

Convenient Marriage: Mr. Nelson's Love Trap

Chapter 993 What do You Want to Say

There were three vigorous and powerful characters written on the plaque. The characters inlaid with gold on a black background were magnificent and solemn.

"What does it say?" Joan asked.

Amanda raised her head and noticed three words, "Phoenix's Pavilion", were written on the plaque. She explained to Joan, "It is said that there was a queen of the dynasty who lived here, so it was named the Phoenix's Pavilion."

Joan blinked as if he was thinking what she meant.

Amanda asked, "No idea what it is?"

She paused and continued, "The queen is the wife of the ancient emperor of our country. The Phoenix is the king of birds in our country. In order to show the majesty of the queen, she is honoured as the Phoenix."

"Your country's culture is really special. Everything needs to be gone around the bush." Joan seemed to understand what she meant.

Amanda smiled. "Your idiom is good, but it's not 'to go around the bush', it's 'to beat around the bush'."

"What's the difference?"

"..."

"Nothing. Let's go inside."

Amanda said.

Joan followed her. "Could you teach me to write in your language afterwards?"

"If you want me to be your teacher, you have to pay me." Amanda looked at him and joked, "Since you're so rich, I'll charge you 2000 dollars an hour."

Joan replied, "Sure."

Amanda smiled. "I'm just kidding."

"2000 dollars an hour, and you'll be my teacher," Joan repeated.

"..."

She was secretly amazed that he had treated it seriously. She was only joking! But looking at Joan's serious look, it seemed that she can't lose this student.

'Whatever.'

"I'll reluctantly accept you as a student." Amanda went to a stall selling antique fans. The silk surface was embroidered with exquisite patterns, and red flower strings were hanging below. She took one and looked at it in her hand. Joan picked up one after her too. However, he didn't take the figure painting one, but the scenery, and there were some poems on top.

He handed it to Amanda. "What's written on it?"

Amanda took it over and there wrote: Parting between lovers induces sorrow at two places. Oh, what cannot be ruled out is that, when this yearning between lovers and this sadness of separation has just disappeared from the slightly wrinkled eyebrows, they vaguely filled one's heart.

After reading it, she said, "What nonsense."

The fan vendor was unhappy. "Haven't you gone to school? This is written by a famous poet, how is it nonsense?"

Amanda looked at the fan vendor and wondered are all the stall owners so educated now?

The fan vendor wanted Joan to buy it and he said, "This is a poem written by a famous poet in our country. It's about love. It suits you well."

Amanda almost burst into laughter. 'How does this fan suit Joan well?' He was an eight-foot man with a very masculine look. It was already amusing imagining him using the fan.

Amanda thought that to sell his stuff, that vendor could go against his heart, and he can say anything.

Joan put it down and shook his head. "I don't want it."

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Seeing the vendor trying so hard to sell, Amanda asked, "How much for one?"

"Three dollars."

"I'll buy one." Amanda took the money from her purse.

Joan stopped her. "I'll pay."

The fan vendor regretted it. If he knew that the woman liked it, he would raise the price. Until then, the big guy would be embarrassed to bargain in front of his girlfriend.

Joan paid the money. The fan vendor put the money into his bag and said, "Your girlfriend is very pretty."

But in his mind, he was blaming foreigners like him for stealing all the beautiful women in their country.

Amanda took a fan and glimpsed at the vendor. "We're just friends."

"I've misunderstood." The fan vendor smiled shyly. It turned out he had misunderstood.

He felt lucky to have not let the foreigner gain benefits.

It was almost ten o'clock, and Amanda wanted to go home. She just came back and had stayed outside for the whole day without spending more time with her parents. It was not appropriate for her to go back that late.

Joan said, "I'll send you home."

"It's okay, let's just go our way."

Amanda said.

Joan didn't force her and agreed.

The two separated. Joan took a taxi back to the hotel, but unexpectedly he saw Stanford.

Stanford was standing at the elevator's entrance, delegating company work to Atwood. He didn't pay attention to him who was looking this way. Joan walked towards him. "Mr. James."

Atwood looked towards him.

"What's up?"

When Stanford saw him, he responded blandly.

"Can we talk?" Joan asked.

