

Surprise 421

One Night Surprise Chapter 421 Their Fate Had Ended Regardless of His Efforts

With her chin tipped up slightly, Tessa asserted, "Makes sense."

She never had the chance to interact with him much, so she didn't have a deep impression of him. The only few times she met him was during the search and rescue operation when Courtney got abducted by a drug lord to an island a few years ago. Even back then, they barely had a proper conversation.

From what she remembered, he was a gentle and kind man who was slightly older than Alexander. During the abduction incident, he had been very calm in comparison to Alexander. All decisions he made were done surely and bravely. In a nutshell, he was an attractive man.

Frankly, Tessa expected that Courtney would get together with him after she left Melrose City, but Tessa had miscalculated.

"Enough about me. Let's talk about you instead." Courtney chuckled before asking, "How are things with Oliver? Are you both married already?"

At the mention of him, Tessa raised her brows shyly. If it wasn't for the colors of the oil painting on her face, her blush might have been evident. "Not yet. We've both been busy in the past few years. We don't even have the time to go back home. However, the marriage application paperwork has already been submitted. We are currently just waiting for approval."

Due to their unique identities, Tessa and Oliver had to apply through the organization for marriage approval. The process was even more complicated than that of an ordinary soldier as there were a lot more procedures to go through.

"How is everyone at home? Are they healthy and well?"

Her questions were pretty generic, so Tessa answered without much thought

"They're fine. Madam Fiona is doing well, and she even goes to the school to teach the students drawing. Jordan's psychological issues have been resolved, but Alexander refused to let him go to school. Jordan can only attend home-schooling, and he's been going outstation with Alexander for his business trips. He even made Jordan attend the committee meetings at such a young age. Who knows what's in Alexander's mind? However, Grandpa hasn't been in the pink of health, but he's been resting at home. He'll be fine."

Hearing that, Courtney simply nodded without asking any further as she digested what Tessa said.

Soon, it was breaking dawn, and the rumbling sound of the helicopter that was hovering above could be heard. After Tessa and the others were done preparing their baggage, they boarded the helicopter with the three injured patients that had undergone the operation.

Watching them off, Courtney waved hard at the figures on the chopper.

“Have a safe trip.”

...

Meanwhile, in Melrose City.

“I got so tanned from this trip. I think it’s better to not discuss the wedding now. No matter how much foundation I put on, I will still look like a bride who is as tan as charcoal on the wedding day. All the relatives will definitely ask me about it.”

“What’s the matter? They can ask all they want. We can say... that you work at a construction site.”

Upon hearing that, Tessa raised her brows as she glared at Oliver.

“Hey! Who’s working at a construction site?”

At this moment, he offered a cheeky smile before teasing her, “There’s no discrimination between the different lines of work. As a public servant, why are you bothered by that?”

“Very well.” Hearing Oliver’s words, Tessa didn’t back down. “I dare you to tell people at the wedding that I work at the construction site. Nobody will be able to comment much to my face since I’ll be returning to the team right after the wedding. However, that doesn’t apply to the Duncans. I won’t bat an eye if Grandpa asks Mr. Harry to beat you up for that.”

“Grandpa won’t beat me. If he intends to beat someone, it’ll be my brother instead.”

At that thought, he seemed to be very glad about it. Ever since he returned to the Duncan Family, Scott had been treating him very nicely. As long as Oliver didn’t bring up the topic of marriage, Scott was very lenient toward him. If anything, Scott seemed to be making it up for lost time. However, this created a disparity in treatment whereby on the other end of the knife was Alexander.

In fact, merely saying that Scott would beat Alexander wasn’t completely groundless. Scott had done all sorts of things to the latter; there were instances that he threw his walking stick at Alexander’s face.

Though Oliver meant it as a joke, it reminded Tessa of something. At once, she put down the bag of snacks that she was holding before speaking up, “Ah! There’s something that I forgot to say earlier over the meal.”

“What is it?”

“So, about the mission I went on recently. I met Courtney at the rescue station.”

After a brief moment of silence, Oliver’s expression changed. “What?”

“At the rescue station. She’s there as a volunteer. She re-enrolled into the medicine course after she left Melrose back then. We talked all night, and she even asked me about things back at home.”

Snapping out of a trance, he immediately stood up from the couch.

“Hey, where are you going?”

“I’m going to find Alexander at the office. I have to tell this to him.”

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After a week, five small lorries had sent supplies into the frontier station.

The person-in-charge who got out of the car donned a green soldier's uniform with a fitting pair of shiny leather boots. After giving a salute, he introduced the people standing behind him to the soldiers who were there for the handover.

"This is Mr. Duncan, the donator of the supplies. He's representing the Melrose City Political Consultative Conference Committee to send over the supplies in person. In other words, he's here to check on the soldiers and medical team at the frontier station for the city government. One of the two patients who had an open chest operation at our rescue station is from Melrose, so the city government is very grateful to the team for saving their people. That's why Mr. Duncan is here to express their gratitude."

Hearing that, the soldier who was there for the handover eyed Alexander. Though he wore a suit, he didn't seem extravagant like the usual businessmen who were here for show. Since he had a pass, he was allowed to enter the frontier station premises.

Aside from the people who were on duty, everyone else came to the dinner that night. Taking a look around, Alexander still couldn't find the person that he was looking for. "Are these all the medical staff?"

"Yes, everyone's here." One of the young male doctors stood up and said, "Mr. Duncan, I'm the head doctor at the Melrose City Hospital. My name is Chris Browne. Since we hail from the same area, here's a toast!"

With a nod, Alexander sat down and finished the alcohol in his cup in one shot.

As the night had gotten darker, the sounds of crickets chirping in the rainforest illuminated the vast emptiness of the surrounding.

After his assistant, Josh, had asked around the frontier station, he came back to report to Alexander. Standing by the man's side, Josh said in a low voice, "President Duncan, I've asked around and learned that the doctors here now just came three days ago. Only the doctor called Chris Browne has been staying here for a longer time. He finally spilled the beans after getting drunk."

That seemed to have piqued Alexander's interest. "What did he say?"

"Miss Hunter was indeed here, but we came a little too late. She left with the last batch of volunteers three days ago. From Dr. Browne's tone, it seems that he has beef with Miss Hunter."

The sound of the wind could be heard, making the atmosphere feel even quieter.

After a moment, Josh spoke up again, "Dr. Browne has also been hinting to ask if we can transfer him back to Melrose City. You think..."

Hearing that, Alexander showed a darkened face. "What do you think?"

At once, Josh took a step back before clearing his throat. "Got it."

Of all people, he had messed with Courtney. Not to mention, it had to be known by none other than Alexander. Was the person digging his own grave? Nevertheless, he had failed to meet the person he wanted to see after traveling such a long way.

The world was so big, yet Tessa could bump into someone she knew in a small rescue station in a jungle by chance. However, luck wasn't on his side even when he made an excuse to come as quickly as he could.

Ultimately, their fate had indeed ended regardless of his efforts.

One Night Surprise Chapter 422 You'd Be a Heroine in Ancient Times

A month later at the Melrose International Airport, the weather was so hot that it could melt a person.

Courtney wore a simple white t-shirt and a pair of beige ankle-length pants as she waited at the entrance of the airport. As she lowered her head to read the time on her watch, she was a little confused as the flight clearly stated that it would be arriving at half past ten in the morning and the airplane had already landed. Even everyone from the flight had gotten out of the airplane, but the person she was waiting for had not shown up yet. What was going on?

By the time the crowd had all gone, she fished out her phone and made a call. It took a while before the person on the other end picked up. At this moment, a crisp female voice transmitted through.

"Courtney."

"Well, you must have landed since you're talking on the phone. Where are you?"

"Don't panic. I'm in the airport security room. There has been a small accident. I'll go find you immediately after I settle this."

"What? You caused trouble again?"

"No, it really isn't me causing the problem this time. It's..."

"Stay there and don't move. I'll head there right now."

Hanging up the phone, Courtney pocketed her phone before heading straight to the security room.

A week ago, Angie Grant had made a call to say that she wanted to come back from overseas as it was the summer holiday. After booking the flight, Courtney took a half-day leave to come and pick Angie up. The girl was born with a wild personality. Having been with Elijah, she became even more daring. No matter what trouble she caused, it would definitely get settled by someone in her place.

