

Be Yours 161

Chapter 161 I'm Sorry, I Can't Help You

When Alec returned to Faust Mansion from the company at 8.00 pm, he spotted Yvonne standing outside.

"What are you doing here?" he asked as he got out of the car and approached her. His feelings were rather complicated. He could guess why she was there. After all, everyone in Parrington knew what was happening to the Dickmans. There was only one reason Yvonne would come to him now.

A little embarrassed, Yvonne cast her bloodshot eyes upon him. "Alec, can you help my family just this once?"

"Let's go in to talk." Alec didn't agree, nor did he refuse,

Yvonne didn't move from her spot. "I won't go in. I came today to hear your answer."

Hearing that, Alec didn't insist. After staring at her for a long time, he finally said, "I'm sorry, Yvonne. I can't help you."

"Alec, if you don't help my family, my dad will make me marry into the Blooms. The rest of my life will be traded for the sake of an alliance between the Dickmans and the Blooms. Can't you help me?"

She looked at him pleadingly, wishing he could help her, even if it was only for this one time.

With a deep frown, Alec said solemnly, "Don't worry, I won't let your father do that to you."

While he couldn't help the Dickmans, he could help Yvonne avoid the arranged marriage. However, that was not what Yvonne wanted.

"That's all you'll do?" Suddenly, Alec seemed so unfamiliar to her. Perhaps it was because she had never truly understood him.

"Yvonne, even though the police didn't find evidence against you, we both know why Steven died. The most I can do for you is to not do anything."

Alec was very conflicted. Standing on one side was his crush Jenny, and on the other side was his childhood friend. He was already feeling very sorry for not helping Jenny. Hence, if he helped the Dickmans, he would be pushing her away with his own hands.

Yvonne didn't defend herself. While she knew she couldn't hide this from Alec, she was sure he wouldn't do anything to her. That was the reason she dared to frame Jenny so boldly.

Lowering her head, she wept quietly while Alec just stood there.

A long time passed before Yvonne raised her head to ask, "Alec, I've wanted to ask you this for so many years. Have you ever liked me?"

This question came out of left field and caught Alec by surprise.

"Before Jenny appeared, everyone said that we were the most compatible. You never objected when people said that, so I thought you liked me too. But then you got married just like that. I remember

asking myself if you really liked me. I went abroad in a fit of anger, waiting for you to chase after me, but you never came," she said, laughing. "I heard you and Jenny had a bad relationship after getting married. You refused to meet her, so I thought you secretly liked me. That was what made me sure that you liked me. However, once I returned, I knew for certain you never liked me at all. In your heart, I've always been just a friend, and at most, a potential wife, right?"

Alec's expression was solemn. "Perhaps so. The truth is, before Jenny appeared, I didn't even know what liking someone meant."

Yvonne took a deep breath to stop her tears from falling. "Well, in any case, I came here to get your answer. If I didn't, I would never get any closure. I won't say anything if you don't want to help my family, but for the sake of our friendship, can you have a drink with me? Let's drink a toast to the rest of my life that I'm giving away."

"Regarding the Blooms, I can-" |

"No, if I can't marry you, it doesn't matter who I marry. Besides, the Blooms can help my dad keep Dickman LLC, so that's a pretty good deal." Yvonne smiled as if she had thought it through.

Although he felt a little frustrated, Alec nodded. "Okay, make sure you think it through."

"So, will you join me for a drink?" she asked. "After being friends for so many years, surely it's not too much to ask, right?"

Tada..

Chapter 162 You Only Have Yourself to Blame

They had drinks in a restaurant on the second floor of a hotel.

Yvonne poured Alec some wine. "Come on, drink with me. I don't know if we'll be able to eat and drink like this in the future."

She was so sad that she almost burst into tears. Alec couldn't stand the sight, so he didn't refuse the wine glass she handed over.