Atwood didn't forget that he had framed Stanford in Thailand. He pulled down his face. "You have good tricks up your sleeve, but do you think you'll hinder us that way?"

Stanford frowned slightly. "Atwood, please leave first."

"But..."

Meeting Stanford's eyes, Atwood stopped and reluctantly went into the elevator.

"I know a quiet place." Stanford led the way. Joan followed up. They went to the business area on the top floor. The top floor of the hotel had a very humanized design, providing a good place for those who come to talk about business. It was highly private and quiet, which was very suitable for discussions.

Obviously, Stanford was much more familiar with City C. After talking to the hotel manager, he booked the best private room.

The waiter brought in tea, then withdrew from there and closed the door.

"What do you want to say to me?" ____

Chapter 994 Still Looking Like a Child

Joan took the teapot and poured two cups of tea. He put one cup of tea in front of Stanford and took a sip of tea from the other one in his hand. When he put down the cup, he spoke, "When I was eight, my grandpa gave me a simulated pistol. I liked it very much. It became my favourite toy, but later I accidentally lost it and couldn't find it. Until one day, I saw another child holding it and taking it as his favourite toy too. From that moment onwards, I knew I've lost it, and it would never come back. Knowing it won't come back anymore, I learned to let go."

He looked up at Stanford. "Do you think I should ask the child to give it back or let it go?"

Stanford looked indifferent. "If it were me, I would be more willing to ask the guy who does it prefer."

"But I think since I've lost it, I'm no longer eligible to have it. What do you think?"

Joan leaned over. "Why did I lose it? It's because I couldn't protect it, so it left me."

"Then how can you be sure that the person who found it won't lose it?" Stanford looked at him. "Mr. Morton, can I ask you a question?"

"Sure."

"How long did you own that gun?"

"I had it from eight to twelve, so it's four years."

"Four years? If the gun has a soul and feelings, how long do you think it will take for it to forget its former owner when it's with the new owner?" Stanford looked at Joan. "Do you know how many years I have known my ex-wife?"

Before Joan asked, he said, "I was nine the first time I saw her."

He didn't forget the kind little girl he had met once.

Joan fell into silence.

Stanford had never been deferential to anyone. He had never begged anyone no matter when. At that moment, he only wanted to say to Joan, "I don't know what kind of family you live in, Mr. Morton, but I want to tell you that she had taught me to love. You might not understand what it's like."

Joan didn't keep silent anymore and he spoke, "But you hurt her."

"That's why I want to make up for it."

"But have you ever wondered if that's what she wants?" Joan stood up. "She will stay here until her brother gets married. During this time, if she still loves you or you can win her heart back, I will send her blessings, but if she still hasn't come back to you during this time, I will try my best to win her heart."

Joan then left.

Yet Stanford didn't move.

Meanwhile, Amanda had returned home. Everyone was still awake and they were in the living room.

"Why are you so late?" Theresa looked at her and asked.

"Amanda went to see a friend," before Amanda spoke, Bonnie said.

Amanda came over with a smile. "Why haven't you guys slept yet?"

"Come with me." Matthew stood up and walked towards the study room.

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Amanda greeted them and followed. After entering the study room, Matthew asked her to close the door.

"Dad, what do you want to tell me?" Amanda closed the door and came over.

"Have you heard of the company named Rhoda Corporation?" Matthew sat behind the desk and handed her a document.

Amanda shook her head.

"Have a look at the information first," Matthew said.

Amanda browsed through it. "It's a Thai company?"

"Yes." Matthew looked at his daughter. "When your brother gets married, I and your mother will go back. I want you to stay with us, so I've found you a job."

Amanda certainly wanted to stay with her parents so that she could take care of them. She nodded. "I'll go to this company."

She promised without asking for any position first.

"Don't you have anything else to ask me?" Matthew looked at his daughter.

Amanda walked around the desk, put her arms around his neck from behind and acted affectionately to her father. "I suppose you won't set your daughter up?"

Matthew patted her hand. Even if he was a father, his daughter had grown up. She was no longer a child that could be educated any way he wanted. Now she was an adult and had experienced a marriage once. There were many things she can't tell him frankly.

