Courtney spat, “I don’t know how the Duncan Family trains their servants, but I do know that all servants are not to interfere lightly with the owner’s decisions. Even if I’m not one of the Duncan Family’s people, I’m also a guest of Alexander’s. Who are you to lecture me?”

Courtney’s words made Lana flush slightly. “What does this have to do with you? You’re not even a guest!”

“Oh, is that so? How about I call Old Master Duncan and ask him whether I’m considered a guest or not?”

Hearing this made Lana panic slightly.

As she was just transferred from the Duncans’ ancestral home, she of course knew that Scott viewed Courtney highly. If this incident was known by him, she would most likely lose her job.

“I-I-I didn’t mean anything like that.”

She tried to explain, but Courtney wasn’t in the mood to listen. Waving her hand, she chased the servant out.

“Just get out.”

The room quietened down upon her absence. As May was thinking of comforting her, she saw Courtney’s unhappy face and simply said, “Rest well.” Then, she left.

Getting down from her bed, Courtney moved her still unwell body to the window, her fingers slowly touching the paper decor’s edges.

This paper decor was pasted on the window personally by Fiona, who wished them a happy marriage.

As the afternoon sunlight shone on Courtney's face through the holes of the paper decor, the red shadow swayed as her tears fell.

She knew that there was now an uncrossable line between herself and Alexander. Not only couldn't Alexander understand the hardship she had suffered all those years, she also couldn't forgive him for pushing all the mistakes on her indiscriminately.

Although it was said that 'all good things must come to an end', how could they end when there was never anything good that happened in the first place?

Later, as night fell, the sound of a car engine could be heard from the courtyard. Shortly after, the servants downstairs could be heard saying, "Welcome back, Young Master."

Opening the door, Courtney walked out briskly and looked downstairs from the staircase.

Taking off his coat, Alexander subconsciously raised his head as he heard the noise from above, and he happened to meet Courtney's gaze.

As the two pairs of eyes met, the surrounding air slowly became heavier.

"Why are you still here?"

With a darkened face, Alexander asked, "Why didn't you leave as soon as you woke up?"

Seeing that he humiliated her in front of the servants, Courtney held on to the staircase railing accompanied by a pale face, then she squeezed out a sentence after some time. "I have something to talk to you about."

With a face full of ridicule, Alexander mockingly said, "If it's about Tina, then I suggest you save your breath. Since she is my daughter, that means that she is the darling child of the Duncan Family and has no business running out and about with others."

"She cannot leave me," Courtney said with unbearable grief.

"She grew up by my side. She cannot leave me."

One Night Surprise Chapter 379 Playing the Victim Card

Alexander looked at her closely. "In this world, there's none who one cannot leave."

This sentence carried slight resolution, as if it was meant for himself.

Full of anger, Courtney ran downstairs. "Is it not enough that I don't want custody of your son anymore? I won't wish to see Jordan anymore; he will belong to you and the Duncan Family. I just want my daughter back."

The words stabbed Alexander as his face darkened even further. "Don't you think your words are laughable? Who are you to say that Jordan is yours when he's been my son all along? Since you've signed the contract, forget the two kids—even any child you give birth to in the future would belong to

the Duncan Family. Now that you've received the money, you want to call off the deal? What farce is this?"

Under extreme anger, Courtney raised her voice. "That was because I was forced! Now that Tina's custody is with me, you can't just take her as you please."

"But you can take Jordan away as you please?"

Looking at her without any pity in his eyes, Alexander continued, "From the moment that you went to Sunhill for a job, to the time you fed Jordan at the hotel, then to coming to my house to cook for Jordan—every step was just so you could get closer to me and Jordan, to make up evidence of me supposedly abusing my child. Do you think this makes you qualified to take Jordan away using these dirty methods?"

Dirty?

Courtney couldn't believe that she was such a person in Alexander's eyes.

"It was the lawyer's advice. I never went through with it." She vehemently defended herself.

Doubting her, Alexander sneered. "Is it?"

If she hadn't gotten exposed, she might've gone through with it.

Then I would've played the fool who was caught off guard and sued for child abuse unknowingly.

"It's late, so leave. I won't be seeing you off." Passing by her, Alexander walked upstairs, as he didn't want to deal with her anymore.

"I'm not going anywhere."

Turning her body around, Courtney faced his back and said, "Unless you tell me where you sent Tina to, I will stay here and I will not budge at all."

Hearing this, Alexander stopped his advance, leaving a simple sentence. "Do as you please."

With a bang, the whole house shook as the study's door was slammed shut.

Courtney clenched her teeth, followed him upstairs, and stood right outside the study.

Originally wanting to persuade her, May was instead dismissed to handle the trash by Lana. After a short while, Lana climbed the stairs while holding a cup of tea. While passing by Courtney, she looked at her with disdain and scoffed loudly. "Miss Hunter, please get out of the way. I'm here to serve tea to the young master."

Frowning, Courtney moved to the side, but Lana still bumped into her on purpose, which made her stumble. Fortunately, she was able to hold on to the wall, saving herself from falling.