"Alec, if I make a big mistake in the future, will you forgive me?" Yvonne watched Alec finish the glass of wine, feeling uneasy. She knew Alec well, so she knew how horrible he became when enraged. However, she had no choice but to take a risk. What if she succeeded?

Alec looked at her thoughtfully. "Yvonne, you have made many mistakes. I hope it won't happen again." "Does that mean you're not going to forgive me?" Yvonne asked, her voice filled with anguish and hatred. If Jenny hadn't entered their lives, she wouldn't be in this lowly position. She had ruined everything for Yvonne. Now that Alec wouldn't protect her, Yvonne knew there was only one path left for her to take.

Oblivious to her thoughts, Alec frowned when he heard her question. "No, no one will tolerate you forever. Not even me."

While they grew up together and Yvonne brought warmth into his life when he was a child, it didn't mean he would tolerate everything she did forever.

"I understand." Yvonne nodded. She knew it all too well. Filling his glass again, she said, "Have another glass with me."

"You drank too much." Alec frowned.

"One last glass." Yvonne looked at him with tears in her eyes. "Please?"

Alec sighed and picked up his wine glass. "I'll take you home after this."

After drinking wine, Alec got ready to send Yvonne back, but she still didn't get up.

Looking out the window, she murmured, "Alec, you only have yourself to blame. I have no other choice."

"What did you say?" Alec didn't quite catch her words.

Yvonne turned her head and looked at him.

"Yvonne—" Alec was about to ask her to get ready to leave when a wave of dizziness hit him, causing him to stumble. His vision of Yvonne became blurry. As he held the table in support, anger began to build within him. "What did you put in the wine?"

"Don't worry, Alec. I won't harm you. It's just a little something to put you to sleep." Grinning, she rose from the chair and reached to hold Alec's arm.

He felt disgusted and tried to shake her off, but he failed.

Grabbing him tightly, she said, "Don't waste your energy. Even a child has the upper hand against you in the state you're in right now."

With a small smile, she lugged Alec toward the elevator. While waiting for the elevator, she turned her head to look at the entrance where a person was waiting. The person started taking many pictures with their camera.

Yvonne's lips curved into a triumphant smile as she led Alec into the elevator. She was busy imagining what would happen the next morning when he noticed that Alec was trying to make a phone call.

She grabbed the phone and ended the call.

"Alec, I don't want to hurt you, so you'd better not do anything stupid.

With that, she put Alec's phone into her bag. However, she didn't choose to turn off the phone. After all, if people knew that Alec was missing, his assistant Vincent would show up in the blink of an eye. She was just getting started, and there was no way she would allow anyone to interrupt her.

Chapter 163 Down

Meanwhile, in Perry Residence, Jenny was in the shower. When she exited the shower, she noticed she had a missed call. To her surprise, it was from Alec.

After a moment of thought, she called him back, but no one answered. Frowning, she wondered what was going on.

Flinging the phone aside, she lay on the bed, ready to sleep. However, five minutes later, she found herself calling Alec again.

Alec rarely called her, and it was even rarer for him not to pick up her call. Suddenly, Jenny thought of the people who had stared at them in the grocery store. Perhaps their target wasn't her, but it was Alec instead.

With that thought in mind, she began to worry. She dialed his number again, but she still received no answer. Nonetheless, she didn't give up and dialed once more.

Just as she thought she wouldn't receive an answer again. The call connected, and she hurriedly asked, "Alec, are you okay? Why was there no one on the phone just now?"

"Miss Walter?"

It was not Alec on the other end of the line, but Yvonne, whom she hated.

"Alec is taking a shower. Are you in a hurry to speak to him? Do you need me to pass him the phone for you?" Yvonne asked, making sure Jenny could hear the sound of water from the bathroom.

Jenny was at a loss for words. She felt stupid for thinking that something could happen to the mighty Alec. Why would he call her when he was with Yvonne?

"Miss Walter?" Yvonne called.

"There's no need," Jenny said coldly. "I called the wrong number."