But he believed that after what happened this time, she had gone matured.

"Your mother is in the house, go keep her company." Amanda acted like a child. "I want you to go with me."

"She won't beat you, what are you afraid of?"

"I'm not afraid, I just want you to go with me. You haven't seen me for a year and don't you miss me?" She always looked like a child in front of her father.

Matthew pretended to be serious. "Come on, how old are you now? Still acting like a child."

"I am your child."

"..."

Both of them then entered the room together. Dolores was writing something. Amanda was mischievous

that she put her finger in front of her lips and asked Matthew to keep silent. She then walked quietly towards Dolores from behind and stretched out her neck to see what she was writing.

Her son was getting married and as a mother-in-law to be, she had to prepare wedding stuff for her future daughter-in-law. There were too many things, so she wrote down a list to avoid forgetting when the time comes.

"Why, you're so generous," seeing the gift list written by Dolores, she said. "Are you going to give all the money to your little son and forget about your eldest son?" _____

Chapter 995 On a Mission

Dolores looked back and noticed it was her daughter, she put down the pen. She got up and stood aside to let her sit down.

Amanda didn't know what she meant and asked, "What are you doing?"

"I want you to write it," said Dolores.

Amanda sighed and pretended to be aggrieved. "I'm divorced, can't you show me some sympathy?."

Everyone said nothing about her divorce and they did not mention Stanford. She knew that everyone was afraid of touching the pain in her heart, but she had let it go.

Dolores's look instantly changed, and even Matthew who had just sat on the bed looked towards her too.

Amanda took a glimpse of her father. Finally, her eyes fell onto Dolores and she held her hand. "Mom, I've let it go, I'm all right now. You don't have to care about me all the time. The more careful you are, the more pressure I feel. I hope you're still the same as before, whatever I've done wrong, you'll educate and criticize me when necessary."

Seeing that her daughter could face it so positively, Dolores became slightly relieved and she pretended to be strict. "Stop babbling and hurry up writing the gift list."

"Yes, Your Highness." Amanda picked up the pen. "You really appreciate your little son."

She was not jealous, but happy.

Her little brother was the youngest and he was the first to leave them. He bore the responsibility that should not have been borne by him. On the other hand, she and her elder brother can do things according to their own thoughts.

He had taken over such a big enterprise at a young age. Although everyone will lend him a hand, he was lack of freedom. He usually looked positive and slightly immature, but he actually had a very mature mind and a powerful heart.

Or else, he won't be able to control his subordinates.

She won't be envious no matter how many things were given to him. She would only think he deserved it. In a sense, he had borne the burden of her and her brother. If he didn't come to City C, her brother might come. After all, Mr. Adams had died of illness. That was the industry left by grandpa, which can't be left aside and let it doom. In addition, her uncle and grandpa were in poor health, and the textile factory may be taken over by her brother in the future.

"Mom, I want to give the ring you gave me to Bonnie. She's getting married to Jos and I couldn't give her cheap stuff." Although Amanda claimed that Dolores was too generous, she wanted to give them the best too.

"You can keep it. Yours don't fit, I have the one." Dolores held the jade bracelet in her hand. She planned to give it to Bonnie on the wedding day. Victoria used to let her wear it, it was an old thing given by the ancestors in the Forbis family.

The jade bracelet had a meaning of inheritance. Joshua was her son and Bonnie was her daughter-in-law. In the future, they would take over the textile factory and inherit the Forbis' family business.

Amanda pouted and asked, "What about Andrew?"

"He will get married in the future too, what would you give to his wife?"

As soon as Dolores wanted to speak, Amanda interrupted her, "Don't say that your son doesn't care. Andrew indeed doesn't care about these, but his wife may care. You are a parent and you should be fair to everyone."

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"Don't you have a pink diamond ring? Just give it to your future sister-in-law."

"Oh, no. That's given by dad." At this moment, Amanda started to become stingy.

"He won't care about these. The girl he likes won't just care about his money too, I think it's more about his personality."

Dolores had great confidence in her eldest son and she believed that he will not have his eyes set on shallow girls who only pay attention to luxuries.

Besides, money was not important to him in the environment he was in.