However, it wasn't America here. If she were to cause trouble in this country, Courtney wouldn't be able to solve it for Angie as Elijah did. Courtney just didn't expect that Angie would cause an issue as soon as she got off the plane.

Meanwhile, in the airport security room, a person dressed in a colorful outfit could be seen. Even just by glancing at that person's colorful braids, one could immediately identify who it was.

“Angie Grant,” Courtney called out in exasperation.

At once, the colorful-haired person turned around, revealing a clean and fair little face behind.

“Courtney, how’d you get here so quickly?”

“Save it. Tell me, what problem did you cause this time?”

“I didn’t do anything!” With her brows raised, Angie denied the accusation immediately. “I swear to God, I didn’t cause trouble this time. I just lent a helping hand to someone in need.”

“When did you ever not say this when you got yourself in trouble?”

“This time, it really isn’t—” Scratching the back of her head, Angie said, “You can ask Mister Policeman.”

At this moment, Courtney looked up, and she was met with several police officers in the security room. At once, she showed an apologetic expression as she said, “I’m really sorry that my kid caused you all trouble. She didn’t cause anything huge, did she?”

“You’ve misunderstood,” one of the female officers said with a smile. “The kid wasn’t lying. She truly lent a helping hand to someone in need.”

The police officer then told Courtney the story of what happened. Apparently, Angie saw that a man tried to slide his hand into the skirt of a young lady when she got off the plane half an hour ago. As a girl who had lived in a country that prioritized independent human rights for five years, Angie couldn’t just sit and watch something like that go down. Hence, she called him out, but the man got so angry that he started fighting with her.

“Huh? Are you alright?” Hearing that, Courtney became worried, and she tugged on Angie, turning her around to check if she was alright.

“Did you get hurt?”

When Courtney brought Angie out of the barren island, it was said that Courtney was the one who saved Angie. However, they wouldn’t have survived if Angie’s father, Fatso, didn’t let them go back then. That was why taking care of Angie became Courtney’s responsibility.

“I’m fine.” Angie held onto Courtney before steadying her stance. She then shrugged before saying, “Who am I? Do you think that a normal guy can win over me in a fight? I managed to apprehend him in no time.”

Seeing that Angie was really fine, Courtney heaved a sigh of relief. “You gave me a scare. I’m glad that you’re alright. Is there anything else that you have to finish here?”

“Nothing else. I can leave after signing some papers.”

After they got out of the security room, Courtney mumbled as she pulled Angie’s luggage. “You’re already 17 which means you’re one year away from being an adult. How could you be so reckless? Didn’t I tell you not to act so rashly outside? You should have called the police at once and not fight him yourself.”

“Well, I’m fine now. Can you not rant at me like a mother?”

“Like a mother?” Courtney raised her brows before adding, “I am your mother, legally.”

Hearing that, Angie put her arm around Courtney’s shoulder before offering a cheeky smile.

“How is it possible that a mother is so young and beautiful? You’re more like my sister.”

“A few years ago, you didn’t mind addressing me as such. Why the sudden change?” Courtney smiled. She didn’t really mind what she was addressed as. She simply said that as part of the banter.

“So you lent a helping hand to a young lady. Where is she? Was she grateful for your help?”

Putting on the seatbelt, Angie said blandly, “I figured that it’d be embarrassing to let many people know about such an incident happening to herself, so I told her to leave first.”

“How righteous of you. You’d be deemed a heroine in ancient times.”

“You flatter me.”

“I’m not praising you.” Courtney was on the verge of bursting out a laugh. With her hand on the steering wheel, she drove the car to the highway outside the airport. With that, she switched the topic. “Be honest with me. Why’d you suddenly call me this summer holiday? You’ve never done this in the past few years.”

At this moment, the person on the passenger’s seat fell silent.

“I’m talking to you.” Courtney glanced at Angie from the side of her eye. “If you don’t tell me now, I will make a u-turn and send you back to America.”

“No!” Immediately, there was a trace of panic on Angie’s face. “I’m not going back to America.”

“I see...” Courtney showed a face of realization before a frown crept up her forehead. “Did you fight with Lilian again?”

As a kid who grew up on a deserted island since young, Angie had a personality that was wild. Her temper and personality were not always accepted by everyone. Since she was independent and used to being alone, one couldn’t understand her as easily as other normal people. On the other hand, Lilian was someone who played by the rules and she was also very particular about her image. Everything was still before her marriage, but after getting married to Elijah, she would always fight with him over Angie’s actions.

Angie was still a kid, and legally, she was Elijah’s adopted daughter. Every time she made a mistake, Elijah wouldn’t blame her as he deemed it as a kid’s playful behavior. After some time, it became the main issue affecting Elijah and Lilian’s marriage.

Courtney knew about this situation very clearly. When she first heard of it, she suggested bringing Angie over to a town in France, but Elijah rejected the suggestion. Seeing that Angie herself wasn’t stoked over the idea, Courtney didn’t bring it up anymore.

Two years ago, Angie was sent to a boarding school after completing the primary courses. With that, it ceased the fights between Elijah and Lilian.

Wasn’t it the summer holidays? What a coincidence.

“Lilian isn’t a bad person. Why are you always on bad terms with her?” Courtney was a little helpless. “I’ve tried telling you nicely, but you kept acting dumb. Do you really think I don’t know what’s on your mind?”

“You know?” At once, Angie’s face turned pale as she seemed anxious.

“Of course.” Courtney’s eyes were still trained forward. Without looking anywhere else, she continued, “Aren’t you afraid that your place in the family will be threatened after Elijah and Lilian have another kid?”

One Night Surprise Chapter 423 You Want to Treat Me to Dinner?

After hearing these words, Angie first froze for a moment and then let out a sigh of relief. Seeing Angie being silent, Courtney thought that she had hit the nail on the head, so she advised again, “Elijah is not that kind of person, and Lilian is not so narrow-minded either. Even if she isn’t close to you, you still have me, right? What are you worried about? In any case, aren’t you almost an adult? You cannot rely on Elijah your whole life, right?”

Hearing that, Angie blinked. At once, a flash of pain was evident in her eyes. She was always lively and talkative, but now she never said another word even until they got home.

Feeling strange about it, Courtney glanced at Angie who was unmoving as if asleep, and she sighed helplessly. Then, she adjusted the air-conditioning of the car and slowed the car down too.

Beep! The sound of the combination lock opening was followed by a clear, lark-like cry from inside the house.

“Angie!”

At the doorway, Angie exclaimed when she saw Tina and laughed while pinching her little round face.

“It’s just been a little over a month since I saw you. How have you gained so much weight? Is local food that delicious?”

Tina pouted and playfully punched her. “You’re the one who has gained weight!”

“Now you’re mad.” As she said that, Angie pulled her sling bag from her shoulder. “Look what good things I’ve brought you! This is the limited edition Switch that’s just released this month. Do you want to play with it?”

“Of course!” The two girls chatted happily without any generation gap while Courtney was left alone to the side. After she collected the things thrown messily on the ground, she silently went to the kitchen to cook for the girls.

She had received a phone call from her mentor a month or so ago, saying that she had successfully gotten the exchange housemanship she had applied for at the local hospital, so she simply packed some things and took Tina back to the country. Tina’s asthma was almost fully treated, but she needed to go to a retired traditional doctor’s home every month for acupuncture mainly to prevent future relapses.

The hospital where Courtney was to undergo the housemanship was the top-ranked medical center in Melrose City. However, the interns had rotational shifts and were usually very busy. In addition, they would be even more occupied if they were tasked at the emergency department. Thus, in order to pick up Angie, Courtney had deliberately switched her shifts with someone else.

After putting the pot of soup on the stove, she heard the sound of a Switch game come forth from the living room. Although the two girls were five years apart, they loved playing video games and were currently addicted to the new game.

The next morning, Courtney went out after instructing Angie, who was still asleep and jet-lagged, to remember to send Tina to the acupuncture session. Not knowing if Angie actually heard her, she deliberately put a note on the door of the refrigerator. Then, she busily left the house.

