

Be Yours 281

Chapter 281 Killing Her Wasn't My Plan

Marigold was most afraid of Paul since she was a child. Under his scrutiny, she tensed up and held her breath. "Killing her wasn't my plan." She lowered her gaze and dodged his eyes.

"Not your plan? But the speed at which you charged at me seemed to say otherwise. You didn't look like you would spare me." Jenny was slightly terrified after she checked the surveillance footage of the incident. Had it not been for Alec's timely appearance, she could've lost her life.

Marigold wanted to retort but held her tongue when she sensed Paul's sharp gaze. "I planned to brake the car right in front of you as a scare. But the brake wasn't working, and that scared the heck out of me as well."

"Do you think that sounds believable?" Jenny stared at Marigold in disbelief.

Marigold gritted her teeth. If Paul weren't around, she wouldn't have wasted her time responding to Jenny's interrogation. "Believe it or not, it's all up to you. I never intended to kill you," she scoffed and lay back on the bed, giving up and pretending to fall asleep.

Paul looked at Jenny. "She won't lie in my presence. Moreover, he believed that Marigold wasn't bold enough to plot a murder, and she must have been telling the truth about her intention to scare Jenny.

Jenny, however, pursed her lips. She understood that Marigold wasn't the type to kill, but she was hard-pressed to believe in the coincidence.

"Her car's still around. You can open an investigation into it," Paul suggested.

Jenny nodded at his words. "Of course I will. But even if she didn't plan to kill me, she's not completely innocent, either. It's naive of you to think that'll be enough to convince me to let this go." She decided not to go easy on Marigold.

Paul wasn't surprised by her stubbornness, he knew from the start that she wasn't a pushover. "State your conditions. I'll agree to what you want as long as it's not a ridiculous offer." Finally, he came to the decision to protect Marigold.

Jenny started thinking hard about what she could demand from Paul. When she was debating, Alec threw out an idea casually, "Paul, I recall that you have a garment factory under your name. Is that right?"

Her eyes lit up at the mention of the asset. Even though she had established her fashion design company, she still lacked a factory. Because of that, she could only subcontract factories to manufacture her clothes, which would be an obstacle to future development in terms of quality control. Having a dedicated factory for the brand could easily solve these issues.

"You're one heck of a good friend!" The suggestion wiped off the smile on Paul's face. Although his factory didn't manufacture the products from his company, it could rake in hundreds of millions annually through its subcontracting business, so he was rather reluctant to hand it to Jenny.

She had little regard for his feelings and demanded, "I want the factory that Alec mentioned."

“That’s too much.” Paul didn’t think giving up the entire factory in return for Marigold’s freedom was worth the price.

“If you’re unwilling to give it to me, that’s fine too. I can put out the surveillance footage for the world to see. Let’s see how you’ll protect Marigold, then. Jenny was cool about it since she wouldn’t suffer any loss in either scenario.

Paul was enraged by her attitude and gave her a warning look. “Jenny Walter, you’d better not burn your bridges. One day, when Alec couldn’t protect you anymore, you might end up in grave trouble without knowing it.”

Chapter 282 Jenny Walter, You’d Better Not Cross a Line!

“Don’t you worry. I didn’t get to where I am today because of Alec’s help.” Jenny shrugged without a care in the world. Paul was known to be merciless, but Jenny was confident that she wouldn’t lose to him even without Alec’s help.

Seeing that Jenny was adamant, Paul turned to Alec for help. “Don’t you have shares in that factory too? Are we going to give it to her for free?”

“I don’t care.” Alec shrugged. Paul was about to follow suit and said he didn’t care either, but Alec added, “ You have to compensate me for my loss in your factory anyway because it’s your family’s business.”

Jenny almost burst out laughing as she didn’t expect Alec to be such a sly bastard.

“What if I refuse to give it to her?” Paul clenched his teeth, lamenting his bad karma for having a friend like Alec.