"Oh." As soon as Yvonne finished speaking, Jenny hung up the phone.

Sneering. Yvonne turned off the shower and walked out of the bathroom. Watching the man lying on the bed, she grinned as she removed her clothes and climbed into bed with him.

That night, Jenny slept very poorly. She had a dream that lasted all night, but she couldn't remember what she had dreamt about when she woke up.

In the morning, she dragged herself out of bed to make breakfast for herself despite her fatigue. Since it was Sunday and she wasn't on hospital duty, it was a rare day off. However, she didn't feel like resting, so she went to see Gilbert after breakfast to enquire about the current situation of the Dickmans and to seek his help with the clothing brand.

With that, Alec cropped up in her mind. For some reason, Jenny felt a little down, as if a heavy weight had been placed on her chest. When she realized what she was feeling, she slapped to stop herself from thinking about him. She had nothing to do with him, so why was he on her mind?

Little did she know, a piece of shocking news had flooded the Internet, and the main character of the news was Alec.

Alec woke up naked beside Yvonne, who was also naked. However, that was not the worst part. Before he could ask any questions, a large group of reporters rushed in with their cameras to take pictures. By

the time Vincent arrived, the reporters had already circulated the photos, and it was too late to stop them.

When all the reporters had finally been chased away, Alec glared at Yvonne, livid. She was still lying on the bed.

“I drank with you when you were sad because you were my friend, and this is how you treat me?” he spat, his voice cold as ice.

Chapter 164 I’m Not an Idiot

Vincent shivered, knowing that Alec was furious.

Yvonne raised her head, meeting Alec’s eyes, her expression stoic as she said, “I had no other choice. If I don’t marry you, I must marry that fat man from the Bloom family.”

“You think doing this will make me marry you?” Alec sneered, wondering where Yvonne got her confidence in her plan.

What did a photo of two lying together in bed prove? He knew very well that nothing had happened between them.

“Well, at least there’s a chance. If I do nothing, all chances are lost,” she said. There was no point crying over spilled milk.

Alec tried his best to stop himself from hitting her.

Yvonne nonchalantly grinned and said, “Even if you don’t marry me, I believe Jenny won’t be with you when she sees the news. She might hate you even more.”

In an instant, Alec’s anger rose. He grabbed Yvonne’s jaw, asking, “Is that your real purpose?” Yvonne didn’t speak, but her silence was the answer he needed. Alec flung her to the ground and looked away. “Make sure she doesn’t go anywhere. I’ll deal with her when I’m back!”

He wouldn’t let her off the hook so easily. However, there was something more important he had to deal with at the moment.

Meanwhile, Jenny was in her condominium. She had just had breakfast, changed her clothes, and was about to head out when there was a knock on the door.

Wondering who had come so early in the morning, she opened the door cautiously only to see Alec standing outside. The sight of him shocked her.

After she finally recovered and made sure that she wasn’t hallucinating, she asked coldly, “Anything I can help you with, Mr. Faust? Why are you here so early in the morning?”

“Jenny, I-”

“Mr. Faust, please call me Miss Walter or Dr. Walter. After all, we aren’t very close with each other.”

It disgusted her that despite announcing his intentions to pursue Jenny, he spent the night in the same room with Yvonne. Her words didn’t make Alec angry. He didn’t even dare to look her in the eyes.

Seeing him like that, Jenny figured that her guess was correct-Alec was sleeping with Yvonne. "What an absolute scumbag!" she thought to herself.

*Jenny, I swear nothing happened between Yvonne and me. Those articles online are all nonsense!" Alec explained.

Jenny didn't believe him. Just as she was about to reply, she noticed something amiss. "Articles? What articles online?"

With that, she took her phone out to check the news. Although Alec wanted to stop her, he knew it was meaningless. However, he was surprised Jenny didn't know anything about the articles, yet she reacted in such a manner.

