

Bring Your A Game, Mr Chapter 161

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Chapter 161 Eventually They Will Return to You

It was Jamie's turn to be shocked this time around. "Boss, he didn't recognize you, did he?"

Elise replied, "No, but I guess we will definitely meet during the competition, but it's not a big issue."

After all, in Alexander's eyes, she already had a new identity as Joy, so she assumed that he would not relate both women as one.

She immediately headed to her room after taking a cab from the airport and checking into the hotel. Spending two hours on the flight had rendered her exhausted, after which she immediately crawled into bed and fell sound asleep after a shower.

Her nap lasted until the evening.

Elise reached out for her phone and unlocked the screen. However, she saw two missed calls from a local number that she was extremely familiar with, which shocked her. My schedule this time is a complete secret. Who would have called me?

However, she did not take it seriously and placed her phone aside. It was at this moment when the doorbell of her room rang.

"Hi, room service," the voice greeted.

Elise then opened the door and allowed the waiter to push a tray of scrumptious dinner into her room. After that, he elaborated, "Miss Sinclair, Mr. Keller has prepared this dinner for you. Please enjoy this."

As she looked at the scrumptious food in front of her, she couldn't help but think, Jamie is such a good assistant since he settles everything nicely for me.

"If you need anything, feel free to call us anytime. See you."

It was after the waiter exited the room that she walked over to close the door. The room opposite her coincidentally opened at the same time and Alexander's tall, slender figure entered her line of vision. As they locked eyes with each other, they saw their shock being reflected in the other's sight.

She was growing slightly anxious by now. What kind of room did Jamie book? Forget the fact that we're staying in the same hotel, but I can't believe that our rooms are directly opposite to each other!

"Hi, Mr. Griffith!" Elise greeted with a perfunctory smile. People who knew her well were definitely aware that it was a forced smile.

Alexander slightly frowned. He had never believed that there were such coincidences in the world; not only did they board the same plane, they even booked the same hotel. On top of that, they even stayed in opposite rooms.

It was exceptionally unlikely for such occurrences to happen, but it did in real life nevertheless. "I didn't expect to meet you again in such a short time."

His voice was neither slow nor quick and it was void of all emotions. She couldn't tell whether he was happy or exasperated by the coincidence.

As such, Elise could only bite the bullet and said, "It's a coincidence indeed." Then, she added, "Mr. Griffith, you haven't eaten anything, have you? I have just ordered dinner. Would you like to have some together?"

However, Alexander directly rejected her invitation. He was already used to such obvious tactics and to him, Joy was no different from the other women who wanted to get closer to him. To think that I thought she was quite special! I guess I overestimated her.

"It's okay. I'm heading out anyway."

It was just a casual invite from Elise as she didn't have any intention to have dinner together with him. Hence, she waved and responded, "In that case, goodbye for now, Mr. Griffith."

With that, she directly closed the door.

Alexander's gaze slightly darkened, but he didn't utter another word. After closing his room door, he walked along the corridor to the elevator and took it to head downstairs.

Meanwhile, Elise returned to her room and had dinner before she went out alone.

She immediately hailed a cab to Julius' pub. Since it was only 9:00PM, there weren't many customers in the pub. Then, she walked around the main hall before she sat down to order a glass of whiskey, after which she popped Julius a text.

He walked out of his rest area almost immediately. Although he was quite surprised, he had more or less expected it. He had already heard the news in Tissote—it was breaking news that Sue was returning to the industry by participating in the racing competition.

"You really are here."

Elise hummed in agreement. "Julius, I remember that I left something at your place. So, I'm here to pick it up today."

After he sat down, he responded, "I'll bring you to retrieve it later. Let's have a couple of drinks first."

With that, he gently knocked his beer bottle on hers. "I heard that Noel went to Athesea to look for you. Are you guys alright?"

Elise merely shrugged. "Nothing much. It's the same old."

"Noel is an impatient and impulsive person." Julius smiled. "His way of speaking is straightforward; he doesn't know how to insinuate. I bet he had a tough time with you."

"Your business is not as good as usual."

Although she attempted to change the topic, he raised his eyes and maintained his gaze on her.