“If you refuse, I’ll have no choice but to help Jenny to the best of my ability and send Marigold to jail. It doesn’t affect me anyway.” Alec grinned widely, oblivious to Paul’s rage.

Marigold, who had been feigning sleep in bed, suddenly opened her eyes and appeared crushed. “Alec, how could you do that?” Even though they weren’t close in real life, she treated him with respect, like a big brother. Why was he so heartless?

“You messed with the wrong person. It’s only fair that you pay the price.” Alec shot her an icy look. He had been good to her, considering she was Paul’s little sister. After the incident, Marigold had Paul to thank for being her brother, or Alec would’ve taken action against her even before Jenny made her move.

“How dare she drive into Jenny? Does she think I am a pushover?” Alec seethed silently. Marigold gritted her teeth and cast her eyes downward. She dared not speak as she waited for Paul’s final decision. No matter which choice he made, she understood that she had no right to protest.

In a foul mood, Paul took a deep breath to keep his anger in check. “Okay. The factory’s yours.”

Jenny beamed. “I have another request.”

“Jenny Walter, you’d better not cross a line!”

"I want you to stay away from Steph and her family." Jenny stared at him with a grave look, her smile nowhere to be seen.

Paul's expression soured, and he looked much more somber than before. "Do you think you're that invincible, Jenny Walter?"

"Not really, but Stephanie's my friend. And I will do anything for a friend." She met his gaze head-on. The tension in the air, which had dissolved earlier, returned with a vengeance.

Paul looked at her and finally broke into a laugh. "Looks like the deal is off the table. Fine, send Marigold to jail. I'll not be involved in this matter anymore." He was willing to part with some assets to guarantee her safety, but nothing could make him give up on Stephanie.

Jenny was taken aback by his determination. Instead of regretting the failed deal, she was utterly shocked when she learned that Paul had no plans to let go of Stephanie at all.

"Jenny, it's fine." Stephanie stepped in, hoping that Jenny wouldn't get into further problems with Paul because of her. Although Paul and Jenny were already on bad terms, he wouldn't harm her because of Alec. Still, the consequences might be dire once Jenny was on his bad side. Stephanie was worried by Paul's dogged pursuit, but she didn't want Jenny to get involved. "He won't do anything to me. Don't worry.

"Steph..." Jenny looked concerned.

"It's no use. He won't make that promise. Even if he promises you, there's no way you can guarantee that he keeps his word." Paul was a man who dealt with both the authorities and the underworld; breaking a promise was second nature to him.

Chapter 283 You Can't Lay a Finger on Her

Alec was worried that the deal would fall apart, and he advised Jenny, "Take the factory and let this slide. It won't affect how you protect Stephanie later."

In his opinion, protecting Stephanie was tangent to the factory deal in exchange for Marigold's freedom. No one would agree to such conditions-not even himself. Therefore, he knew that Paul would never agree to both requests.

Jenny thought it through and agreed with Alec. What mattered most was to secure the immediate benefit. Instead of hoping that Paul would keep his promise to stay away from Stephanie, Jenny believed it was wiser to grow her power so she could better protect her friend.

"Alright. I'll get the factory, and Marigold gets her freedom." She nodded and sealed the deal. Worried that Paul might walk back on his words, she quickly had him draft an agreement. After they signed it, she finally allowed him to leave the hospital with Marigold.

Alec walked Paul to the hospital entrance. "It's just a factory. Don't take it personally," he said, patting his friend's shoulder.

"Don't worry, I'm your friend. I'm not going to ambush Jenny Walter," Paul had thought of doing so though.

“Marigold was in the wrong this time. You should discipline her. She won’t be as lucky next time,” Alec said.

Paul nodded with a stern look but said, “When are you going to get your girl? You can’t expect me to always yield to Jenny just because you’re going after her. How about you give up on her? I’ll get you a better chick.” Once Alec was over Jenny, Paul would immediately act on his grievance and get even with her.

Alec shook his head and confessed, “I’m afraid that won’t work. I don’t have eyes for anyone else aside from her.”