Before he could figure out why she had reacted that way, Jenny had read the news, and her expression was even uglier than before.

She looked at Alec as an indescribable feeling of discomfort filled her chest. All she knew was that she couldn't stand the sight of him.

"Well, it seems that he came bearing good news. Congratulations, Mr. Faust."

Everyone on the Internet said that Alec and Yvonne were going to get married soon, and Jenny thought the same too. They had slept together, so what else would they do if they didn't get married?

Feeling rather upset, Alec tried to explain, "I didn't know she would drug me, Jenny. I really don't like her that way."

He was drugged?

She chuckled lightly, pointed to the photo on the phone, and asked, "So you went for a meal with her, and she drugged you?"

Assuming his claim was true, everything could have been avoided if Alec had never had a meal with Yvonne. They had a meal in a hotel restaurant. No matter how she tried to think otherwise, they looked like they were on a date.

Yvonne had also picked up the phone when she called Alec last night, and she told her that he was taking a bath. Could he take a bath after being drugged?

"Alec, I'm not an idiot!"

Chapter 165 I'll Send My Congratulations

"Jenny, I didn't!" Helpless, Alec wondered how he could explain the situation to her. Still, he took a deep breath and told her everything that had happened last night. "I never thought Yvonne would do something like that. Look, nothing happened between us-she wanted to create gossip and force me into marrying her."

After hearing that, Jenny chuckled. "Isn't that perfect? You've known her since childhood. There's nothing wrong with marrying her early."

"Jenny-"

“Mr. Faust, why do you even bother to explain? It’s none of thy business. You don’t need to explain yourself,” she cut him off and glared at him, thinking that Alec must be a compulsive liar. She refused to trust any word that came out of his mouth. Moreover, she didn’t believe Yvonne would be as foolish and daring as to scheme against Alec.

“Aren’t you angry?” Her calm composure sent a piercing pain through his chest and suffocated him.

She laughed at his question and asked, “Why should I? We’ve been divorced for a while. I’m not surprised that you’d want a second marriage.”

She found no reason to be angry at him. More accurately, she felt she didn’t have the right to be angry, for she had no relationship with him. There was nothing left between them.

“Is that all? Were all my efforts a one-sided love that has never once touched your heart?” He had hoped that his efforts would make a difference and he could at least get her to like him. Now, it seemed that he was being delusional.

She felt uneasy under his gaze but insisted, “Did you really think I’d feel grateful for your help, fall in love, and marry you?”

He didn’t reply because he had never expected anything of the sort from her.

“I told you before that I don’t like any Fausts. Did you think I was joking?”

Alec stood there quietly, staring at the woman in front of him. Every single word from her mouth was a stab in his heart. Perhaps all his efforts were worth nothing in her eyes, but he had given his best and was at a loss for how he could do better.

“You wouldn’t care even if I married Yvonne. Is that right?” he asked while staring intently at her, attempting to search for signs of lying. However, Jenny was good at putting up a front.

She beamed at him even though she was secretly upset. “What do you expect? Do you think I’d cry over the news? Don’t worry. I will congratulate you.”

Alec paused for a moment and collected himself. He chuckled and said, “I accept your congratulations. And I won’t let you down.”

She was a little surprised by the response but feigned an air of nonchalance. “So, are you going to marry Yvonne?”

“Since we’re not that close, I’d rather not share my private matters with you.” He smirked.

With a soft smile, she retorted, “I just wanted to remind you to send an invitation if you’re marrying her. We’re acquaintances, after all. I should at least congratulate you in person.”

“Oh, don’t worry about that. I’d make sure to deliver the invitation myself if I get married.” His tone was cold. He gave her a long and hard look before leaving.

Feeling stifled, she looked on as he walked away.

Chapter 166 What Am I Doing?

When Jenny checked the news in the afternoon, Alec's upcoming marriage remained a hot topic. The Dickmans' official admission of Alec and Yvonne's marriage pushed the news to trend again.