"Did you cause the matter that befell Charlene?"

Even though it was a question, his tone was normal.

Elise hummed in agreement and didn't deny his words.

Julius nodded. "H, I know she was in the wrong for the incident back then. However, do you know why Noel chose to defend her even under those circumstances?"

It was the same question that Elise was puzzled on too. However, certain things became much clearer the moment the past incident appeared in her mind. The knowledge led to her eyes lighting up.

As she met Julius' gaze, he broke into a smile. "I have no right to ask about Charlene's matters, but I hope you can do this favor for me."

It was something that Elise understood. "As if I'm doing this for Noel?"

Julius nodded. "He has liked her for many years now. He has always taken care of her, protected her, and spoiled her. Even though I don't understand why he's loyal to her, I can't say anything about it."

She felt that she had neglected something. "Forget it, let the past be in the past. We all have to move on, don't we?"

"Thank you, H," he answered earnestly.

After a pause, he continued, "It has been so long since that incident happened. When are you going to return? I listened to the new song you wrote for Jack. The quality of your work hasn't declined at all. Could it be that I'll see you around in the industry in the near future?"

Elise frowned before replying in a calm tone, "Maybe..."

That simple word was enough to reveal her attitude. As Julius held the glass in front of him, joy surged through him. "H, this is a toast to you. I hope that you will return and dominate the industry soon."

She gently brought her glass to cling with his beer glass in the silence. Then, she gulped the alcohol and rose to her full height. "Let's get back my stuff."

Then, Julius brought her out of the pub and took another elevator upstairs where they finally stopped at the 18th floor.

Then, he took out a key and opened the door. Elise walked into the room and saw the scene that she was once familiar with. She kept her emotions grounded as she directly walked to the bedroom. After opening the door, she headed for the wardrobe in front of the French windows and unlatched it to take out a box from within.

There were a few car keys and items in the box. She took out one of the keys and wore a black cap before she raised her eyes to look at herself in the mirror. In that instant, she seemed to catch a glimpse of her previous self.

"I'll take these with me." Elise held the box in her arms as she walked out of the bedroom.

Julius shrugged. "I'm just keeping them on your behalf. They will eventually return to you."

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"Thank you, Julius," Elise answered earnestly.

However, Julius merely smiled. "We are good friends, so there's no need to be so polite."

Right after they walked out of the room, she locked the room from inside before walking to the elevator.

"I still remember the last time I left and even quietly thought that I would never be here again. Less than two years have passed and I'm here once again. It's quite emotional," she said slowly.

He gently looked at her. "Actually, from the beginning, I already knew that you'd return. It's all a matter of time. Fortunately, I waited until this moment. All the best for the competition tomorrow. I will be there to cheer you on and I look forward to seeing your performance."

Elise grunted. "The competition tomorrow will be among small groups and I will do my best."

After she walked out of the elevator, she directly headed for the garage that stored her favorite car. Even though it had been parked here for around two to three years, there wasn't a lot of dust on it because Julius had asked people to regularly maintain it.

Elise sat on the driver's seat where she seemed to have discovered the familiar past. The moment she started the car, she floored the accelerator to drive the vehicle out.

As the fancy sports car sped on the road, it had attracted many people's attention. However, she ignored them and drove all the way to the hotel. After she removed her cap, she casually left it on the passenger seat whereupon she started to tidy her hair before exiting the vehicle.

The moment that she walked into the lobby of the hotel, she ran into Alexander, who was engaged in a call. It seemed that they had entered the elevator one after another, which now resulted in her standing right next to him.

“Settle this matter first. If there are any problems, contact me again.” With that, he immediately hung up. When he looked at the reflection in the mirror, he was slightly repulsed by the coincidences he had with Joy. What he never expected was the woman to actually attract him and subconsciously made him desire to be closer to her. What the hell?

“Did you just return, Miss Sinclair?” Alexander broke the silence by asking.

Elise initially planned on feigning that she didn’t notice him. Now that he had taken the initiative to speak to her, she hummed in reply.

There was no further exchange of words after her response. When the elevator doors opened, she walked out first before they both returned to their respective rooms.