Paul shook his head as well. “You’re hopeless.”

“What about you? Why are you obsessed with Stephanie? You don’t even like her.” Alec worried that another argument might erupt between Paul and Jenny because of Stephanie. He was in a difficult position, stuck between his good friend and his crush.

Paul scoffed and said, “No woman has rejected me before. Do you think I can let this go?”

“Is that all?” Alec didn’t believe his words.

“Yes.” Paul nodded with certainty.

Alec shook his head hopelessly. “Whatever. Just don’t lay a finger on Jenny, or our friendship’s over.”

“You have my word,” Paul promised.

Alec went back into the hospital after seeing Paul off. At the same time, Jenny returned from going with Stephanie. She thanked Alec upon seeing him.

“You don’t have to thank me. I didn’t help much.” Alec felt a little guilty. “I’ve known Paul for many years. You can say he’s one of my few friends.”

“I know. That’s why I need to thank you.” Jenny was grateful to him for not siding with Paul. She understood his feelings well. Had the same thing happened to Stephanie, she might not bring herself to go against her friend as Alec did.

“If you’re worried about Stephanie, why don’t you ask her to go into hiding? Don’t let Paul find her.” Alec

knew Paul very well. If Paul said he wouldn’t give up, he meant it.

Jenny shook her head in defeat. “She won’t leave.”

Not only was Stephanie not the type to run from her problems, but she also had to worry about her parents, who lived in Parrington. What would they do without her? What if Paul harassed them?

“I’ll try my best to talk some sense into Paul. As for Stephanie, you should tell her to be careful. She shouldn’t provoke him.” Alec was uneasy with the situation. Knowing Paul’s stubborn and vengeful nature, he worried that something bad might happen if Stephanie provoked him.

Chapter 284 I Don’t Want to Be Indebted to You

Marigold's case was finally closed, and Jenny reaped huge rewards from the incident that gave her a good scare.

When she looked into the operations of the garment factory, she was surprised to find that Paul had been raking in a few hundred million annually through this asset. Even if she sat back and did nothing, she would earn a considerable amount yearly.

She felt rather uncomfortable at the discovery as she finally realized that Paul had given up the cash cow purely for the sake of his friendship with Alec. Had it not been for Alec, he would have gotten into a huge fight with her and refused to cave in, given his personality.

She hesitantly knocked on the door to Alec's hospital room. When she entered the room, she found him working instead of resting.

"What's wrong?" Alec thought something had happened when he saw her.

She walked up and handed him the agreement she had signed with Paul. "I looked into this factory and found out that it makes a huge profit annually. Paul wouldn't have agreed to give it up if it were not for you."

"Don't worry about that. Marigold is the daughter of the Wagner Family-she's worth more than you thought," he comforted her.

"You own 40% of the shares in this factory," she mumbled. Alec's share ownership was higher than she had anticipated-she initially thought he owned only 5%.

He shut his laptop and said with a smile, "No worries. Paul will compensate me for the loss."

"Stop hiding the truth from me. You'd be lucky if he doesn't ask you for compensation." Jenny was not naive; she knew full well that she had taken advantage of Paul in the transaction. There was no way Paul would compensate Alec, his shareholder.

He was surprised by her meticulous consideration but added, "Paul doesn't need that money."

"That's his problem, and I don't care about him anyway." She had planned to have Paul suffer losses, and things went her way. However, she was greatly indebted to Alec in the process. After some deliberation, she announced, "How about this? I'll let you keep your 40% shares in the factory."

"It's fine." He shook his head. "I never put in any effort to run the factory anyway. Paul was the one managing it."

"That's your business with him. We're now talking about this business between us. It's different." Jenny refused to be indebted to Alec. Whether or not she liked him, she would rather keep their relationship free of such entanglements.

Alec held a different opinion. The more Jenny wanted to set boundaries, the more upset he became." Jenny, do you really need to draw clear boundaries with me?"