"Oh, my. You should be more careful, Miss Hunter. Don't blame it on us if something were to happen when you're standing here with your weak body." The cynicism by Lana was ignored by Courtney as she clenched her teeth.

After all, her goal wasn't to create more trouble, but to let Alexander know that if he did not return Tina, she would not leave.

Thinking she felt guilty, Lana sneered and entered the study.

"Young Master, your tea."

"Ok." Humming a faint reply, Alexander didn't bother looking up and continued to look through the project's details. His complexion looked somewhat pallid under the yellowish lighting.

However, Lana thought that he was feeling troubled due to Courtney not leaving. So, she said, "Miss Hunter is still standing outside the door."

When Alexander heard this, his complexion got worse. "Then let her continue standing there. Just treat her as if she's invisible."

Nodding, Lana replied, "Yes, that's what I told the others too. Young Master, you were already being too kind with how you treated her so well back then. Now that the wedding is off, she is still sticking to you like a leech. How shameless of her."

Tilting his head, Alexander scrutinized the middle-aged maid in front of him. "You really think so?"

"Yes. In fact, when she woke up earlier this afternoon, I had already urged her to leave. Yet, she kept insisting on staying here and would not leave at all." Expecting praise from this, Lana looked extremely full of herself.

"When did you come to work here?"

"During the eve of mid-winter holidays. The butler at the ancestral home was afraid that your residence might be short-staffed, so he sent some of us over."

Nodding thoughtfully, Alexander said, "Looks like the standards for hiring servants are slipping back at the ancestral home."

Lana's face paled when she heard this, her smile stiffening up.

Standing up calmly, Alexander looked at the cup of tea by his side. Suddenly, with a straight face, he flung the teacup toward Lana's face.

With a clang, the porcelain shattered when it made contact with the floor beside Lana. As the boiling tea splashed her, her knees gave out due to her fear, making her fall to the ground.

"Young Master..."

"Who are you to interfere in my own personal issues? Get out, and never appear in front of me again."

Scared out of her wits, Lana shut her mouth and stumbled out running.

Courtney, who stood outside, couldn't hear a peep of what went on as the study was soundproofed. Just as she was curious as to why Lana was inside for so long, the door opened. The person who came out was Lana, who had a pale face with teary eyes. When she saw Courtney, she looked horrified and left without a word.

Peeping through the door that was left ajar, Courtney saw the spilled tea that was on the floor, alongside the shattered cup.

Just then, Alexander, who stood at the center of the study, cast his gaze outside the door, whereupon he coincidentally met with her gaze.

At the sight of Courtney, the man got angry once again. "Come in."

Slightly stunned, Courtney walked inside hesitatingly.

Just as she stepped through the door, Alexander asked her coldly, "Why are you doing this? Are you trying to gain pity from me by playing the victim card?"

Failing to understand his words, Courtney asked, "What do you mean by this?"

"The servants treated you badly, and you chose not to retort? No matter what, you're the Hunter Family's young lady. Would you also not speak a word if you were treated like this by your servants? Is that how you were taught by the Hunter Family?"

Blinded by anger, Alexander had already forgotten that Courtney was the most neglected girl within the Hunter Family. Besides Mrs. Bell, who cared for her, the remaining servants all served her stepmother. As such, how would anyone be nice to her?

But Courtney thought that he said that to make her feel bad, so she got angry too.

"I've never been some pampered princess all along. I also don't have such a temper like you, the spoiled young master. If I had such a great background, I wouldn't have been tricked to perform surrogacy forcefully, would I?"

"Are you blaming me for this?"

"Oh, how would I dare do so!" Her face was full of animosity while her anger hadn't subsided yet. "I should blame myself. I shouldn't have gotten drunk during my 18th birthday, and I shouldn't have been tricked. Also, I shouldn't have given birth or returned from America after that."

Her barrage of 'shouldn't have's' rang loudly as it reached Alexander's eardrums.

One Night Surprise Chapter 380 Does He Still Have a Heart

As a raging fire was lit in Alexander's eyes, he clenched his fist so hard it cracked.

"You don't need to trick me now. After all, what happened six years ago has happened, so don't play the victim here and try to crucify me. All I want to know is, have you been deceiving me all along ever since you came back?"

While saying this, he was trying hard to suppress his anger. From the start, he was only furious because of one thing: If it weren't for the kids, how genuine would she still be to him?

Not wanting to give the One Night Surprise Chapter 380 One Night Surprise Chapter 380 One Night Surprise Chapter 380 other an inch in this argument, the two stared at each other.

As her clear eyes slowly reddened, she found Alexander's words utterly ridiculous.

After arguing for so long, their relationship was in tatters. If he really believed her words, he would have asked her this as soon as he found out the truth. Instead, he blamed everything on her unreasonably. What is there left to be asked when things have already progressed to this point?

"Even if I said that's not true, it would be a waste of words since you wouldn't believe me."

Calming down, Courtney looked defeated and tired. "We are all adults, Alexander. We've already argued so much. Please, for the sake of the kids, calm down and talk with me. What do you really want?"

The words made the burning gaze in Alexander's eyes slowly cool down. After a while, he laughed with a hint of self deprecation in his words. "Really? You'd give me whatever I demand as long as I don't fight for our daughter's custody?"