As soon as she returned to her room, Elise entered the bathroom to take a shower. When she reemerged, she grabbed a towel to dry her wet hair before she stood in front of the French windows to gaze at the city’s night scenery. The bright neon lights and the exciting night life were indeed difficult to resist.

Ding dong!

It was at this moment when her doorbell rang and aroused her curiosity about the person who rang the bell. Who would look for me at this hour?

She walked to the door and asked, “Who is it?”

“It’s me!”

Upon hearing those two words being spoken in a familiar tone, she froze. Then, she opened the door with slight incredulity. “Mr. Griffith, why are you here?”

Alexander asked, "Do you have hot water here? My kettle is spoiled."

Elise blinked before answering, "Yeah, I do. Give me your cup and I will fill it up for you."

Then, he passed the glass in his hands to her. After she took it from him, she went inside to fill it with hot water while he waited quietly by the door.

"Here you go, Mr. Griffith." Elise handed the full glass to Alexander as he stretched out with his hands to accept it. When he did so, his gaze involuntarily fell on her hands and saw a black mole on the back of her hand that was quite conspicuous. Without thinking much about it, he took the glass and responded, "Thanks!"

After that, she closed the door and returned to her room without thinking too much about the encounter.

Somewhere deep in the night, Elise woke up with a violent cough after choking on the thick smoke. However, the smoke seemed to get thicker and made her realize that something was amiss, which forced her to immediately open her eyes. Smoke was already permeating the huge room at this stage; it was as if the place was on fire.

"There's a fire here..."

The fire alarm rang outside along with the cries of men and women. She couldn't stop coughing because of the smoke and quickly snatched the towel to cover her nose and mouth while stumbling to the door. As soon as she opened it, she saw that people were fleeing for the safety exit along the corridor. Upon seeing this, she joined them.

All of a sudden, many people from the hotel gathered together and ran down the stairs. Elise had no idea who pushed her, but she lost her balance and leaned forward against the wall. She stopped walking for a moment as she inhaled deeply. As the crowd had been leaving one after another, there were only a few people behind her.

“Are you alright?” Alexander’s voice suddenly rang in her ears.

She quickly nodded. “Yeah, I’m fine. Why are you still here? Quickly head down...”

There was slight anxiety in Elise’s tone as she subconsciously tugged his elbow while running downstairs. However, he was stunned to the point where he froze for a second, which gave rise to a familiar feeling when he saw such a sight. He didn’t have the time to think it through and merely ran downstairs with her. As he did so, he quietly held her hand.

Both of them ran all the way to the ground floor from the tenth floor. She was panting for breath, feeling as if she had narrowly escaped death while the crowd chattered noisily.

“Are you alright?”

“Are you alright?”

Alexander and Elise spoke at the same time, thereafter staring at each other. It was only at this moment when they realized that they had interlocked their fingers and released their hands almost instantaneously.

“What is going on? Everything was fine. Why is there a fire?” Elise asked as she still panted. She wasn’t the only shocked person; those around her were questioning the same thing as well.

He raised his head and looked at the fire above them. "When I was running downstairs, I saw the room next to us on fire. The fire was so massive that it nearly affected all ten floors of the hotel..."

Meanwhile, the fire brigade quickly drove to the venue one after another to extinguish the fire. As many voices were mixed together, it led to a rather chaotic scene.

"What would happen to us for the rest of the night?" Elise asked as many people around her demanded a solution from the hotel.

The hotel employees quickly attempted to pacify the crowd and said, "Please don't be anxious. We will think of a solution for everyone."

The fire was too sudden and it had happened during the middle of the night. After the firemen had spent around half an hour extinguishing the fire, the situation was finally under control. Fortunately, it was caused by electrical appliances and no one died in the accident.

"Please be patient. We have already arranged a new place for everyone to stay, but there are limited rooms. Two people need to share a room together. If you have any friends or know anyone, you can share the same room. You can request the room keys from me now." The moment the manager finished his words, many customers went to him in pairs to get their card.

Since both Elise and Alexander were on their own, they wanted to look for another person to share the room. However, everyone had already left by the time they waited, which left them as the only remaining people there.