"No, I didn't..."

“You make me feel like my efforts are useless.” He leaned against the headboard and flashed a bitter smile, looking miserable. Somehow, his actions seemed meaningless to Jenny, and she never displayed any hint of enthusiasm at his efforts.

Jenny felt bad and quickly explained, “I didn’t mean that. I just don’t want to be too indebted to you.”

“Why? Is it because you don’t have feelings for me?” He was perplexed.

“Yeah.” She nodded but shook her head again. “I need to set clear boundaries if I’m not interested in you. But I need to do it more when I’m interested in you.”

He frowned, forming a guess in his heart, but he couldn’t be sure of the meaning behind her words.

“What does that mean?”

“Alec Faust, everyone in Parrington knows you’re remarkable. People might think I’m not good enough for you if I date you, and I don’t want to be perceived as such. Even if I’m with you, I want to stand by your side as an equal rather than behind you. Got it?”

She acknowledged that Alec was a great man, but she wanted everyone to know she was also an exceptional woman.

Chapter 285 I Owe My Life to You

At that moment, Jenny shone brightly in Alec’s eyes. He stared at her admiringly for some time. “Jenny.” Feeling touched and excited, he asked, “Does that mean you’re willing to be my girlfriend?” “No.” To his disappointment, she shook her head. She added, “I need more time for observation.”

His eyes lit up, and he grinned. “Sure. I can wait.” As long as she was working toward accepting his feelings, he could afford to wait.

Jenny changed the topic and brought up the factory, “I will have someone draft a new agreement and get it delivered to you. You’ll own 40% of the shares, just like before.”

“I don’t need that many shares. 10% is enough for me,” he replied. He no longer turned down her offer, but he refused to accept all the shares. Seeing her frown, he explained, “You deserve the factory. It was Marigold who wanted to take your life. You’re worth more than the factory.”

If Paul were not a friend, Alec would have gotten everyone in the Wagner Family to make it up to Jenny, and even that would not have sufficed.

“But...I owe my life to you.” She flashed a bitter smile. It seemed that she was more indebted to Alec than she had thought.

“That’s a different matter. Don’t use the shares to make it up to me.” He chuckled. “You’ll have to marry me if you want to repay me for saving your life.”

Jenny rolled her eyes at his unserious attitude despite being injured. “You’d better rest well. I’m waiting for you to make dinner for me.” She walked to the door and waved at him before leaving.

He was euphoric after Jenny left. Finally, he could see the fruits of his labor-Jenny had started to open her heart to him. With time, he would eventually get her to accept his love.

When Vincent arrived at the room, he was shocked by the stupid grin on Alec's face.

"Mr. Faust, are you alright?" Vincent secretly worried about the future of the Faust Group for a second as Alec looked like he was wrong in the head. He started thinking hard, even when he was ignored by Alec. Soon, he seemed to figure it out. "Has Miss Walter agreed to be your girlfriend?"

That was the only thing that could evoke such joy in Alec.

"Not yet," Alec answered. Vincent looked puzzled. "If so, why are you..."

"Soon." After some thinking, Alec decided to share the details of Jenny's response with Vincent because he lacked confidence in reading her reaction. "Do you think she's going to say yes to me soon?"

"Yeah." Vincent nodded. "I think Miss Walter is hinting that your confession is not formal enough. It's too casual."

"What do you mean?" Alec sat up straight and put on a serious face. Vincent almost burst out laughing. Even since Alec fell in love with Jenny, he seemed to have changed in a good way. He was more approachable compared to his icy personality from before.

"Girls love a romantic confession. I think Miss Walter expects the same too." Despite being single for his entire life, Vincent expressed his opinion freely. Alec fell silent and gave it some thought. Indeed, he had always asked Jenny to be his girlfriend in a casual manner. Perhaps, that was the real reason she refused to accept his confession!

He perked up after making sense of the situation. "What do you think I should do?"