As she got onto the subway, she felt that the subway in Melrose City was more congested than it was five years ago. Despite having been back for a month, Courtney still had a feeling of being in a different world. When she came back here five years ago, everything in her memory was replaced by tall buildings as if she was in a new world. Now that she was back another five years later, the city seemed to not have changed much. After all, when society had developed to a certain limit, the city would be relatively saturated, and any more changes gradually became internal changes, such as human nature rather than external buildings.

“Dr. Hunter, good morning. You look great today.”

The woman walking toward her in the hospital corridor was one of the few female chief physicians of the Department of Cardiac Surgery, Linda, who became the chief physician at a young age and was considered a famous figure in the sector.

Linda was in her early 30s, but her skin was smooth and translucent. She always wore a ponytail without any makeup on her face. When she was not performing surgery, she was full of the agility and liveliness of a young girl. Courtney liked her very much because she never put on airs and was happy to share her knowledge when Courtney asked her for advice.

“Good morning, Chief Hass.”

Linda tucked her hands inside the pockets of her white coat, then smiled. “Working a shift here today, huh?”

“Yes.”

“Then you have a busy day ahead.”

“Why would that be?”

Hearing this, Linda cautiously looked around, came closer, lowered her voice and said, “There is an eccentric old man in the department today. His temper is particularly bad, and the nurses were all frightened by him just now when he underwent a physical examination.”

Anyone who heard this would be curious and question more, but Courtney only analyzed in a serious manner and said, “There are many patients who are bad-tempered. Just prescribe them the right medicine. I suppose this patient did not want a female nurse to examine him physically, right?”

Hearing her reply, Linda looked disappointed. "Dr. Hunter, you're so boring. Why do you have no gossip interest at all?"

At that, Courtney chuckled. "Chief Hass, it's not appropriate to gossip in the hospital, right? Two days ago, Nurse Simmons just scolded someone for that."

"I am the chief physician! She has no control over me. How dare she scold me?"

Courtney coughed and reminded, "But she is your mother."

Linda immediately shut her mouth. It was not because Courtney had embarrassed her by telling the truth, but the fact that Sarah Simmons was walking toward her with a fierce look on her face, which made her restrain herself.

"Dr. Hass!" Sarah raised her voice and asked, "What are you doing chatting with the houseman in the corridor early in the morning instead of checking in on the patients?"

"Nothing, I was talking to Dr. Hunter about that cardiac patient."

Courtney saw Linda winking at herself and nodded in agreement. "Yes, Chief Hass was telling me about a patient in the cardiac surgery department who didn't want to be examined by nurses, and we were discussing what to do."

"Can you resolve it while standing here?" Sarah rolled her eyes at them. "I've already asked about it and found that the patient was just not willing to be examined by a female nurse, and so I've arranged for Bob Sandstone to go over."

As expected, this was indeed the reason. In the hospital, there were plenty of patients who were concerned about the gender of the doctors and nurses due to their self-esteem. Only Linda was this idle to turn this matter into some kind of gossip news.

"What would we do without you, Nurse Simmons?" It was not the first time Linda buttered up her mother publicly in the hospital.

However, Sarah still looked icy as she huffed and replied, "That silver-tongue of yours will just lead your houseman astray."

At that, Courtney felt wronged in her heart but could not refute. After Sarah left, Linda followed Courtney to the dressing room to change clothes. As they walked, she comforted Courtney, "Since I have dragged you with me through the mud today, I will treat you to dinner tonight."

"There's no need. I'm on night duty."

"Switch it with someone else. I will help you contact Wilson and get him to switch with you."

"Wait." Courtney put on her white coat, shoved her hands inside her pockets, examined Linda's pretty face, and inquired, "Did I hear you right? You want to invite me to dinner?"

Linda was notoriously stingy, of which character she inherited from her father, the vice director of the hospital. Courtney had heard that from several housemen as soon as she joined the hospital.

Linda must be up to something!

One Night Surprise Chapter 424 You Want Me to Go On a Blind Date on Your Behalf?

Linda crossed her arms and smiled in an innocent way.

“Yes, I don’t always invite people out to dinner. I suppose I’m doing so now because we have a good relationship.”

Intuition told Courtney that Linda was up to no good, so she replied, “I really don’t have time, Chief Hass.”

“Chief Hass? Just call me Dr. Hass from now on. There’s no need to be so polite. Come to dinner tonight, and I’ll wait for you.”

With that, Linda left without waiting for Courtney’s reply, leaving the latter standing there alone. Courtney had no idea what was going on, but she did not have time to think further because the hospital was busy, and she had to go make her rounds after putting on her white coat and stethoscope.

“Courtney, the patient in the VIP ward is particularly bad-tempered, so be careful. Don’t tell him what’s wrong with his heart, and don’t ask him much unless he’s willing to tell us what’s wrong with him.”

“How do you know?”

“This morning, Bob was originally in a ward conducting a physical examination on a patient with me, and then he was called out temporarily by the head nurse. I was curious so I followed to take a look, and it turns out it was for this eccentric old man who scolded a group of nurses until they cried.”

Bob Sandstone was the only male nurse in Melrose City Hospital. Generally, if male patients had concerns about the gender of the nurses, Bob would be the one doing the examinations, so he was very important in the whole of Melrose City Hospital.

Courtney had seen many bad-tempered patients before especially while shadowing senior doctors at hospitals overseas, so it did not really scare her. However, since her coworker was kind enough to tell her about it, she nodded in appreciation.

After the ward door opened, Courtney entered the ward with the other housemen.

“How do you feel, Mr. Duncan?”

A low voice with a hint of resentment came forth from the room.

“Not good. The smell in this hospital of yours is too unpleasant. Even if I’m not sick, I’ll get sick staying here.”

Courtney’s eyes suddenly tightened when she heard that voice, and from the gap in the crowd, she saw the figure on the hospital bed, which was much more shriveled than 5 years ago. Surprisingly, it was Scott Duncan.

At that moment, she remembered that Tessa had told her about Scott’s undesirable health condition, so she hurriedly left after being there for just a few moments.

The hospital's electronic archive contained all the hospital cases, so after leaving the ward, Courtney went straight to the electronic archive and found Scott's medical records. When she saw the hospitalization records, her face gradually changed.

After staying there for a long time, she began to take pictures of the medical records. When she was about to turn off the computer, she suddenly felt a hand on her shoulder.

"Caught you." Linda's voice came from behind Courtney while the former had a hand on the latter's shoulder with a smirk on her face.

"Why aren't you making rounds? Why are you here slacking off?"

Courtney's expression tightened as she quickly hid her phone behind her back. "I came to check some information about the patient whom I've visited just now to understand more about him."

"Cut the crap. You're a pediatric psychologist and you're only here to learn a little outside of your specialization. You're not required to perform surgery or consult patients at all. Besides, this patient is an old man and not a child, so he has got nothing to do with your area of expertise. Why are you so concerned? Is he a relative of yours?" Linda said while glancing at the computer screen.

Hearing that, Courtney replied calmly, "No. I just came to check his records purely out of academic interest. If you have any questions, feel free to ask."

"Really? Then I will ask as many questions as I want."

"Go ahead."

Courtney would never admit the truth. After all, she did not leak the patient's information, so she was not afraid of Linda's questions.

"You are this old man's illegitimate daughter, right?"

When Courtney heard those words, she almost fell. Luckily, there was a bookcase next to her which she could hold on to.

"How can that even be possible?" she exclaimed. "Chief Hass, your imagination is running wild."

"Well, you did tell me to ask questions." Linda blinked and spread her hands in an innocent manner.

Courtney felt helpless. Is she for real?

"Actually, it's fine if you are. That old man is the richest man in Melrose City, so don't feel self-conscious. I won't laugh at you because of this, and I promise not to tell others."

"When have I said that it's true? Chief Hass, can you stop assuming?" Courtney suddenly had a feeling that this matter would spread throughout the entire Melrose City Hospital before the end of the day to the point that even the cafeteria workers would know about it.

However, Linda looked as though she had completely believed it. "I can help you keep it a secret, but you have to promise me one thing."

"But it's not true at all!"

“Then I’ll ask the old man myself.”

“What?”

“Hey, you’re coming with me.” Linda scrutinized her.

At once, the expression on Courtney’s face changed. After a while, she said in a muffled voice, “Fine, what do you want me to promise you?”