They stared at each other before concurrently asking, "W-What should we do, manager?"

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Chapter 163 Make Sure That He Will Never Return

Upon noticing the current situation, the manager was just as troubled. As the fire had been too sudden, they were forced to request for empty rooms from the neighboring hotels, so the number of rooms available were limited. Not that only Elise and Alexander, a single man and woman, were the ones left, it was difficult to make sleeping arrangements for them.

“Miss, please don’t be anxious. We will think of another way out for you two...”

Elise hummed in agreement and waited for further arrangements whereas Alexander’s eyes darkened as he maintained his silence.

The manager approached them with an apologetic look after making a few calls. “Sir, madam, I’m very sorry. We really don’t have any other rooms.”

At this moment, Alexander decisively answered, “Give the room to her instead! I’ll think of another alternative.”

Upon hearing his approval, the manager quickly passed the last room card to Elise. “Madam, why don’t you head to the room first?”

Elise accepted the room card from him. If she hadn’t known Alexander, she would’ve taken the key card and left the scene.

However, she had known him for a long time and he even helped her out before. Hence, she couldn’t bring herself to leave just like that. After she thought about it, she asked, “Mr. Griffith, since other rooms are unavailable, would you like to stay in the same room as me for the time being?”

However, Alexander rejected her almost subconsciously. "It's fine. I will find another hotel to stay at."

When she heard his answer, Elise was slightly disappointed for the weirdest reason. She was actually looking forward to sharing the same room as Alexander and once she realized her thoughts, she abruptly knocked on her head. What the hell were you thinking, Elise?

On the other hand, Alexander was shocked by her sudden movement. "What are you doing, Miss Sinclair?"

She quickly explained, "Nothing. Mr. Griffith, it's just that it's highly unlikely that other hotels will still have vacant rooms at this hour. Are you sure you want to leave?"

He slightly narrowed his eyes. "Miss Sinclair, is this an invitation?"

Elise had the urge to bite her tongue off and immediately denied his question. "Mr. Alexander, you have misunderstood me. I just feel sorry that you have nowhere else to go; it's pitiful. It's only 2:00AM, so how are you going to spend the rest of the night?"

The manager, who was standing beside them, finally realized that these two were acquainted with each other. Apart from that, she was extending a warm invitation to Alexander, which was an obvious indication of her interest in the man.

The guy is handsome whereas the girl is beautiful. When they stand together, they look compatible with each other.

Hence, the manager also wanted to help these two out, so he couldn't help himself from saying, "Sir, the hotels near us are all fully booked right now. Only this hotel has the last room. I really think you should put up with it for one night."

Elise was shocked that he would say something like this, but she could only turn her attention to Alexander to see his reaction. Alexander raised his head to meet her gaze and when they locked eyes, he actually thought he saw a glimpse of his fiancée when he looked at Joy in front of him.

He had no idea what had possessed him, but he gently hummed in agreement.

As a result, both Elise and Alexander brought the room card to the hotel next door with one trailing after the other. No one had uttered a word throughout the entire journey; it was only until they arrived at their new hotel room that he suddenly returned to his senses, but he had no way out at this moment.

"You should enter first," she broke the silence as she opened the door. His eyes narrowed slightly before he started to walk into the room.

Once the door was closed, she pointed at the two beds in the room. "You'll sleep on the bed closer to the door while I'll sleep on the inner one."

Then, a self-conscious Elise climbed into her bed and tucked herself under the blanket so that she was tightly wrapped in the sheets with only her head being revealed. "Let's go to bed soon."

It was as though she was trying to say aloud that she wouldn't do anything to Alexander.

He was amused upon seeing her reaction; even his facial complexion was much better compared to the moment when he had entered the room. He looked at the bed in front of him and casually lay on it.

After the long night, Elise was suddenly wide awake after her initial tiredness. She looked at the ceiling above her as she quietly counted sheep in her head. However, even after she had done so, it wasn't enough to make her fall asleep. "Mr. Griffith?"

She tried to gently call him, to which a soft reply came. Although Alexander's voice was soft, she knew that he was still not asleep yet.