Frowning, Courtney said, "State your terms."

Then, Alexander stepped on the broken porcelain, making a piercing sound that rang across the quiet study. "I'm a man who wants to be treated fairly. After I've been deceived for so long, I should be compensated in kind. After that, you can have your daughter back."

"What do you mean?"

"Do you really not understand?" With eyes full of belittlement, Alexander observed her from head to toe. "What else is there to be demanded between a man and a woman? Except for our body's compatibility—which makes me quite satisfied, by the way—do you think you have anything else of value that I want?"

When she heard this, Courtney could only feel her body going cold.

She only thought that his anger was temporary. Anyone would know that she had her reason for lying to him for so long if they had just thought rationally. But time and time again, he humiliated her, and he even said such words now.

"Don't push your luck, Alexander."

In a state of shame and anger, she stepped back.

Stopping in his steps, Alexander had a face full of disgust. "When you were deceiving me, you also went to bed with me a number of times. Why didn't you say that I was pushing my luck then?"

His words made Courtney's heart bleed as she stared at the man in front of her with hopeless eyes.

If it weren't for the kids, she would have already left this place a long time ago, for she did not want to see this person ever again.

But thinking of Tina and her illness, she could only steel herself, saying, "Ok, you can do whatever you want to me. Just return my daughter to me."

Caught off guard by her straightforward answer, Alexander grew even angrier in a state of astonishment.

This woman really could do just about anything for her children.

After that, the night sky dyed the silent Melrose City black.

Stepping out of the bathroom, the freshly showered Alexander glanced at his bed while drying his hair. At the end of his gaze was Courtney, who was lying on the bed motionlessly in her pajamas.

After he threw the wet towel to the side, Alexander loosened his bathrobe and climbed onto the bed.

When Alexander climbed on top of her, Courtney quickly shut her eyes. The scene made her look like a pig that was about to be butchered, with her face devoid of emotion.

Pressing down on her shoulders, he said coldly, "You don't need to direct such hatred toward me. After all, it was you who deceived me first. Remember that it's you who owe me."

Slowly opening her eyes, she had a cold, distant look in her gaze.

"You're right. So am I not doing what you demanded? Or do you want me to act like I'm happy to do this with you? Well, I'm sorry. I'm no actress, nor do I have such great acting skills."

Her words made Alexander livid.

"Just do whatever you want to me." After saying this emotionlessly, Courtney shut her eyes once again.

At that time, Alexander wanted to choke her out of sheer anger.

It was not until a long time had passed that the weight on Courtney was removed. By the time she opened her eyes, Alexander was already sitting at the bedside, wearing his clothes.

"What are you doing?"

"I'm not in the mood now. We'll do it when I want to."

After saying his piece, Alexander left the bedroom without even looking back.

In the end, Courtney sat alone on the bed under the dim lights. After holding it in for so long, she finally let her tears fall and cried a river.

Following this incident, Alexander would return home late every night. Even if he did return, he was always holed up in his study. Failing to catch even his shadow, Courtney could not hold it in anymore, as this was repeated for a few days.

She needed to know where Tina was, and whether she was safe.

One afternoon, Courtney was preparing to leave the Duncan Family's villa when she was blocked by two servants.

"Miss Hunter, the young master had stated that you are not to leave the place."

"What?"

Feeling surprised, Courtney said, "He's not letting me leave? That's impossible."

"If you don't believe our words, you can ask the young master yourself."

The sure look on the servants' faces made them seem like they were really telling the truth.

Just to confirm, Courtney called Alexander while standing in the living room. After a long time, the call finally went through.

"What do you want?"

"Your servants won't let me go; they're saying it was your orders."

"Do you have a problem with that?"

"Alexander, I have my own personal freedom. Since you won't let me see my daughter, I'm going to employ my own methods outside. I'm done begging you."

Just as she finished saying that, Alexander sneered on the other end. "What kind of place do you think the Duncan Residence is? You think you can just come and go as you please? I'm telling you now that the rules have changed. Just keep staying there and don't try to leave. Otherwise, I cannot guarantee that I won't send your daughter somewhere further."

"You are insane!" Courtney shouted with an almost cracking voice. "Alexander, what you're doing is kidnapping! You're—"

Before Courtney could even finish her sentence, the call was disconnected, and the line went dead.

Hanging up, Courtney looked at the two maids blocking her with a very sour look.

"See, Miss Hunter, we weren't lying to you. This really was the young master's orders. If you forcefully try to go out, we would be the ones taking the blame. As you're the young master's sweetheart, I believe he won't place you in too much trouble. Please don't make things difficult for us."

"I'm his sweetheart?"

When Courtney heard this, she almost laughed. "Does a person like him still have a heart?"

Not daring to simply comment on this, the servants looked at each other instead.

The previous incident with Lana made them understand that, no matter how Alexander treated Courtney, she was still not a person that they could offend.

Feeling a sudden shortness of breath, Courtney then mumbled to herself and proceeded to spew blood. As her vision went dark, her body flopped onto the floor.

"Miss Hunter!"

Her condition immediately made the situation in the living room descend into chaos.