Seeing that Courtney was willing to comply, Linda immediately grinned. “Why didn’t you agree earlier? It took me so long to convince you.”

Hearing that, Courtney was rendered speechless. She’s still complaining even after I’ve agreed to do what she wants?

“It’s no biggie. I just want you to come to the matchmaking party this weekend.”

“Chief Hass, you must be kidding. My child is in high school! It’s not appropriate for me to attend such a party, right?”

“Well, you can always be honest with each other.”

“What?” Courtney doubted what she was hearing.

“Actually, it’s not a matchmaking party. It’s a one-on-one type of matchmaking.”

“One-on-one? Isn’t that a blind date?”

“Shhh...” Linda rested two fingers on her lips to make a silencing sign. “Keep your voice down. Anyway, help me out on this, will you?”

“You want me to go on a blind date on your behalf?” Courtney was shocked. “How could I possibly do that?”

“How is it impossible? The guy has never seen me before, and you’re about the same age as me. Moreover, you work in a hospital too, so if you say you’re Linda Hass, he won’t suspect a thing. Just say you have a child and find a way to help me get rid of him.” Linda stared at her.

Immediately, Courtney felt her blood pressure rising. “Can I refuse?”

“Sure.” Linda tugged the corner of her mouth. “Then I’ll go ask that old man if he has an illegitimate daughter named Courtney.”

“I already told you... I’m really not his illegitimate daughter!”

“I know.” Linda grinned deviously. “But if I ask him that, the entire hospital will hear about it, and I’m sure you know that nobody cares about the truth in gossip.”

Taking a deep breath, Courtney thought about it and realized that she was already cornered by Linda since she first entered this hospital.

One Night Surprise Chapter 425 Do Unto Others as You Would Have Them Do Unto You

After Courtney promised Linda to help her with the blind date, Linda used her position to shift Courtney to the emergency department earlier than planned and thus preventing Courtney from having to make rounds at the in-patient department every morning.

In the office, Linda nudged Courtney's arm with a smug look. "Am I not virtuous? I helped you with this even though I had to risk my position here."

"Yes, you really are virtuous." Courtney tugged the corner of her mouth, but inwardly she was completely speechless.

"The time, address and name of the guy have been sent to your phone. He is a corporate legal adviser, and he only knows that I am a doctor. When the time comes, you just have to find a way to get rid of him."

"Actually, I think there is nothing wrong with blind dates. Why are you so resistant to it? If you go take a look at him, maybe you'll find him as a suitable match?"

"Suitable match? What kind of person would go on a blind date these days?" Linda gave her a look and spoke with a grimace. "If he is physically and mentally normal, why can't he find a girlfriend? Nine out of ten people who go on blind dates have problems, so why am I wasting my time?"

"Well, there's still the odd one or two normal people out of ten."

"Do you think I'll have this amazing luck to meet them? Even when the patient and the patient's family know that if the success rate of surgery is too low, they would rather choose conservative treatment, instead of risking themselves at such a small probability event as it is tantamount to gambling."

Linda had all the characteristics of an excellent woman competent in science. She was sensible and decisive, as well as logical and professional. Moreover, she also had the contempt a strong woman standing at the top of the social pyramid felt for such things as love.

Looking at the information on her phone, Courtney sighed. It was unfortunate that she was coincidentally supposed to rest this weekend. She had been planning to take the two girls out for some fun, but now she had to waste at least half a day on Linda's blind date.

During lunchtime, Courtney found time to call Angie. "Have you brought Tina to the acupuncturist?"

"The session is already over," Angie spoke loudly. "I'm shopping with Tina right now. When are you coming back home? Will you make us dinner?"

"I can't. I have to work overtime. Tina can cook, so let her do it. If not, you two go ahead and eat out."

"If that's the case, it's better if we eat out. She's good at cooking, but she forces me to do the dishes after."

"You're just lazy."

Although Angie was from a deserted island, nobody had restrained her temper since childhood, so she was fearless and wild. Even though Courtney had nagged her to learn social etiquette and rules, Angie

spent most of her time with Elijah, who never forced her to learn all of this. Because of that, she was more accustomed to being lawless. Thus, it was as if she did not hear Courtney's admonishment when she said, "I'm not continuing this conversation. It's delaying my shopping."

In an instant, the line was disconnected. Courtney helplessly glanced at the phone screen that had gone black. Hesitating for a moment, she dialed a number from the address book and it took a long while for the caller to pick up.

"Hello, Courtney, what's the matter?" Elijah's voice was a little drowsy. Courtney took a look at her watch and realized that it was nighttime over there.

"I'm sorry, did I disturb your rest?"

"It's fine." Then came the sound of someone lifting the quilt and getting out of bed. "What's up?"

"I wanted to tell you that Angie has arrived at my place. I didn't tell you yesterday because it was too late."

The other end of the phone was silent for a while, and then Elijah's voice came in shock and confusion. "Angie is at your place? What do you mean?"

When Courtney heard this, her heart raced. "Don't you know that Angie is coming to spend the summer with me? She said she talked to you about it."

"She told me there's a summer camp at school and she wouldn't be coming home this summer. She..." Elijah's words came to an abrupt halt as if he suddenly realized something. Then, his voice suddenly trembled a little as he continued, "Courtney, I have something to check out. I'll contact you later."

The line had already gone dead before the confused Courtney could speak. Finding out about the situation, Elijah was in the dark about the fact that Angie came to visit her for summer vacation. No wonder he did not call Angie and ask if she had reached after the girl got off the plane yesterday. Suddenly, Courtney felt that there was something fishy about this matter.

Meanwhile, in the mall called Pinnacle Shopping Center, there were two girls shopping. One of them was particularly eye-catching as she had colorful hair braided in a hip-hop style. Her style formed a sharp contrast with the shorter girl beside her. The shorter girl was very pretty and wore a pink puffy dress. Although she was only 11 or 12 years old, everyone could see she was a natural beauty. They were a true sight to behold as they walked into the mall.

"This store is good; I like their style." Angie held a black studded leather skirt and compared it to Tina's body. "You go try it."

Tina rolled her eyes and pointed to the shiny studs on it. "Who are you trying to poke to death by wearing this? I don't want this; it's not my style."

"Come on, people can't stay the same all their lives; you need to try more new things, okay? Don't you feel tired of wearing such cute clothing all day long?"

Tina's gaze shifted. "Try more new things? Then you should try to change your style too."

"What do you want?"

“It’s simple. I’ll pick a set for you, and you pick a set for me.”

Hearing that, Angie sized up Tina and turned up her nose. “Your style is for little girls. I really can’t wear that.”

“Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.”

“What do you mean?”

Angie grew up without much education, so she had no idea what Tina was talking about. With that, Tina helplessly explained, “It means that since you dislike my taste, you should also think about how I dislike your taste too. Why do you want to force me to accept your style yet refuse to accept mine?”

Angie pondered for a moment. “Who said I can’t accept your style? Let’s go and do what you suggested.”

Tina immediately looked at her bitterly and asked, “Are you using reverse psychology on me?”

However, when Angie made up her mind, no one could persuade her otherwise. She immediately dragged Tina to try on clothes. One loved fanciful and dark Harajuku style, while the other was more interested in cutesy pink clothing. When the two of them changed styles, they simply looked bizarre.

10 minutes later, Angie stood in front of the mirror wearing a beige halter dress with a pair of brown Mary Janes. Surrounding her were a few shoppers who were watching and gossiping.

“Why do I feel that I look a little odd?”

“Well, of course.”

Tina twitched her mouth. Feeling so embarrassed, she wanted to dig a hole, hide in it and pretend she did not know Angie. As for Angie, her colorful braids and tattooed left arm juxtaposed against the sweet dress she was wearing.

One Night Surprise Chapter 426 Long Time No See

“Actually, you look very stylish.” The saleswoman enthusiastically came over. “Others don’t look as good as you when they wear this. You’re the only one who can bring out the elegance of it.”

“Really?” Angie scratched her head as she started feeling a little embarrassed by the compliment. “Let’s buy it then.”

At the checkout, Tina looked at the price of the hangtag and secretly thought to herself that it was only because of the exorbitant price that had motivated the saleswoman to praise Angie.

“I’m done. Now it’s my turn to buy you a new outfit,” Angie said while grabbing Tina’s little arm.