"You can't sleep as well? Me too..." she said as she turned around to face him.

He had no idea what had possessed him. For a man who was used to sleeping alone, he was unable to fall asleep now that another person was in the same room as him. "If you can't sleep, just close your eyes and rest. You will fall asleep in no time," he whispered before he immediately closed his eyes.

However, Alexander had no clue why he had suddenly remembered a scene from the party at the Lawson Family where he slept on the same bed as Elise. The familiar scene was forever etched in his mind, causing him to suddenly open his eyes a second later.

Then, he looked like he was searching for an excuse when he uttered, "I'm heading to the balcony to have some fresh air."

With that, he immediately cast the blanket aside and got up to walk to the balcony.

As Alexander stood on the balcony to gaze at the city deep in the night, he suddenly took out his phone. While staring at a familiar number, he actually had

the urge to call Elise at this very moment. It is already so late, though. She is probably asleep.

He tightly clenched his phone and paused before he returned to the room.

"Mr. Griffith, is this your first time sleeping with a woman?" a curious Elise asked casually while awaiting his reply.

Alexander replied without thinking, "No."

It was only one word, but it was enough to make her feel jealous. He said 'no'. It means that he has slept with other women. Maybe he even had intimate behaviors with them.

As soon as Elise thought about this, she felt that even her breath became uneven.

"Is it with your girlfriend?" As soon as she blurted out the question, she wanted to bite her tongue off again.

However, Alexander replied coolly, "Miss Sinclair, you ask too many questions."

Elise couldn't help speculating about this. The embarrassment she felt earlier had now completely disappeared and in fact, it was replaced by her guesses on the woman who slept with him.

Although Alexander looked at the ceiling above him, his mind was filled with Elise's face. Unexpectedly, a part of his body became slightly warm and his breathing became heavier.

He was shocked by his reaction, so he quickly took a deep breath and cleared his messy thoughts. It was only after he had done so that his body gradually returned to normal.

“Miss Sinclair, sleep well.”

With that, he turned his back to her; when Elise saw this, she did the same and closed her eyes.

She was sound asleep for the remainder of the night. When she woke up the next morning, Alexander was nowhere to be seen, which disappointed her as she looked at the wide room. The weather was perfect as sunlight poured through the window into the room. Then, she stretched before she got out of bed to brush her teeth.

As a result of the sudden fire last night, the hotel suffered quite a huge amount of loss. Luckily for them, the fire was extinguished just in time to stop it from spreading—possibly something good out of the misfortune.

As Elise’s room was not impacted by the fire, she took her luggage and decisively checked out after she returned to her original hotel room.

Then, she directly drove her ostentatious sports car to the racing competition arena. The competition in Tissote would be held here tonight and she was looking forward to it for the weirdest reason.

She parked her car in the basement parking lot and switched off the engine. However, she couldn’t locate her keys at this moment and looked everywhere. As she couldn’t locate them, she thought that she had left it somewhere else. Since she figured that she had a spare key at home, she stopped searching for it. Unexpectedly, she heard a man’s voice just as she was about to exit the car.

“Are you sure that Alexander is also here?” he had asked.

Elise frowned when she heard Alexander’s name and subconsciously stopped all of her movements.

“He’s here and my men have already obtained his schedule. I’m sure he’ll appear at the racing arena tonight. We just have to do something to his car by then to ensure that he never returns.”

“Didn’t our boss say that he just wanted to break Alexander’s leg, though? He never mentioned wanting Alexander’s life.”

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Chapter 164 Sue Has Returned

“Hehe. We get his money in exchange for helping him put out a fire. It’s such a dangerous racing competition that everyone has signed a death waiver. Even if there’s an accident, it has nothing to do with us. Why should we take this opportunity to do the man a favor?”

Several people agreed with this sentiment whereas Elise felt a chill run down her spine when she heard it. As she continued to watch, the group entered into their vehicles and zoomed off. Yet, her fists were silently clenched.

Never had she expected that she would hear such news simply by arriving earlier at the arena and walking around.

Not only was their target Alexander, but it was also obvious that someone else had instigated them. Who was the real mastermind then?