Plus, he was now in a high position and he didn't need her to worry at all.

"Can he make it to Jos' wedding? I..." Amanda looked up and calculated how long she hadn't seen him. "It's almost two and a half years?"

"Your uncle said he was on a mission, maybe he couldn't make it. No one could contact him, and you know his mission is special. We should understand his situation."

Amanda understood. "I just feel sorry if he misses it."

After finished writing the gift list, Amanda returned to the living room. At this time, there was no one in the living room and they had all gone to rest.

Dolores closed the door, walked towards Matthew, looked at him and said, "Let's go to City B tomorrow."

She had missed Andrew too. Since he joined the army, he had come back only a few times. She did hope that Andrew could come back to attend Joshua's wedding. Their family hadn't been reunited for a long time.

Now Amanda had gotten over a failed marriage and Joshua was getting married, these were all happy news. If he was here, it will be perfect, and she won't be so worried when she returned to Thailand.

Matthew knew what she was thinking and said, "OK, we can deal with some things by the way."

"What things?" Dolores suddenly remembered Stanford. "We have nothing to do with him anymore, and there's no need to see him."

She was still a little agitated when she thought of Stanford.

Matthew stretched out his hand and pulled her down. "We're not seeing him. Besides, he's not in City B."

"How do you know?" She turned her head and looked at Matthew. "Are you hiding something from me?"

Chapter 996 You Are Not Dirty-Minded

"I didn't go to see him, it's just that I have sent someone to protect Amanda from the dark. I knew that he has gone to Thailand, not in City B." Matthew had concealed the fact that Stanford had come to City C.

"What was he doing in Thailand?" Dolores asked coldly, "Wasn't he afraid that he would bump into me?"

"If he met you, what do you plan to do with him? You didn't even allow me to punch me last time."

Dolores didn't respond to that, "Wash up and let's sleep."

It was not like she didn't hate Stanford. Even beating him up wouldn't have vanquished her anger. It was just that she had finally understood that it was better to stay as far away as possible from someone like him. The best-case scenario would be that they would not cross paths ever again.

She wanted to get some water, but Matthew took her waist and made her sit on the bed, "Let me get it."

Dolores said after thinking about something for a moment, "Say, do you think our daughter has finally let go after all this time? After all, she really loved Stanford back then. Do you still remember when she was putting up a fight against us?"

"She will let go." Matthew wanted her not to overthink, "Something as dangerous as that won't happen again. You don't need to worry."

"Children are always the debt of parents. We will never cease to worry about them. How can I just not worry?" As she said that, something occurred to her, and she just lied down on the bed without even washing up.

Matthew who was going to get some water stopped waking, and he looked at her. He had a feeling that she must have remembered something, and his eyes lowered. In the end, he said nothing as he turned around to the washroom to get some water.

He placed a basin of warm water by the bed and reminded, "Wash up first before you sleep."

Dolores pretended not to hear that as she continued to feign sleep after turning around a little.

Matthew flipped the blanket away and grabbed her leg.

However, Dolores retreated her legs, "Don't touch me."

Matthew pressed himself on her and grabbed her head so that her face was facing his face, "We are already so old. Aren't you afraid that our children will look at us as laughing stock?"

"Do you think I'm old?" Dolores asked him with wide eyes.

Matthew smiled, "Of course not. In my eyes, you will always be eighteen."

Dolores didn't know whether to get fuming or just burst into laughter, "Get off me. You think you are still young?"

"You are not old, so naturally I am young too." Matthew got up and placed her legs into the basin.

On the second floor at that moment, Bonnie was sitting in front of a computer. She was reading incoming messages on the monitor with Milo in her arms. She was laughing away while reading those messages.

Milo was a cat she was recently raising. It was not of a rare breed. She simply picked it up from the streets when the cat was still stray.

Joshua came into the room and saw her grinning at the computer. He asked, "What are you looking at?"

"Looking at people messaging each other." Bonnie turned her head around and waved at him, "Come here."

Joshua walked towards her.

“See, look at this conversation.” Bonnie signalled for him to look at the monitor.

Joshua took a look and after reading a few messages, his brows knitted together, “You’re checking out other people’s conversation?”