“Don’t think you can get away without doing it. Through me, you’ll know today what a total makeover means.”

Tina felt helpless. However, her phone suddenly rang and a young woman’s voice rang out. “Hey! It’s you.”

Angie and Tina both raised their heads; however, they did not recognize who it was even after squeezing their brain for some time. The young girl was similar in age to Angie. She was wearing a white T-shirt and denim shorts while carrying a small black backpack; her hair was tied up in a ponytail at the back of her head, and she looked very youthful and energetic. With a surprised look, she said to Angie, "It's me. Don't you remember me from yesterday at the airport?"

At that, Angie was reminded of her and came back to her senses. "Oh, it's you! I remember."

This girl was the victim she had helped yesterday at the airport. But as the situation was too chaotic, Angie had let the girl go first, leaving herself to bring the rogue to the airport security office.

"I went to the airport security office to look for you yesterday after meeting the person who was in charge of picking me up, but they said you had left. I wanted to thank you, but I didn't expect to meet you here today." The ponytailed girl smiled and stretched out her hand. "My name is Hannah Duncan."

"I'm Angie. Angie Grant."

"Is this your sister?" Hannah smilingly looked at the little girl beside Angie. Suddenly, the smile on her face stiffened. "Tina?"

Tina froze when she first saw Hannah. However, she was even more stunned when she heard Hannah introduce herself to Angie. Now, she wasn't sure how to respond, but she had already been recognized by the other girl.

"You guys know each other?" Angie looked confused. "How do you two know each other?"

Tina tugged the corner of her mouth and forced a smile. "Not only do we know each other, but she is also my great-aunt."

"What?" Angie's face changed—she couldn't believe her ears.

Then, the three of them went to a Korean restaurant in the shopping mall and sat together in a booth. Angie was the one who was most out of the loop and had no idea what was going on. So, she just listened to Tina and Hannah talk.

"So, Courtney has come back long ago?"

"Not really. It was pretty recent. When my illness is cured, we will still have to go back to America. So, don't tell your family about seeing me today, Hannah."

"Wait a minute," Angie interrupted the conversation between the two. "Hannah, you refer to Courtney by her first name, and Tina, you refer to Hannah by her first name too. But you told me that Hannah is your great-aunt earlier. What are the generational relationships between all of you? Why does it sound so confusing?"

"You call my mommy by her first name too!"

Tina gave her a look and explained, "I refer to Hannah by her first name because there isn't much difference between our ages, but she is my great-grandfather's adopted daughter. Therefore, she is my real daddy's aunt. So, isn't she my great-aunt?"

Hannah nodded in agreement and looked at Angie before reminding, “So, actually I’m also your great-aunt. Yesterday was a fateful encounter at the airport. We’re actually family.”

Angie tugged the corners of her mouth with force. “You have not heard of Tina’s father—which means that Courtney doesn’t like to mention this person. So, don’t use the family card on me. I don’t have many relatives.”

“I’m just kidding.” Hannah was good-tempered and only smiled at Angie’s sharp words.

“I haven’t seen Courtney for a long time. Where are you staying?”

Tina was about to speak when Angie stuffed a chicken wing in her mouth and spoke first. “We live not far from here. If an opportunity arises, we’ll definitely invite you over.”

Hearing that, Hannah shifted her gaze and then smiled complacently. “Okay.”

After the incident at the airport that day, Hannah had escaped as fast as she could. So, it was evident that she was the kind of girl who had lots of tricks up her sleeves. Now, she was looking for an opportunity to talk about the past and take advantage of Tina’s youthful innocence. As Tina was young and still had fond memories of her own father, she did not think much about it, but Angie felt that Hannah was somehow up to no good.

She knew she had to tell Courtney about this back home so that the latter could prepare herself for what was coming next.

Meanwhile, at the Melrose City Hospital, Courtney had been on the night shift in the emergency department. When it was almost time to change shifts, the computer beeped to signal that a patient had just registered and was on the way to be consulted. Soon, there was a knock on the door outside.

“Come in.” Courtney yawned and pulled herself together, but when she looked up, her tired expression froze on her face.

Alexander’s neatly-pressed suit was still the same as 5 years ago, and he still carried the same aloof aura. When he saw her, he did not look surprised at all but simply sat down opposite her desk. Clearly, he came prepared.

“Long time no see.” His voice was much huskier and sexier than 5 years ago. Courtney’s heart trembled as she forced herself to calm down. Then, she glanced at the information on the computer and asked, “Eric Reynolds. Are you Eric?”

Alexander’s face did not change as he answered, “Eric is Josh’s cousin. He was the one who registered at the front desk.”

“Sorry, sir, we are a proper hospital with standard procedures. In order to prevent scalping and selling hospital registrations, patients must only register with their legal names.”

“I can go and register again, but it won’t take long. The emergency department has more doctors than patients at this time, so are you sure you want me to waste time?”

“It’s not a matter of wasting time; it’s the standard procedure.”

“Or are you planning to run away once I leave to get a new registration?”

“You...” Courtney couldn’t continue pretending, so she wrinkled her brow and stared at him for a moment. Then, she started flipping open the medical records.

“Speak then. Which part of you is injured?”

At that moment, Alexander stood up. As he stood opposite the desk, his tall figure caused the overhead fluorescent light to bounce upon the desk. When Courtney saw him undressing, her face changed.

“What are you doing?” Courtney asked while Alexander laid his suit jacket on the chair, ignoring her words, and unbuttoned his shirt to reveal his robust chest.

At that, Courtney’s face flushed red; she immediately stood up and said sharply, “The security room is not far from the emergency department. They will hear me when I shout.”

Alexander looked puzzled as he rolled up his sleeve and exposed his injured arm. “What do you want to call security for?”

He had just removed part of his black shirt, revealing the left half of his shoulder as well as the arm heavily wrapped in gauze.

One Night Surprise Chapter 427 Unable to Hold Back From Meeting Her

Courtney stiffened at the sight of the injured arm. Feeling embarrassed, she wished to disappear at that very moment. “N-Nothing...”

“Then would you please help to check on my injury, Dr. Hunter?”

Holding his injured arm, Alexander calmly looked at Courtney with an expression that she could not discern. Courtney had no choice because the debridement specialist had gone home to celebrate his wedding anniversary with his wife, and Courtney had to fill in for him. She thought that there would not be many patients in the emergency department today, but who knew that she would meet Alexander by chance?

When she was removing the bandages, she glanced out of the corner of her eye and saw the look of interest in Alexander’s eyes, and she suddenly felt that this might not be a coincidence. Who comes to the hospital at 2 A.M for a wound that has been bandaged the day before?

Taking off the bandages, Courtney finally saw the terrible wound exposed, and the chaotic thoughts inside her head all disappeared at once. In fact, her hand trembled a little.

“Who bandaged you? The wound was not even cleaned up properly, and no medicine was applied. It’s only wrapped with gauze. What kind of doctor is this irresponsible? There’s so much pus.”

When Courtney didn’t hear Alexander’s reply for a long while, she looked up and met his gaze, which was sizing her up as if he was hiding his thoughts. Feeling panicked, she avoided his gaze quickly and said, “I’m going to get some medicine. Wait here and don’t move.”

Five minutes later, Courtney came back with a tray of debridement equipment and sterilizing medicine. Without saying a word, she resterilized and cleaned the wound on his arm, applied ointment and put a new gauze on. The whole time, she did not look up and had any eye contact with Alexander. After the wound was all bandaged, she packed up her equipment and went back behind the desk to give a prescription.

“It’s a moderate wound but there is an obvious infection. After I’ve bandaged it, you still have to change the dressing every day at the hospital. Avoid putting pressure on this arm in the coming days. When the scab has fully formed, you don’t need to change the dressing anymore.”

After saying this, Courtney tore off the prescription list and handed it over. “Go pay the bill, and then get the medicine.”

Alexander did not take the list, but pulled the chair out and sat down while putting on his shirt. “If I had not really been injured today, would you not say even a word to me?”

“That’s a strange thing for you to say,” Courtney spoke calmly. “There’s no animosity between us, so why shouldn’t I talk to you? We’re acquaintances after all, so it’s alright for us to merely greet each other.”