"Um..." Vincent looked embarrassed. "I've never confessed to any girl in my life." He had never had a crush on anyone his entire life, so he lacked the experience to offer any advice.

"Draft ten proposals for me within today," Alec instructed, overlooking the fact that Vincent was inexperienced in relationships. Vincent was about to tell him so, but he shut his mouth after hearing what Alec said next.

Chapter 286 I Will Complete the Mission

"111 double your year-end bonus."

Vincent instantly became invigorated upon hearing the reward. He declared with a righteous air, "complete the mission."

He thought, "Sure, I might have lacked the experience, but so what? I can run some searches on the Internet. If I run out of ideas, I can ask for the advice of those in Faust Group with relationship experiences. There has to be something I can come up with."

"I will

After Vincent left, Alec continued his work but struggled to focus because he was constantly distracted by his thoughts of Jenny. Smiling wryly, he never thought that he'd be so smitten with a woman.

It was late when Old Mr. Faust visited Alec at the hospital. He barged into the room in a great hurry and looked at Alec with unspoken worries in his eyes.

“Grandpa? Why are you here?” Alec remembered that he had clearly informed Vincent to keep the hospitalization a secret from his grandfather. In the end, he still found out about it.

Fuming, Old Mr. Faust glared at him. “Why can’t I visit you? As your grandpa, do I not have the right to learn about your injuries?”

“Grandpa, I don’t want to worry you.” Alec smiled at him in an attempt to calm him down.

Old Mr. Faust puffed and said, “You don’t want me to worry about you? It seems like you think you’re not giving me enough to worry about.”

“Grandpa!”

“If you really don’t want me to worry, you shouldn’t have put yourself in harm’s way. Aren’t you afraid of dying?” Old Mr. Faust was incensed at Alec’s nonchalance. Alec fell silent as he couldn’t find any good explanation for his behavior. When Marigold wanted to run Jenny over, his only goal at that instant was to ensure Jenny’s safety. He drove his car into Marigold’s without thinking about the consequences.

Old Mr. Faust sighed at Alec’s silence. “I know you did that to save Jenny, but....you need to treasure your life.”

“Grandpa, I know. Don’t worry about me. I’ll be more careful in the future,” Alec assuaged him to stop him from worrying.

Still, Old Mr. Faust was unrelenting. He stared at Alec and shook his head. “I can no longer tell if a relationship with Jenny is better or worse for you.”

“Grandpa, why did you say so?” Alec was confused by his words, but he was sure things were not as simple as they seemed.

Old Mr. Faust sighed without saying another word. He had insisted on matchmaking Alec and Jenny because he knew about her real background. When Jenny rejoined her powerful birth family, her connections would be of great help to the Faustus. However, all of that would not have mattered if Alec had to sacrifice himself for her.

Judging from the situation, Old Mr. Faust assumed that Jenny would only meet with more obstacles down the road. He dared not picture his foolish grandson throwing himself again and again in harm’s way to protect her. It was an unimaginable scene. If anything bad happened to Alec, Jenny-the ace card with powerful connections-would be meaningless to him.

“Alec, now that I think about it, I don’t care if you’re not interested in Jenny. You don’t have to like her just because I want the two of you together.” Finally, Old Mr. Faust chose to protect his grandson.

Upset at his remark, Alec frowned. “Grandpa, what do you mean by that? Do you think my feelings can be changed as you wish?”

“Alec...”

“Grandpa, I’m an adult with my own opinions,” he cut him off. “I can tell you that Jenny is the woman I want. From now on, I will be with her whether or not you approve of our relationship.”

Chapter 287 I Don't Blame You

Standing outside the room with an insulated food container in her hand, Jenny listened to Alec's words. She felt glad and conflicted at the same time, not knowing whether to enter the room.

After listening to what Alec had to say, Old Mr. Faust's expression sank, and he fell silent for a long time. "Do you still want to be with her even if it would cost your life?" he sounded distant and unhappy.

Alec nodded without hesitation. "Yes."