As Elise thought about it, she realized that no matter what, she had to warn Alexander. So, she pulled out her cell phone from her pocket to give him a ring.

"Are you participating in a racing competition in Tissote?" she asked without beating around the bush.

There was an audible pause at the other end of the line before he grunted in acknowledgment and asked, "How did you know?"

For a split second, Elise considered relaying the conversation that she overheard without omitting anything, but she realized that she would only be digging a hole for herself since she was supposed to be in Athesea at the moment.

Instead, she quickly clarified, "Does Griffith Family have any enemies, Alexander? Or, did you offend anyone?"

Alexander naturally could already tell that something was going on. "What do you mean by these questions, Elise?"

As her gaze darkened, she answered, "I'm worried that someone will try to harm you while you're at the race. Please take care of yourself."

Upon seeing how worried she was for him, his heart softened. "Don't worry, I will."

"Alright," she answered. "Have a good race and I look forward to your success." In the end, she couldn't bring herself to tell him the truth. It was a good thing that she had glanced at the license plate and remembered its number before the group of men drove off. Unfortunately, it was a fake number and even after searching for ages, she failed to locate anything.

It was Elise's first time feeling defeated, but she didn't intend to throw in the towel. No matter what, she couldn't allow anything to happen to Alexander tonight. She had to foil the opponent's plot.

This was Tissote's first time holding a national racing competition and it was undoubtedly a boon to those who liked racing.

The entrance tickets had been sold out a long time ago; the area was already packed like sardines with spectators an hour before the race. Elise had changed into her disguise and was dressed in a black-and-white casual wear that was complimented by a pair of Doc Martens, an old baseball cap, and a mask to obscure most of her face.

Only after looking at herself in the mirror and determining that she didn't resemble her usual self did she feel safe enough to enter the arena. She bypassed the amphitheater and headed straight for the waiting area that was full of racers prepared to join the race tonight.

Upon noticing her, the stunned crowd stared at her before they finally burst into an uproar.

"Sue? I can't believe she's here! I can't believe that she's come to compete! I always thought this was a gimmick by the organizer."

"What kind of luck am I having to run into Sue today of all days? And I'm in the same group as her! Can I simply admit defeat now?"

"Sue, will you sign my autograph?" One of the contestants rushed up and handed a pen to Elise.

With an apologetic smile, Elise apologized, "I'm sorry, I don't like giving out autographs."

Yet, the person wouldn't give up. "You're my idol, Sue. The drifting skill you demonstrated in the French competition three years ago was amazing. It's been years and I haven't found anyone who's been able to drift better than you, or even as beautifully as you did."

"Didn't you leave the racing industry, Sue? Why have you suddenly returned?" someone else asked.

Elise answered calmly, "For private and confidential reasons."

Such an answer from someone else would have seemed arrogant, but it was simply par for the course from Sue.

At this moment, Alexander walked in through the entrance and he was favored to win since he was a familiar face in the industry.

His gaze darted around the moment he entered and his eyes brightened when he finally caught sight of Elise. Then, he headed in her direction with visible excitement.

"Participants, please come over to draw lots," a staff member called out.

When Alexander heard those words, he paused in his steps but decided to disregard the call in favor of approaching Sue. He joyfully watched as the person in front of him and the figure from his memory overlapped with each other.

"It's so nice to see you, Sue," he greeted.

Unfortunately for him, Elise simply lowered the visor on her cap and she grunted in reply without saying anything else.

Yet, the excitement on Alexander's face couldn't be hidden. The only reason why he had participated in the competition was that he knew Sue would be in attendance as well. While he assumed that there would only be a slim chance of her actually coming to compete, she was actually here against all his expectations.

All of a sudden, he felt like a humble fan meeting an idol.

"Which group are you in, Sue?" he continued to ask.

Instead of answering the man, Elise simply held up two fingers.

Alexander smiled gently as he encouraged, "Good luck, then. I'll come to look for you after the competition."

With that, he headed in the other direction.

The thing was that Elise never expected that Alexander would be interested in Sue as well. While she was initially worried for his safety, she found it much more convenient now that he was paying attention to her.