“We’re acquaintances?” Alexander’s expression was a little stiff, and he did not continue to say anything for a while.

“Your consultation is over. Don’t delay those behind you. I’m clocking out soon anyways.” Courtney spoke without raising her head. Lowering her head, she began writing on her psychology book without the slightest intention of paying him any more attention.

However, the man still sat unmoving without any intention of leaving.

“Well, that’s just in time then. When you get off work, let’s have breakfast together so that I can thank you for dressing my wound, Dr. Hunter.”

Courtney frowned. “It’s 3 A.M, I don’t think there’s a place open for breakfast.”

“When I say there is, there will be.”

“Don’t bother.” Courtney put aside her pen and looked at Alexander unhappily. “I’m a doctor and you’re a patient; you’re paying to see a doctor and I’m just working. It’s unnecessary for us to have breakfast together.”

“You would not show this attitude toward an ordinary patient, would you?” Alexander’s tone actually had a hint of joy in it.

After hearing from Hannah yesterday during dinner at the Duncan Residence that Courtney was back, he had looked up the entire staff database of all the hospitals in the city. In the end, it turned out that she was working at the Melrose City Hospital where Scott was hospitalized. She had spent five years in France working and studying as a pediatric psychologist but ended up back in Melrose City.

Of course, he could not resist coming to see her.

Stunned by his question, Courtney did not know what to say for a long time. Taking a deep breath, she tried her best to answer calmly, "You can make a complaint against me, but our hospital does not have a protocol that says we should listen to patients who stubbornly refuse to leave."

"I'll leave after you answer what I want to know."

"What do you want to know?"

"When did you come back?"

The question washed away the hostility in Courtney's gaze as she secretly squeezed her fingers, trying to make herself stop indulging in the old feelings of the past between them. Then, she coldly replied, "A month ago."

Seeing that Alexander's gaze was joyful, she added, "I didn't come back for you."

Alexander, however, looked relaxed as he asked, "Why didn't you tell me you came back?"

"Why should I tell you?" Courtney unconsciously raised her voice. "Do you really think I need to tell you everything? What kind of relationship are we in?"

She thought the relationship between the two of them had been sorted out 5 years ago, so what was the point of bringing it up again now?

"Don't we count as friends?"

"Friends? I don't think we can be friends." Courtney's heart was inexplicably filled with unhappiness. I suppose he's the only one who has the audacity to say that. I don't think I can be friends with any ex-lovers of mine.

"So, is that why you're avoiding me?"

"When have I avoided you?" Courtney lifted her head, exposing her burning gaze.

"I asked around and heard that you were supposed to be on the inpatient cardiac department rotation today, but yesterday morning when Grandpa was admitted here, you suddenly transferred to the emergency department. Weren't you avoiding Grandpa on purpose?"

"You had someone investigate me again?"

"I was afraid there might be a misunderstanding, so I came to ask you in person what's going on."

"Didn't you have it all checked out? Even if I deny that there is no such thing, will you even believe me?" Courtney was angry that Alexander was still having people investigate others anyhow he liked, just like in the past.

"I believe you." The three words echoed in the room.

In the face of his cold and certain gaze, Courtney was a little annoyed. Then, she guiltily denied, "I'm not avoiding him. I'm just temporarily helping out in the emergency department, and tomorrow morning, I will resume my usual rotation and will return. Of course, I treat my patients equally, and I haven't done anything wrong, so why should I hide from anyone?"

“Of course.” Alexander nodded slightly. “Then, thank you for taking care of Grandpa for me. I may not be able to come to the hospital to see him all the time, so I’ll have to trouble you during this time.”

Courtney glanced at him and scornfully said, “Work is important, but it’s not so important that you can’t even find the time to visit your family.”

“It’s not that I can’t find the time, it’s because... Grandpa doesn’t want to see me.”

At that, Courtney’s expression gradually tightened. She wanted to ask something, but she decided otherwise as she felt that she did not want to get involved. “Now that you’re done with the questions, you should go now, right?”

“Of course.” Alexander quickly stood up.

Before leaving, he turned back and said, “Dr. Hunter, we know each other well after all. Even if we can’t be friends, we can still greet each other when we meet. I’m not a scoundrel, and we have laws in this society. Why are you so afraid of me?”

One Night Surprise Chapter 428 Why the Change of Mind?

Why the hell should I be scared of you?! Courtney really wanted to just grab the pen holder on the desk and stuff it into Alexander’s mouth.

Fortunately, he left after saying those words. Then, Courtney anxiously waited until her shift was over at 3. When Dr. Wolfe came for his shift, she left without so much as a greeting.

She had to go to work as usual at 9, so she took her rest in the sleep room for doctors. She did feel tired after a whole night’s shift, but when her head hit the pillow, the sleepiness left her. She had anticipated that she would bump into Alexander after coming back, but she didn’t think that it would happen so soon. Only one month had passed before she encountered him and Scott in the hospital.

She had wondered for 5 years but still never came up with an answer for the impossible problem of how she should face him when they would meet again.

It wasn’t entirely true that time healed all wounds; the prerequisite for that saying was that you mustn’t see that person for a long, long time. The time period in question would vary from person to person, too. Depending on how much the person had affected you. While some people would take a few months to recover, some would need years, and some would even spend their entire life trying to heal.

It was finally daybreak, so Courtney got up from the bed. When she looked in the mirror, she saw her bloodshot eyes even though it was just 7 in the morning.

Before going to work, she paid a visit to the heart surgical department and asked Linda to recover the shift schedule.

“Why the sudden change of mind?” Linda was curious. “Are you finally acknowledging that Mr. Duncan is your dad?”

“He really isn’t my dad.” Courtney frowned. “Dr. Hass, can you be more realistic? That old man is in his 80s, and I’m just 29 years old. How can he have an illegitimate daughter in his 60s?”

“It’s not entirely impossible. There have been cases...” Linda was quite ready to inform Courtney of a man’s active period, but when she saw the latter’s darkening expression, she shut her mouth. “Never mind, I’ll adjust the schedule for you, but remember to take my place for the blind date this Saturday.”

Courtney inhaled deeply. “Dr. Hass, if you keep up with this nonsense about illegitimate children, I’ll tell Nurse Simmons about me taking your place for the blind date.”

Hearing the words ‘Nurse Simmons’ was enough to make Linda go pale. “That’s just too cruel, Dr. Hunter.”

“I’m just returning the favor. You threatened me, so I have to protect myself somehow.” Courtney glanced at her. “I’ll only do this blind date thing for you once, and there will be no ‘next time’.”

After leaving the department, it was still early, so Courtney made her way back to the sleep room. This time, she caught the scent of buns and breakfast pudding.

Her colleague, Dr. Shelton, was biting into a bun as she waved at Courtney when the latter entered. “I was wondering where you went. Come and eat! The buns and puddings are freshly bought from East Street. You know, the one with terribly long lines.”

Courtney had just returned to this country not long ago, so she didn’t know much about good eateries around the hospital. As she heard that, her curiosity was piqued. The moment she ate some of the pudding, she realized that it was truly delicious.

“Thanks.”

“Why are you thanking me?” Dr. Shelton pushed her black-rimmed glasses as she smiled. “I’ve been working in the emergency department for so long, and only my husband has sent me breakfast. But you just did one nightshift, and there’s already someone buying breakfast for you. Must be nice.”

Courtney was stunned. “This was for me?”

“Obviously.” Dr. Shelton pushed the buns in her direction. “I was coming over from the emergency department, and a guy blocked my way. He asked where you were, and when I told him that our sleep rooms are off-limits to unauthorized personnel, he insisted that I deliver this to you. It’s a good thing that I came over early to share your breakfast, so I just brought it over.”

Courtney had a perplexed expression when she looked at the bun and pudding in her hands. It wasn’t too difficult to guess who the sender was.

...

At Sunhill Headquarters.

The morning meeting had just ended, and a few department managers looked quite cheerful as they walked out of the venue which was a stark contrast to their usual frowns. Besides that, the two directors in finance left the elevator together.

“President Duncan seems to be in a good mood today. We made two mistakes in the financial planning, but we couldn’t print new ones because of the urgent meeting. I thought for sure that we’d be chewed out for it, but President Duncan actually didn’t say anything about it.”