Old Mr. Faust gave him a long look and finally sighed in defeat. "Whatever. Do what you want."

Alec heaved a sigh of relief after his grandfather yielded. "Grandpa, you don't have to worry. I'm not that weak. I can protect Jenny and myself."

Underneath Old Mr. Faust's silence, he had come up with a plan. He couldn't afford to wait, for no one would know how long it'd take for the family in Bardoff City to discover Jenny's existence. She might be in greater trouble if her birth family's enemies found out about her before anyone else.

Old Mr. Faust was uninterested in Jenny's reunion with her birth family. Still, he had to start caring because Alec's safety was on the line. He decided that he had to leak the news of Jenny's existence to her birth family in Bardoff City in the hope that they could reunite soon.

"Rest well. I'll leave now." Once he arrived at a decision, he immediately took leave.

"Is that all? You didn't even ask about my injuries." Dumbfounded, Alec wondered if his grandpa was truly there to visit him, but his protests were ignored.

Judging from Alec's confident look, Old Mr. Faust knew well that he was fine. So, he had no more questions to ask. He opened the door and found Jenny standing on the other side. "Oh, Jenny! Are you okay?"

"Grandpa, I'm fine." She stood there embarrassed. She had been thinking of hiding somewhere, but Old Mr. Faust gave her no chance to do so when he opened the door without warning.

He closed the door behind him and smiled at her. "You heard what Alec said, didn't you?"

"Grandpa, I didn't..."

"I know you didn't eavesdrop on purpose." He smiled gently without any intention of blaming her. "But you overheard him. Is that right?"

She bit her lips and nodded. Looking satisfied, he advised her earnestly, "I can't deny that Alec has mistreated you in the past. But you can tell his feelings for you lately. Right?"

She nodded at him.

"I'm the one to blame for everything that happened in the past. I forced him to marry you, and I understand his resentment toward me. That doesn't mean he was right."

At the end of the day, Alec was in the wrong for not meeting Jenny even once during their two-year marriage. His chilling indifference to his wife was a mistake that couldn't be glossed over.

Staring at Jenny anxiously, Old Mr. Faust asked, "So, Jenny, do you still refuse to give him a second chance?"

She wondered how to break it to him that she had decided to give Alec another chance. She found it difficult to tell him the truth. After a pause, she blurted out, "Grandpa, I appreciate all he has done for me." He sighed. "That's good. He's my grandson, after all. It's hard not to feel bad for him. I'm really worried, especially after he almost risked his life a few times to save you."

"Grandpa, I'm sorry. I..."

"I don't blame you. That kid is willing to sacrifice anything for you." Zachary waved at her. He didn't need an apology.

Chapter 288 You're a Childish Old Man

Alec abruptly opened the door and cut Old Mr. Faust off. Upset, he stared at his grandpa. "Why are you still here chatting instead of going home?"

"You rascal! I'm doing this all for you!" Old Mr. Faust was frustrated at Alec's insensibility.

Alec shot a look at Warren and ordered, "Send Grandpa home. He shouldn't be lingering around."

"You little punk!" Old Mr. Faust raised his stick at Alec, and Jenny hurried over to protect Alec when the stick was about to hit him.

"Grandpa! He still hasn't recovered from his injuries!"

In the end, Old Mr. Faust didn't beat Alec up because he had never intended to do so, apart from the fact that Jenny was standing between them. Smiling, he winked at Alec. "I'll let this slip for Jenny's sake."

Speechless, Alec thought, "You're such a childish old man."

After the old man left, Jenny and Alec returned to his room. She opened the thermal food container and said, "Time to eat."

"Mmm. Did you make this?" he asked without thinking, but her silence suggested otherwise. The dishes that she laid out were too complicated for her. He coughed in embarrassment. "I count myself lucky to enjoy your food delivery. It doesn't matter whether the meal is homemade."

She chuckled wryly, dismissing his opinion of her. Her lack of culinary skills was a known fact anyway.