She checked the comments under the news on her phone. The majority of the comments praised the future bride and groom as a match made in heaven and congratulated the couple-a marked improvement compared to the malicious gossip back when she married Alec.

She chuckled, turned off her phone, and asked herself, "What am I doing?"

She reminded herself that Alec's marriage was none of her business, and she wondered why she'd spend the whole morning thinking about it.

At Faust Group building, Vincent was dragged to the pantry and surrounded by a crowd. "Vincent, is Mr. Faust marrying Miss Dickman for real?"

"I'm not too sure," Vincent replied helplessly. He never knew that his colleagues loved gossip this much.

"You're his assistant, and you know him best. Just tell us-we promise to keep it a secret!" Someone was unhappy at Vincent's silence because he was obviously ignoring them. He was Alec's assistant, so he couldn't possibly know nothing.

"Well...I really don't know a thing!" Even if Vincent knew the details, he'd be stupid to leak them. If he spread gossip when Alec was still upset, the consequences would be dire.

"Vincent, just tell us!"

"Right! Just tell us..."

"Are you all too free because there's not enough work going around?" Silence fell on the pantry when the crowd heard a cold voice. Vincent turned around and saw Alec at the entrance. Feeling jittery, he mumbled, "Mr. Faust."

Alec ignored him and scanned the other faces instead. "I hired you to work, not to gossip."

"Sorry, Mr. Faust..." everyone mumbled and dodged his gaze.

"There will be a one-month bonus deduction for each of you. If this happens again, you'll be fired immediately." His frosty eyes traveled through their faces before returning to his office. Vincent quickly followed him.

Everyone in the pantry finally relaxed when the two men disappeared from their field of vision. Someone was sweating bullets, a perfect example of how much stress they had gone through. A month's worth of bonus was huge, but it was not as bad as losing their job at Faust Group. They let out a collective sigh of relief.

In Alec's office, Vincent stared anxiously at his boss. "Mr. Faust, the Dickmans' misled the online chatter into believing your marriage to Miss Dickman. Do you think we should..."

"Let it be," Alec said.

"About Miss Dickman..." After some hesitation, he finally blurted out the question because Yvonne was still under their capture, which would not work.

Upon hearing the mention of Yvonne, Alec looked at him with a murderous gleam that disappeared quickly in his eyes. "Let her go."

"L-Let her go?" Vincent thought he had misheard his boss.

"Everyone knows that I'm marrying her. I can't have her under our capture. We have to let her go." As the main character in the news, she would have to show up for the public to believe in the marriage.

Vincent was perplexed at Alec's actions. Why did he sound like he would marry Yvonne for real?

"That can't be! I thought he was in love with Miss Walter?" Vincent wondered. He was confused but dared not ask more questions. "We got a call from the Old Mansion. They want you there, probably to discuss.

Miss Dickman."

Given the explosive circumstances, Old Mr. Faust was calm enough not to pay Alec a visit.

Chapter 167 I Hope You're Not Like Your Father

Warren was waiting at the entrance to the Old Mansion when Alec arrived. When he saw Alec, he hurried forward. "Mr. Alec, you're finally here! Mr. Faust has waited a long time!"

"How's...." Alec frowned and appeared glum. "How's his mood now?"

"He's not in a good mood. Please brace yourself," Warren replied truthfully. Alec nodded at him before going up to the study on the second floor. He knocked and entered the dark room. The only light was from the lamp on the study desk. An old man with gray hair sat at the desk and appeared lonely from afar. "Grandpa," Alec greeted Old Mr. Faust and walked up. Hearing the voice, Old Mr. Faust gave his grandson a long look but remained quiet. Alec stood in front of him without a word.

A long silence later, Old Mr. Faust finally sighed. "Okay, tell me what's going on between you and Yvonne."

Alec told him everything from last night without leaving out details and added, "Grandpa, don't fret. I will take care of it."