“Maybe he didn’t notice? Lower your voice or President Duncan will hear and get reminded about it, then he’ll call you over to reprimand you.”

“That’s impossible; President Duncan never makes mistakes! His eyes are sharper than a scanner, and he can spot mistakes right off the bat. He must be in a good mood. Have you noticed that he kept looking at his phone today?”

The main finance director looked around, then said in a hushed voice, “Someone saw President Duncan on a blind date a few days ago, right? Is he in love?”

“Really? Ever since that failed marriage 5 years ago, President Duncan has been single all this time. No one else knows, but since we’re old-timers at this company, we both know about that event, right? Now that we’ve changed out most employees, what can these younglings see? They probably think he’s discussing business with a client.”

At the mention of that, the main finance director sighed. “Thanks for the reminder; I almost forgot about that. You’re right, but I never understood why the decision changed so quickly. The wedding date was set and the invitations were already sent, but they just called it off.”

“It probably had something to do with the little master.”

“Young President Duncan?”

“Yeah. They came up with a lot of theories, but most claim that the fiancée wasn’t too nice to Young President Duncan. She hid it well, so President Duncan never noticed. However, he finally realized something was wrong right before the wedding, so they canceled the marriage.”

“Really? Why do I think that it’s not the case?”

“It’s all history now, and we’re not even involved, so let’s not discuss this anymore. Someone might hear.”

The vice finance director was right, for someone had listened in on their conversation in full.

Just around a corner near the elevators, a youth of 12 years old was dressed in a neat suit. A young assistant was beside him, and they both stayed completely still like statues behind a large bonsai plant.

“Young President Duncan, don’t worry about it too much. It’s just the usual office gossip.”

The youth was just a young child, and his face still retained its childlike features, but the look in his eyes was extraordinarily calm. He didn’t seem particularly disturbed at the words. “I despise such gossip. If my mother came back and heard these things, she would be upset.”

“I will remind them later.”

“It’s okay.” The youth’s gaze turned cold. “Post an announcement stating that starting from today, if anyone discusses President Duncan’s private life, their annual bonus will be deducted as soon as they are found out.”

The assistant was dumbfounded. “I don’t think that’s appropriate. Those who are clueless about it will think that President Duncan’s private life is problematic.”

“Why are you worried about that? That’s his secretary’s problem.”

“Understood. I’m on it.”

Then, the youth went silent.

One Night Surprise Chapter 429 I’m Lawfully Your Mother

After checking up with all of the patients in the hospital during the entire noon, Courtney was invited to sit in to watch the operation of two pediatrics surgeries before she could even have lunch.

Although these surgeries weren’t really related to child psychology, it would be really helpful for her career in the pediatrics field in the future if she could have the comprehensive ability for these cases. With enough understanding of these cases, it could also help her with her research in child psychology as well.

At night, Courtney could smell the scent of cookies upon entering her house after coming back from work.

“Are you baking again?”

She leaned toward the kitchen to take a glance. As expected, the two children were busy running around the kitchen.

When Angie heard Courtney’s voice, she turned around. “You’re finally back. I thought that you’ll stay at the hospital and not care about us anymore.”

“Who else can take care of you guys besides me?” Courtney gave her a look. “I bet Elijah can’t keep you guys in check anymore.”

Right then, Angie looked taken aback. It seemed like she came to a realization before she quietly went behind the kitchen door.

“What? Are you afraid to admit what you’ve done?” Courtney changed into her house slippers before entering the house. “Are you planning to let me tell you about it, or are you going to come clean yourself?”

While there was no movement in the kitchen, Tina turned around before chiming in, “Mommy, I made some cranberry nougats, and you can bring some to the hospital for the patients.”

“Let’s talk about that tomorrow. I might have to send Angie to the airport later.”

“Airport?” Angie immediately emerged from the kitchen with an anxious look on her face. “I’m not going back to America.”

“How can I help you when you didn’t even inform Elijah before making such a huge decision by coming here? What if you’re unhappy here and run away from this place too? What should I tell him if that happens?”

“He won’t try to get me back by asking you.”

Angie frowned before continuing, “It’s been almost half a month since my summer vacation, but he hadn’t even given me a call. If something really happened to me, I would have been dead by now.”

“Don’t say that.” Courtney gave her a look. “Elijah would be pissed if he heard that from you. Since when does he not provide you with the best that he could throughout these years?”

Noticing that Courtney was pissed, Angie appeared to be quite nervous before she came out from the kitchen in a hesitant manner.

“Please don’t be mad. It’s really not my intention to not notify Elijah before taking off. It’s just... It’s just that Lilian is pregnant.”

Courtney’s expression went blank when she heard what Angie said.

Elijah and Lilian had been married for five years, but they hadn’t had any children until now. Based on what Courtney knew, Elijah was the one who didn’t want any children, and the two of them had a lot of arguments before that.

“Come over and tell me about it.” Feeling conflicted, Courtney walked over to the couch and sat. “Tell me everything that happened.”

Angie looked slightly annoyed as she took a deep breath before she lowered her head and kept quiet as she tried to construct her thoughts into sentences.

“My summer vacation started half a month ago, but Elijah had a business trip to Madrid when I got home, so Lilian and the maids were the only ones left at home. You know how I don’t get along with Lilian, so I listened to what you said and tried not to get into a fight with her by staying in my room during those few days.”

Courtney kept quiet.

“However, Lilian prepared an entire table of dishes a few days later and asked me to go downstairs to eat with her so that she could talk to me. Then, she told me that she’s pregnant.”

“Did she ask you to move out?”

“Kind of? She told me that she found a place for me to stay that is nearer to my school, and she wants me to move there after that.”

Courtney’s frown deepened.

“Don’t worry. I didn’t argue with her.” There was a conflicted look on Angie’s face. “This is Elijah’s firstborn, and I don’t want to cause any trouble, so I moved out that night.”

Noticing how Angie was speaking rhetorically, Courtney couldn't help but feel bad for her. Despite having a strong personality, Angie lacked love ever since she was a child, so she was emotionally damaged. She had been under Elijah's care most of the time when she studied in France during these few years, so Elijah was definitely an important person in her life.

Even though Angie couldn't get along with Lilian, Courtney believed that Angie wouldn't try to initiate a fight with Lilian because of Elijah.

"What did Elijah say about this?"

"I didn't tell him about it." Angie shrugged. "I know that Lilian was trying to say that I'm being an eyesore for staying at their place. Don't they all say that we can't let pregnant women be in a bad mood? If I tell Elijah about this, he will surely oppose this. The two of them would fight because of me again, and I feel like it's unnecessary. It's just me moving out anyway."

Right then, Courtney observed Angie's expression for a while before she started pondering. "Did you come over to my place because you're afraid that Elijah might ask you why you didn't go home for summer vacation?"

Upon hearing that, Angie coughed a little. "Something like that."

"You little brat."

Courtney suddenly felt pissed before she whacked Angie's head. "Why didn't you tell me about this right away? I'd understand that you're afraid to tell Elijah about this, but why are you afraid to tell me as well?"

Angie shielded her head in pain.

"I'm just worried that you might get worried and fly to America immediately. I know that you've been busy here."

Right then, Courtney felt angry and guilty as she glared at Angie.

"That's enough. Stop trying to flatter yourself. I'll take over from here, so you don't have to worry anymore. Why do you keep trying to make decisions on your own when you're still so young? How can a minor stay on her own outside? Besides, do you really think that you can hide from Elijah?"

As soon as Elijah's name was mentioned, Angie's expression became conflicted again.

"What are you planning to do, Court?"

At this moment, Courtney held Angie's hand before saying, "Since you can't stand her, and Elijah won't divorce her, you should stay with me instead. After all, Elijah and I adopted you together back then, and I'm lawfully your mother, so don't be afraid."

Lilian was taking drastic measures to deal with the situation. There were many conflicts between Lilian and Elijah besides conceiving a child. Angie, Courtney, and even Tina always became causes of their fights after they got married.

Back then, Lilian had witnessed how Elijah took care of Courtney and her kid meticulously and had looked forward to receiving the same care from him. However, she had forgotten that it was hard to change a person's behavior once they were used to it.