While digging in, he was bothered by her silence and said, "Don't take Grandpa's words to heart. My feeling for you is a matter between you and me; no one else has a say. Just ignore them." He hoped she would agree to date him out of pure affection instead of indebtedness.

"Don't worry. I'm not the type to bend under moral blackmail." Although she felt bad after hearing Old Mr. Faust's words, she would never agree to a relationship with Alec under coercion. If she said yes one day, it would be out of her free will.

He nodded in satisfaction. "That's good to hear."

Alec finished up his meal while Jenny sat without a word. Silence hung in the air between them. When he was done, he asked casually, "Have you looked into Marigold's car? Did someone tamper with it?"

"I looked into it. Someone tampered with the brakes."

"And who was behind it?"

"Yvonne Dickman." Jenny gave him an amused look. "Yvonne deliberately contacted Marigold and fed her ideas. Marigold probably hadn't expected Yvonne would modify her brakes. As long as Yvonne could get me killed, she wouldn't give a damn about Marigold's safety."

His expression sank. "She's still coming up with wicked tricks after marrying into the Blooms. Hasn't she learned anything from what happened to the Dickmans?"

"She's not the type to learn her lesson." Jenny wasn't surprised by Yvonne's moves. She knew how to read other women and was sure that Yvonne wouldn't give up any time soon. If she failed this time, she would keep trying until one of them was dead.

"What's your plan now?" Alec asked. He assumed she had an idea judging from her expression.

Chapter 289 He's Acting Strange

Jenny dodged his question and asked instead, "Aren't you going to speak up for her?"

"I gave her one last chance when she framed you for the murder." Alec looked frigid. "Even if you don't do anything against her this time, I will not let this slip."

Somehow, her heart fluttered with joy when she heard his promise. She said, "We'll need to go against the Blooms to deal with her." She had a rough idea of what to do but had not found a loophole yet.

"The Blooms..." Alec muttered, "They're definitely not an easy target. Remember, they're old money in Parrington with hundreds of years of history and lots of connections. It will be complicated."

Even Alec dared not guarantee that he could ostracize the Blooms in Parrington. However, in the event that he wanted to make a move, he'd have to get rid of the Blooms once and for all. Else, he would be planting a ticking time bomb for the future.

"That's why I'm still thinking hard." Jenny had no bad blood with the Blooms, and her actions were driven solely by the grudge between her and Yvonne.

Seeing how troubled she looked, he suggested, "We can go against them openly if there's no better idea. I don't think that the Fausts need to fear them. And the Blooms might not want to turn against us just for Yvonne's sake."

She knew he was spitting facts, but she had other ideas. She explained, "I don't think the Fausts and the Blooms have to go to war. The clash between two powerful families will only cause collateral damage. That would be unnecessary." She was adamant about not having the two families fight against each other out of her petty grudge against Yvonne.

"But..."

“Don’t worry. I’ll figure out a way.” Jenny believed that the Blooms were not invincible. Once she found their Achilles’ heel, she would hit the bullseye. Her goal was to leave Yvonne defenseless, not bankrupt the Blooms.

Alec wanted to help and provide suggestions, but Jenny was dead set on solving the matter on her own. She reminded him to have a good rest and left the room.

After she left, he made a call instead of resting. “Keep tabs on any developments within the Blooms.”

At the Spades Manor in Bardoff City, Harvey Spade ended a call with a serious look on his face. At the same time, Christopher knocked on the door and entered the study. He looked at the old man sitting at the desk. “Grandpa, are you looking for me?”

“Christopher, there’s nothing much going on in the company. Why don’t you go out and have some fun?” Harvey put on a smiling face in place of his gloomy expression.

Christopher was surprised by the suggestion, for his grandfather had always wanted him to work hard. He’s asking why I’m not having fun. How strange. That’s very unlike him,” he thought.

Harvey had no idea what his grandson was thinking as he kept smiling. “Do you still remember Jenny Walter from Parrington?”