"For the first group of participants, please get ready to enter the arena," the same staff member announced, to which several participants headed out as a result. Not long after that, several cool sports cars lined up neatly at the starting line and raced at top speed like an arrow shooting from a bow when the gunshot rang out in the air.

The competition in this group was fierce; the top three cars were neck and neck with each other and refused to give way to the other.

As Elise watched the race, her eyes narrowed as the burning familiar feeling of excitement started to return to her.

“To the second group, get ready.”

Upon hearing those words, she turned, but instead of heading to her own supercar, she walked to Alexander and handed her keys to him. “Use my car instead. I’ll use yours.”

While he was slightly surprised by her request, he was hard-pressed to ask any questions in his idol’s face. Thus, without concealing any of his awe, he took the car keys from her and handed his own to her thereafter heading in the direction of her car.

While Elise clutched the keys, she entered his car without any hesitation. She accelerated and tested the brakes after she activated the throttle. The basic functions seemed normal and the car was performing rather well.

Immediately after she stepped on the accelerator, the car picked up speed and headed toward the starting point.

The moment she readied her car in Track 4, the audience went into an uproar as one wave of cheers washed over the other, making it easy to see how popular she was.

“Wow! It’s Sue! She’s here! She’s making an appearance!”

“What a blessing for the racing industry to be able to witness Sue’s return during our lifetime!”

“Well, now the race will be interesting. Quickly stream it! Let everyone witness this momentous occasion.”

With that, many of the audience members pulled out their cell phones as they were ready to do a live broadcast. The majority of their lenses were focused on Elise.

She clutched the steering wheel and focused on the finishing line. As the cars raced off in unison after the gunshot, she maintained her gaze on the route ahead of her. Any thoughts of distraction vanished from her mind as she headed in the direction of the finishing line...

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Chapter 165 My Car’s Malfunctioning

Elise’s ranking quickly increased to the top three of her group. As it stood at the current moment, Alexander was ahead of her.

Since this was the preliminary stage where groups competed, she only needed to be in the top three to qualify for the final round. Thus, she maintained her steady speed and had no thoughts of racing toward the finishing line. As she drove, she listened to the hum of the car engine where everything seemed normal and the fear in her heart was finally lifted.

As the car crossed the finishing line, cheers erupted around her once again. In the end, she came in first for the group stage and he followed behind her at a close second.

Her gaze slightly darkened as she sat inside the car. Then, she alighted from the vehicle and upon noticing the on-site car mechanics, she waved her hand at them. "Please help me take a look to see whether the car is malfunctioning."

Although she wasn't speaking loudly, the surrounding employees had heard her and began to look at her one by one.

The lead mechanic quickly responded and started to inspect Elise's car.

"Is something wrong with your car, Sue?"

"There can't be anything wrong with it, can there? You came in first! You're going to enter the final round. What are you going to do if something has happened to the car?"

The crowd chattered, but Elise only pursed her lips silently and waited for the lead mechanic's confirmation after he was done with the inspection. "There's nothing wrong with this car."

It was such a simple sentence, yet it was enough to cause her heart to sink. If the car wasn't in trouble, did that mean the other party hadn't made their move yet?

If so, the final event...

"I see. Thank you," she replied before closing the car door.

After that, Alexander made his way over to her while simpering, "Your keys, Sue."

Now that he was facing Sue, he no longer had his usual attitude and instead gave off the appearance of a humble fan. His kind of uncharacteristic behavior had immensely surprised her.

Nonetheless, Elise didn't reach out to accept the car keys; she only coughed lightly as she intentionally altered her voice before saying, "I still intend to use your car for the final round. Is that okay?"

While Alexander had no idea why Sue fancied his car so much, he was only all too willing to concede to her request. "Of course! You can have it for as long you want."

"Thank you," she replied as she turned to leave.

Then, he quickly gave chase. "Your return to the racetrack has left me surprised, Sue. I wonder if I may have the honor of inviting you out to dinner."

Upon hearing his invitation, Elise frowned. She never thought that he'd chase after her only to ask that question. Alas, if she were to have dinner with him, he would see that Sue was actually Elise since she only wore a cap and mask today.