Lilian had been tolerating Elijah for about seven years during her job as his secretary, and it was almost impossible for the dynamics between them to change after their marriage. Once she wasn't able to get what she had been longing for for a long time, she started holding grudges against everything and everyone around Elijah, and the person closest to him was Angie.

Courtney had met Lilian in the past, and she could sense from Lilian's overly agitated words that Lilian stubbornly thought that Angie and Tina were the reason why Elijah didn't want children anymore. Since Tina was staying with Courtney, Angie was the only trigger left.

Despite being able to guess Lilian's thoughts, Courtney didn't expect Lilian to be capable of kicking a minor out of her house.

One Night Surprise Chapter 430 We're About to File for Divorce

The matter with Angie wasn't a difficult one. After all, it was Courtney's original intention to adopt Angie, so it wouldn't seem right for her to continue living with Elijah. Since Lilian had already voiced her thoughts on it, it would seem rather awkward to send Angie back there.

Once the two girls had gone to bed, Courtney walked to the balcony to give Elijah a call.

"I owe you a huge favor for taking care of Angie. Reasonably speaking, I should have been the one taking care of her all these years. You've done me a huge favor of having custody of her for so long, which I think it's time for me to repay the favor. From now on, I think it would be more appropriate for her to live with me."

Courtney didn't reveal the things that Lilian had done mainly because she had considered the relationship Elijah had with Lilian. On the other hand, she felt that Lilian's actions were justifiable after all.

At this moment, Elijah suddenly stopped talking on the phone. "I've clarified about this matter, so you don't have to worry about it. I'll head to Melrose City and pick Angie up before the summer break ends. We'll stick to the same plan as before; there's no need for any change."

"You don't have to feel troubled. I've already planned everything."

"You haven't," Elijah interrupted Courtney. "You can't leave Melrose City this year, which means you can't take care of Angie. I promised to take care of her back then and it's not just a promise to you but to Angie too. I'll definitely take good care of her and be a father figure to her until she reaches adulthood."

Somehow, Courtney sensed that he was insinuating something with his words and felt that something was amiss, but couldn't quite put her finger on it. So, she had no choice but to ask, "What about Lilian then? Don't tell me that you fought with her?"

"We're about to file for divorce."

“What?!” Courtney’s tone changed. “Divorce?!”

Although she was aware that Lilian’s action of kicking Angie out behind Elijah’s back would definitely trigger the ensuing conflict between the couple if he ever found out, Courtney didn’t expect the outcome to be so serious.

While on the phone, Elijah sounded rather moody and he quickly hung up the phone without saying much, which in turn left her perplexed about the entire situation.

As Courtney had never seen this side of Elijah before, she remained standing at the balcony with mixed feelings. After waiting some time for something but realizing that the outcome wasn’t what one had expected, the past efforts thrown in could easily become an obsession and render the person unable to let go. Economically speaking, this was known as sunk cost effect. In a relationship, behaviors like this could be described as an unwillingness to accept the situation.

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Meanwhile, at the president’s office of Sunhill Enterprise, someone commented, “It’s Clover Media’s anniversary celebration this month and we’ve received their invitation for quite some time now. You haven’t been able to confirm your schedule, so we haven’t confirmed with them on your behalf. What do you think about the event? How should we respond to that?”

Alexander was seated behind his work desk and he was currently wearing a black shirt. His attire had blended well with the mahogany wooden furniture in the room, but it created an exceptionally somber aura wherein someone would find it arduous to freely communicate.

Eric had mentioned this event together with his routine report on the current month’s schedule. Then, he asked for Alexander’s opinion when he stumbled upon the event in the schedule.

“I’m not attending it,” Alexander responded without any hesitation.

Generally speaking, a media company’s anniversary event would involve socializing with women and to him, the benefits obtained from such socializing were completely not worth the effort that he had to exercise.

Eric was Josh’s younger brother; he had taken over the role as Alexander’s chief personal assistant when Josh was transferred to their subsidiary abroad two years ago. Eric had also taken over Josh’s job of handling all the trivial matters that ensued in Alexander’s job.

Now that he was faced with such a permanently cold and standoffish boss, Eric had maintained a reverent attitude and practically worshiped the ground that Alexander walked on. As such, every single instruction that Alexander gave would always be firmly upheld by Eric.

It was after perusing the several memos that Eric recalled something and he looked up. “By the way, President Duncan, the legal team has informed us that the result for the lawsuit on the shares of Holt Enterprise is out.”

Alexander, who was previously focused on the document in front of him, suddenly paused at what he was doing and stopped scribbling. Then, he gradually raised his head and his pair of astute eyes coldly glimmered under the gold-rimmed glasses. “What’s the outcome?”

“We won the case. Mr. Menzie will be back tomorrow.”

“He’s excellent at this.” Alexander’s eyes sparkled. “Did the board of directors do anything once they knew that he’s coming back?”

A resigned Eric replied, “Your guess was correct. There are some signs to indicate Director Menzie’s plans to call for a board meeting.”

“Ever since Caleb joined the company half a year ago, there have been three board meetings. Director Menzie is quite protective of his son.”

Eric hesitated slightly before gingerly asking, “Is Director Menzie eyeing the position of chief executive in the legal department?”

“The case about Holt Enterprise’s shares was one that everyone tried to avoid taking up because of how intricate the matter was. Some of those involved are connected to important people with a messy trail of relationships. However, Caleb went ahead with it and was handsomely rewarded for it by being extremely efficient in his job. The entire legal department had dragged this matter for more than a year, but he managed to resolve it in merely two months. It would be unlike Director Menzie if he didn’t take this opportunity to make requests.”

It was enough to cause Eric’s expression to become complicated. “Then again, President Duncan, Mr. Menzie only joined the company about six months ago and he hasn’t met the criteria to be considered for a promotion.”

After all, it was important for a company to adhere to its standard operating procedures to maintain its regular day-to-day operations. It was pretty much unspoken that a decision shouldn’t be made purely on the whims of an upper management level employee. It was fine to promote someone based on their capabilities, but the company maintained a clear directive about not promoting a staff member within their first year of employment. They would be considered as being on probation for the time being because the company wanted to prevent the staff members from treating their positions as a stepping stone.

“Well, that depends on whether Director Menzie actually cares for his stepson or not.”

There was also another rule in Sunhill wherein their staff could be exempted from the probation period if they held a certain percentage of the company shares. Those who performed exceptionally could even be promoted earlier.

Director Menzie was Caleb’s stepfather; although they were not related by blood, they looked like they maintained a great father and son relationship. At this point in time, if Director Menzie truly intended to help Caleb to be the chief executive of Sunhill’s legal department, then the fastest way to achieve it was to transfer part of his shares in the company to Caleb.

“I have nothing scheduled this Saturday, right?”

Eric was still considering each party’s relevant interests when Alexander suddenly asked that question.

The man quickly flipped through the diary. “There is an officiating ceremony for a housing development project to attend.”

“Ask Jordan to attend it with you as his escort.”

With that, Eric nodded. Alexander had often sent the little prince to attend events that Alexander was not interested in, so Eric was rather used to it. As such, the man didn't say anything further.

“By the way, keep my weekends free from now on.”

A surprised Eric turned to Alexander. “Oh? What sort of plans do you have?”

At that point, Alexander's expression became slightly discernable and he seemed to recollect a sweet memory as the cold look in his eyes suddenly thawed significantly. His eyes had a warm spark as he smiled. “I'm going to meet someone.”

For a workaholic like Alexander to not work, Eric reckoned that the other party was someone extraordinary. Perhaps it was a potential major client and it was also possible that their encounter this weekend would uplift Sunhill Enterprise to an entire new level where they would be able to leave a legacy behind.

On the other hand, Courtney's job of rounding the wards resumed and everything returned to its usual routine. She had felt uneasy for some time in the beginning, but shortly after that, she discovered that there were too many trainee doctors who shadowed the consultant doctor during each ward round. As a result of that, she tried to remain as far back as possible amidst the crowd. Three consecutive days had passed yet Scott was still unaware of her presence, which gave her a sense of relief.

Friday finally arrived and it was time for the weekends—something that Courtney had looked forward to as she could finally rest for two consecutive days after she got off work. However, Linda stopped Courtney at the entrance of the trainee doctors' office.

“Dr. Hunter, I need your help with something.”

Courtney's heart tightened and she secretly groaned.