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Bonnie explained, “Do you still remember that our company has just launched a new application? It is designed to cater to single people and it is a platform for them to interact. We are at the testing stage now, and our boss wants us to observe what users are talking about on the application. Everything needs to be recorded in a report.”

“So you’re just invading others’ privacy in a nutshell?” Although Joshua sounded very critical, he wasn’t really going to reprimand her for this. He knew very well that it was just part of her job, and the company had a policy that would protect all privacies. Those who were being spied on wouldn’t know that they were being watched by someone too.

“It’s boss’ order. As his underling, I can only listen and obey.” She placed Milo on the table and turned around with her arms around her waist. She began to coo, “If you think my job is not good enough, I will just resign. You have to take care of me. What do you think of that?”

Joshua pinched her chin, “Let’s say I will provide for you. What can I get in return?”

Bonnie’s eyeballs rotated slightly as she replied, “I will warm your bed during winter and fan you during

summer. I will prepare clothes for you during autumn too.”

“What about spring?” Joshua inched closer to her and their eyes met.

“Spring is lacking winter’s coldness. Maybe you should cut down on the clothes you wear?”

Joshua looked obviously unsatisfied with her answer, “It doesn’t fit the season at all.”

Bonnie was speechless for a moment.

“Then shall I accompany you on a trip in spring?”

“Heine once said that if farmers don’t plant the seeds in spring, those seeds won’t bloom during summer which means there will be no harvesting going on in autumn which ultimately leads to nothing left to be enjoyed in the winters. Say, what do you think you should do during spring?”

“Plant the seeds...” Before she could finish, Bonnie immediately understood the underlying meaning. She punched his chest and cursed at him, “You’re shameless.”

Joshua smiled, “Why is planting seeds shameless?”

“Joshua!” Bonnie was shamed and angry at the same time, “Leave my room now. I still need to work.”

“Why do I see your face blushing?” Joshua grabbed her hand which was pushing him away and poked the centre of her palms, “You’re not dirty-minded, it’s me who worded the sentence strangely. Don’t be angry, or else you won’t be pretty anymore.”

He lowered his head and planted a kiss on her lips.

Bonnie tried to dodge it as she was no longer fuming. However, she was still embarrassed.

Joshua hugged her and brought her back to the front of the monitor. There was a constant inflow of new messages on the screen.

He wanted to see whether there were any funny things he could read from there.

“It’s not funny at all. What are we laughing about just now?”

Bonnie moved the mouse and replied, “You will know in a minute.”

Joshua waited for it while he grabbed a freshly sliced apple from a tray and put it into his mouth. He chewed the fruit while waiting for her to retrieve the chat room.

When she heard him eating an apple, Bonnie said, “I want to eat too.”

Her eyes were still glued to the monitor as she moved the mouse to adjust the position of the chat room.

Joshua’s gaze fell on the fruit tray, and then he stole a glance at her. Seeing that she was focused on the computer with a serious face, he suddenly had an idea. ____Chapter 997 Don’t Be Sentimental

Joshua’s gaze fell on the fruit tray, and then he stole a glance at her. Seeing that she was focused on the computer with a serious face, he suddenly had an idea. He picked up a piece of apple with the fork and bit one side of it, leaving the other side dangling in mid-air. He then turned towards Bonnie.

His voice came from his throat albeit vaguely, “Here.”

Bonnie was just done with adjusting the four chat rooms adjacent to each other on the monitor, and when she turned around, Joshua was too close to her. Her face brushed past the apple which made her realize that Joshua was biting an apple without swallowing. The two of them were very close to each other, and if she opened her mouth, she could bit the other end of his apple even without leaning forward.

She furrowed her brows and she didn't move for some time.

Joshua then cupped her head and sent the apple into her mouth using his own.

The other end of the apple which was in his mouth was warm at the moment because of his mouth. Bonnie was very reluctant to eat that, "Your saliva is all over the apple."

"I am not filthy anyway." Joshua asked with a smile, "Is it nice?"

Bonnie didn't heed him as she continued to look at the monitor while munching on the apple, "I need to report this to the company. Look at this user by the epitaph 'Call me a queen', she is talking to four guys at the same time, and she's playing the role of different occupations every time. She's pretending to be a mistress of a wealthy person, a nurse, an air stewardess and also the director of a company."