"Will you?" There was a cold look in Old Mr. Faust's eyes. "If you have taken care of it, what's with the rumors on the internet? Are you going to marry her? I will not accept a woman like her into my family!"

Knowing that Alec and Yvonne were close, he worried that Alec might actually marry her after last night's incident. However, Alec was merely confused by his grandfather's remark and smiled defeatedly. "Of course I won't! And I thought you'd force me to marry her."

As the Fausts were huge on reputation, the incident might affect their standing if Alec refused to marry Yvonne. After all, the outsiders would never know the complexities behind yesterday's incident.

"I have acknowledged Jenny as my only granddaughter-in-law, and I will not recognize any other woman!" Old Mr. Faust declared. He was not keen on letting the devious Yvonne join the family because he didn't want to invite trouble.

Alec felt conflicted by his grandfather's stance. He was a little glad but also sorrowful. Sighing, he asked, "Is Jenny that good, to the point of winning over you?"

"I don't know about that. But there's one thing I'm certain: she's the most suitable partner for you." Even though Old Mr. Faust sounded confident, Alec had no idea about the rationale behind the claim.

Alec was not foolish, though. He sensed something was off when his grandfather insisted he chose Jenny on different occasions. Despite that, he would not ask his grandfather about it. For starters, the old man would not reveal the reason, and Alec was personally...

"If you are too soft to deal with Yvonne, you should let me handle it," Old Mr. Faust suggested after observing Alec's silence.

Alec shook his head. "I have my plans. You don't have to get involved."

"Are you sure you can handle it yourself?" Old Mr. Faust was more worried about Alec's soft spot than questioning his capability.

"I can do it." Alec nodded. To him, his grandfather's worries were unnecessary. His longtime friendship with Yvonne was shattered the moment she drugged him.

"Us Fausts are loyal men. If you love Jenny, you have to love her your whole life. Do not be fickle. Understood?" Old Mr. Faust's eyes were filled with worry.

"Yes, Grandpa." Alec nodded.

"I hope you're not like your father."

The muscles on Alec's back tensed up when he heard the remark. Memories flooded his mind, and all color drained from his face.

Chapter 168 He's Simply an Enemy

"Why would you bring him up?" It took Alec a while to finally regain his composure. Although he tried his best to rein in his emotions, his tightly rolled fists suggested that he was furious.

Old Mr. Faust glanced at him and sighed. "Look at you. Even after all this while, you're still agitated when we talk about him. How will you face him if you ever run into him?"

"That's an unnecessary concern. He's simply an enemy to me." For Alec, there was only one way of dealing with his enemies.

An enemy?

Something crossed Old Mr. Faust's mind, and he shook his head. "Alright. You should get going. And settle this matter with the Dickmans as soon as possible."

"Okay. Take care." With that, Alec left the study.

When Alec arrived at Faust Mansion after he met with Old Mr. Faust, Jenny happened to return to Perry Residence as well. She instantly spotted someone standing at her door when she stepped out of the elevator. She approached the visitor, frowning.

“Miss Walter!” Yvonne had a smile on her face and appeared to be exhilarated. Her excitement was understandable, for she was soon to marry Alec. Even if the Dickmans went bankrupt, she would be protected from the consequences.

Jenny was upset at the thought, as she had initially tried to take down the Dickmans because of Yvonne. She glanced at Yvonne. “What’s the matter?”

“Nothing! I just wanted to talk.” Yvonne went up to her with a smile.

“But I have nothing to discuss with you,” Jenny politely rejected her and went ahead to open the door. She did not want to waste time on her.

Yvonne persisted and followed closely behind her. “You’re Alec’s ex-wife, and I will be his second. Is there nothing to be discussed between us? I think we have some shared topics.”

“It’s about Alec, after all,” Jenny thought. Speechless, she replied, “I’m his ex-wife, which means I have no relationship with him at all.” Had Yvonne wanted to discuss the Dickmans’ situation, Jenny might have had something to offer. But she wanted to talk about Alec, and Jenny had nothing to discuss with her.