Thus, she rejected him off the bat. "I'm sorry, Mr. Griffith, but I have to leave right away as I'm busy."

This time, Alexander was the one to be surprised. Sue actually knows my name.

As he was caught up with that thought, she went farther away. He couldn't help letting out a small smile while watching her silhouette disappear into the distance. It was after many years that he finally had the chance not only to meet her but to converse with her in person. To him, it was a lucky day indeed.

After leaving the race, a brooding Elise sat in the car. She had clearly heard the other party expressing that they intended to make their move today. Yet, nothing had happened at all. That thought itself made her frown deeply, but the sound of her cell phone ringing in her pocket interrupted her at that moment.

"Coming to the bar, H?"

"Yup," she answered. "Give me 10 minutes."

Julius understood what she meant. "Alright. I'll wait for you here then."

Once Elise arrived at the bar, she headed into the room upstairs, whereupon he immediately snubbed out the cigarette in his hand. "Your performance at the race today was excellent. While I didn't get to witness it in person, I could tell from the live stream that you'll have no problem winning this championship. The only thing I'm curious about is why you would want to switch cars on the spot when you went through so much trouble to get a vehicle from me."

Without explaining anything, she merely answered, "It looked good, so I wanted to give it a try."

Of course he didn't think she was telling the truth since he had watched the race and saw Alexander driving her car. Moreover, from what he knew, she was currently staying at Griffith Residence.

Nevertheless, he didn't expose her lie and only quipped, "It's a pretty good car, but it doesn't perform as well as yours does."

With a grunt, Elise gently answered, "I don't rely on performance to win my races."

What she relied on was her skill. Nothing else mattered.

As Julius appreciated her confidence, he acquiesced and began to look forward to the race tomorrow.

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The final round of the racing competition was even grander than the preliminary one. There were around 20 to 30 thousand audience members in attendance to the point where even Julius had secured a VIP ticket. As a result of his ticket, he was directly ushered into the auditorium to await the beginning of the match.

Over at the backstage, Alexander waved to Elise and held a bottle of water toward her the moment she arrived. Then, she accepted the bottle with a word of thanks before sipping it.

There were only seven competitors for the final round, all of whom stood out during the group stage for their considerable skills.

"Competitors, the race will begin in five minutes. Please head to the waiting area to get ready," a staff member stepped forward to announce.

As Elise stood up, she informed Alexander, who was next to her, "Let's go."

He grunted in acknowledgment and closely followed her.

There was thunderous applause from the audience the moment those two appeared. Everyone was so focused on her that he became nothing more than an accessory, yet he felt extraordinarily honored.

“Good luck, Sue!”

“We’ll always support you!”

“We’ll be waiting for you at the finish line!”

The united cheers of Elise’s fans brought the atmosphere to a climax and she scanned the audience with a small smile, finally locating Julius sitting at the front row and watching her expectantly as if in encouragement.

“Get ready, contestants!”

With that, each contestant went up to their own race car with Elise in Track 3 and Alexander in the neighboring Track 4. As they all climbed into their cars, she tightly gripped the steering wheel and looked ahead.

The moment the gunshot rang, she floored the accelerator and sped forward. It took less than half a mile for her to place in the lead, but despite the cheers from the audience that grew louder, her expression remained placid and her heartbeat steady. She focused on the driving instead and steadily accelerated so that she could finish the race in one go.

Meanwhile, Alexander was also driving quickly and in second place, he had remained behind her but in front of the other races. By now, they were almost neck and neck, yet his car shuddered minutely at this moment. As he narrowed his eyes, he tightened his grip on the steering wheel, but the shaking only increased. He quickly slammed the brakes only to discover that there wasn't the slightest bit of use. Instead, the car only continued to gain speed.

"F*ck!" he shouted.

By now, he had figured out that something was wrong with his car.

Yet, he only had one concern, for he knew that he would lose control of the car sooner or later if he had no way of braking.

As his car quickly caught up to Elise's, he forced open his car door and fought against the bite of the wind that hit his cheeks while shouting at her, "Get away from me! My car's malfunctioning!"