“Of course. She’s an interesting lady. Didn’t you ask me to go after her?” Jenny had left a deep impression on Christopher.

“We’ve been back to Bardoff for a while. Haven’t you contacted her lately?” Harvey prodded.

Christopher shook his head. “We’re not exactly on friendly terms. Sure, we call each other friends, but I can tell that she doesn’t see me as one.” He was smart enough to notice Jenny’s lack of interest in him. As a self-respecting heir of the Spade Family, he wouldn’t lower himself and pester her.

“The past doesn’t matter as long as you befriend each other in the future,” Harvey advised him. Christopher frowned and wondered what he meant. Harvey added, “Since there’s not much work lately, why don’t you take a few days off and visit Parrington? Invite Jenny along when you head home. Just tell her that you’ll give her a tour of Bardoff.”

Chapter 290 Don’t Take Me as a Fool

“Why?” Christopher gave Harvey a perplexed look and waited for an explanation.

Harvey merely glanced at him and said casually, “It’s good to have more friends.”

It puzzled Christopher even more. “Grandpa, don’t take me as a fool.” He was speechless at the lame excuse. “Friends? Since when do I need friends?” he thought.

Harvey coughed in embarrassment after his intention was exposed. “I think Jenny is a decent lady. I’d like you to bring her around Bardoff and bond with her.”

“But didn’t you say that it was a joke?” Christopher recalled that Harvey had asked him to pursue Jenny in Parrington, but they both took it as a joke. He had long put that memory at the back of his mind. Something felt off when Harvey brought up the matter again after a long time.

Feeling annoyed by the barrage of questions, Harvey grumbled, "What's with all the questions? Don't be noisy, and get it done!"

"I won't!" Christopher shook his head furiously. "I don't even love her. Why do we need to bond?"

"Who do you love, then?" Christopher had no good answer to Harvey's question. Harvey pressed on, "Do you know what is love?" When he was met with silence again, he advised his grandson earnestly, "See? You have no idea what's love like. If you can't define it, how are you sure you're not in love with Jenny? Perhaps you do, but you haven't realized it yet."

A confounded Christopher questioned himself, "Do I love Jenny?"

Harvey took the chance to convince him, "That's why it's not a bad thing to get to know each other better."

"Oh, okay." Christopher was fully persuaded by his grandfather. However, he sensed that something was fishy. Before he left the study, he paused and turned around. "What's so special about Jenny Walter? Why do you insist that I go after her?"

"You little brat..."

"Grandpa, I know you very well. You're only motivated when you have something to gain." Christopher came to his senses and formed a vague guess.

Feeling frustrated, Harvey finally decided to get to the point. "If you marry her, the Spades will be one of the Ten Elites of Bardoff City by your time."

Christopher was taken aback by the information. The Spades might have appeared influential to the other families in Parrington, but they were at most a second-class in the high society of the wealthy Bardoff City. They were beneath the first-class elites, who were one class below the Ten Elites of Bardoff City. The ten elite families were at the top of the hierarchy and whom he would never have the privilege to meet.

He was shocked when Harvey proclaimed their family could be one of the Ten Elites if he married Jenny. How is that possible?" he wondered. "Grandpa, about Jenny Walter..."

'Don't ask questions. You only have the right to ask questions once you're dating her. Your questions would be meaningless otherwise." Harvey waved at him and refused to reveal more.

Even the information he held was courtesy of the old Faust guy from Parrington-he had a favor to ask and leaked Jenny Walter's identity in exchange for help. Harvey would have never learned about Jenny's background if it hadn't been for that guy. Armed with that information, he wouldn't give up on the one chance at becoming one of the Ten Elites.

Christopher fell into a long silence. He seemed to be deliberating over the idea of giving up love for a chance at becoming a member of the Ten Elites. His hesitation didn't last long, and he came to his final decision.

"Love? Happiness? Those are bullshit compared to the attractive idea of becoming one of the Ten Elites of Bardoff City," he thought.