When Jenny opened the door, Yvonne followed her into the apartment. “Have you read the news online? Last night, Alec and I shared a bed. We’re going to have a wedding soon. Miss Walter, you’ll be there to congratulate us. Right?”

Jenny poured herself a glass of water and sat on the sofa. She didn’t show any response to Yvonne’s announcement. “Sure. I will. But do you think you’ll be spared after you marry him? You and I are not done

yet.”

After she was wrongly accused of Steven’s murder, Jenny had to hold Yvonne culpable. Even after Jonathan Flynn had confessed to the murder, everyone knew that Yvonne was the real mastermind behind the incident. For that, Jenny would want to get even with her.

Yvonne understood what Jenny was implying but wasn’t worried about it. “Do you still think you’re my match after I married Alec?”

“Was that an admission?” Jenny stared at Yvonne, who started feigning innocence. “What admission?” Jenny shook her head and chuckled. “You’d better pray that you could marry him. Else, you’d lose any form of support when your family goes bankrupt. You know very well what that means.’

Finally, Yvonne paled upon hearing Jenny’s threat. “As long as you don’t be a bitch and remarry him, I will become his wife!” she hissed, gritting her teeth.

Jenny smirked and raised a brow at her. “Are you saying you can’t marry him if Alec and I remarry?”

“You...”

“That’s a good idea. I will carefully consider it.” Her smile sent a chill down Yvonne’s spine.

Chapter 169 Prepared for the Worst

Yvonne regretted visiting Jenny that night. She wondered what would happen to herself if Jenny followed through with the idea of remarrying Alec. However, she couldn't let the opportunity to gloat about the marriage in front of Jenny go to waste.

At first, she had given up all hopes of marrying Alec, especially after he gave her that murderous look. To her surprise, Alec released her. When she realized the rumors about her marriage to him were still circulating online, she started to get her hopes up

"Has he acknowledged the marriage if he hasn't done anything to get rid of the rumors?" she thought. She also wondered if Old Mr. Faust had forced Alec to marry her to protect their reputation. No matter what, she considered the situation manageable. If Old Mr. Faust forced Alec to marry her, she stood a high chance of getting married to him. The thought of it cheered her up.

Jenny was in a bad mood after Yvonne left. She had planned to cook dinner but lost all her appetite. For that, she started cursing Alec in silence. Everything started because of him.

Amid her irritation, she got a call from Gilbert. He briefed her on the Dickmans' current situation and suddenly asked, "Alec Faust is marrying Yvonne Dickman. What do you think of it?"

"What does that have to do with me? Why do you even ask me, Gilbert?" Jenny wondered why everyone was concerned about her relationship with Alec when there was none.

Gilbert felt relieved after learning about her stance. "You're his ex-wife, after all. I just wanted to get your opinion. Do you think he'd marry her? And would he help the Dickmans after the marriage?"

She understood that he was concerned about Alec helping the Dickmans. If that happened, it would be impossible for them to crush the Dickmans. She thought it over and answered, "I have no idea. We need to be prepared for the worst, either way."

Alec seemed to have no intentions of helping Yvonne's family, but it would be tough for him to watch his in-laws go bankrupt without lending a hand after he married Yvonne.

"Yeah, you're right." Gilbert nodded. He was not defeated. Anyway, he benefitted enough from the Dickmans, and even if he stopped right there, he would not suffer from any loss.

After the call with Gilbert, Jenny couldn't stop herself from checking news about Alec on social media apps. Soon, she realized she was acting weird and forced herself to turn off her phone.

She did not like how uncool and lame she was. She believed that she had developed such weird behavior because of Alec and decided to stay away from him.

Vincent knocked on the door of Alec's office with an anxious heart. He found Alec working, which was a normal sight.

"Mr. Faust," he called but hesitated.

Alec did not look up. "What's the matter?"

"George Dickman called. He wanted to set a time to...discuss the marriage with you." Vincent secretly thought that George was playing with fire. Alec was clearly uninterested in Yvonne, but not only did her

family not stay away from Alec, they created gossip online, thinking that Alec would be forced to marry Yvonne for real.

Vincent thought the Dickmans must be delusional, and Alec had shown enough restraint not to take them down.

Alec finally stopped what he was doing and looked at Vincent. He scoffed. "Sure. I'll visit them tomorrow."

"Huh?" Vincent thought he misheard his boss. "Are you visiting the Dickmans?"

Visiting them at the height of the rumors might lead to more confusion. The public would think that Alec was there to get the blessings of his future in-laws.

"Yes! Of course I'll visit them," Alec sneered. If Yvonne wanted to marry him so badly, he would not disappoint her.

Chapter 170 Discussing the Marriage

An explosive news spread across the internet the following morning. "Faust Group CEO Caught Visiting the Dickmans' Home; Marriage Discussions Going On?"

Jenny's heart sank upon reading the headline as she struggled with an unexplainable feeling.

"Dr. Walter?" Dr. Scott called Jenny after noticing that she was spacing out.

She was pulled back to reality and stared at him. "Sorry. What did you say?"

"The hospital runs a rural welfare program. The director wants you to participate in it. What do you think?" Dr. Scott checked with her.

She frowned in confusion. "But I'm new to the hospital. Is that appropriate?"

"That's not a worry. It's a corporate social responsibility program. You'll only benefit from it," Dr. Scott explained.

Jenny knew that as well since most hospitals operated in the same way. The employees who joined the program would be up for promotion after returning to work. As a new member of staff,

she was more worried that she'd attract hostility from her colleagues if she were to be promoted.

"Don't worry about it. It's the hospital's decision. And you're a capable candidate for the program," Dr. Scott assured her.

She finally agreed to it after some deliberation. "Okay, I'll go. But let's make it clear that I'm only there for the CSR program. I hope the director does not show me excessive favor when I'm back."

"Dr. Walter..."

"Dr. Scott, I understand your good intentions. But I'm young and have plenty of opportunities ahead of me. Some colleagues deserved the promotion more than I do," she explained. She didn't care much about work titles and wouldn't want to take away opportunities that belonged to others.

In the face of her stubbornness, Dr. Scott gave up. "Okay, I understood."

With that, Jenny accepted the three-month rural work slated to start tomorrow at a rural town in a district far from Claymond City. Because of the arrangement, she left work early to pack her belongings, check out the directions, and gather more information about her new workplace. She couldn't show up empty-handed.

Her phone buzzed right when she arrived in her neighborhood. She was surprised to see a call from Old Mr. Faust.

"Grandpa." She picked up the call.

"Jenny! You haven't visited me in a long time. Why so? Do you not see me as your grandpa after the divorce?" Old Mr. Faust's gruff and tired voice made her feel bad.

"Grandpa, what are you talking about? I was a little busy lately and didn't have the time to visit," she replied with a smile.

He chuckled and asked, "Are you still busy? Join me for dinner at the Old Mansion. I missed you a lot."

She deliberated before agreeing, "Sure. I'll be there soon."

"Great! I'll tell the kitchen to get your favorite dishes ready." With that, Old Mr. Faust ended the call. Jenny hailed a cab to head to the Old Mansion. Old Mr. Faust had always been nice to her. Since she would be gone for three months, she decided to break the news in person just to keep him updated.

Soon, her cab arrived at the mansion's doorstep. After paying the fare, she heard the sound of a car arriving when she was about to enter. She turned around and spotted Alec's car. Frowning at the sight of him getting out of the car, she looked more disturbed when she noticed Yvonne coming with him.

"Miss Walter! What a coincidence! Are you here for dinner with grandpa?" Yvonne walked up to Alec with a smile. At first glance, they appeared intimate.