She pointed at one of the chat rooms, "They have exchanged photos, and I didn't know where did she get those photos from? She used those women photos and told the guys that she was the one in the photo. Maybe thinking that the guy is hot, she told the guy that she is a director of a company. I am really puzzled because based on their conversation, I found that the other guy has believed her."

“Who knows, perhaps she’s really a director.”

Bonnie scoffed coldly, “If she really were one, would she have time to talk to four guys at the same time? And she’s taking on different identities too. From what I see, she is a playgirl.”

Joshua looked at Bonnie, “How are you so sure that she’s a female? Who knows, it might be a guy, and he has registered a female account too. She might not even be a playgirl for all we know.”

Bonnie didn’t say a word after hearing that.

She realized that she had no words to retort him because what Joshua said made a lot of sense.

“Do you think this person is a scammer? Maybe he or she wants to scam something out of those guys.” Bonnie tried to make a guess.

“You can come up with a policy to put in place preventive measures against scammers. It will be best that the platform will not allow any transactions to happen, especially a financial kind. Since it’s a socializing application, you need to make it a very private-oriented place. Those registered users wouldn’t just reveal who they really are here, so you need to make sure when they are registering, they have to register three times using their phone number, their WhatsApp account and also their Line account. Through verifications by using those, you can define whether those users really exist.”

Bonnie picked up another apple and sent it to Joshua’s mouth and she pleaded, “You should help me fill in the details.”

“Are you trying to bribe me with just an apple?” Joshua didn’t open his mouth.

Bonnie tossed it into her own mouth and said, “I am almost yours. What more can I give you?”

Joshua had a soft spot for her as he moved her from the computer to another spot as he took her place and tried to write a suggestive policy.

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He also included the cons that he had discovered through the usage of this application.

For him, something like this was a piece of cake.

He was able to finish typing after just a few minutes.

He turned around and looked at Bonnie, and his face was uncharacteristically solemn, "Bonnie, do you like this job?"

Bonnie stared at him, knowing full well the underlying meaning of his words, "I like it, but if you want me to choose between marrying you and the job, I will just resign."

She said seriously, "Now that it has launched, I have more free time. When we were still developing it, I always need to work overtime which I think you know. During that period, I was only able to get off work very late into the night. However, since I am in the software development industry, no matter success or failure, there will always be new projects coming up. I will continue to exist in this never-ending cycle, which alternates between busy stretches and also a period when I can rest. Despite this, I know that you are even busier, and if we were really married but still be so busy, nobody would have time to take care of things at home. Now that grandpa's body is not in good shape, you might need to take over the textile factory very soon. You will even be busier than now. I want to take good care of you, so the only way is to resign from my job so that you won't have a lot to worry about."

Joshua didn't expect her to think that much. Even if he was throwing a question at her, he had also considered their future days after the marriage. He didn't want the two of them to be stuck in a busy life forever.

Little did he know, she had already made up her mind. She could give up on her job without any problems.

He was indeed very grateful for this fact.

He reached out and took her into his arms.

"You are still very young. You will be abandoned by the flow of society if you stop working at such a young age."

Bonnie pressed her face on his chest and rubbed against it, "Aren't you shouldering a lot of responsibilities since a young age? After marrying you, my responsibility will include taking care of the house so that you can focus fully on your career. What's more, you bear more responsibilities than me too, and back then when Mr. Adams named you, I can see that you are different from your elder siblings."

She looked up, "I want to see you come back home every day so that you can see me too. I will be ready with cooked food."

Joshua said nothing as he continued to hold her.

He was thankful for her understanding, and also of her willing sacrifice for his sake.

"Thank you."

“We are going to walk into the future side by side our whole life, you know. Why are you thanking me now?” Bonnie smiled at him, “Don’t be too sentimental. That’s so not you.”

Joshua narrowed his eyes and suppressed as a mile. He lowered his head and pecked her forehead with a kiss, “I won’t let you down.”

“I trust in you.” Bonnie was all smiles, but she suddenly remembered what happened at the mall, “When I was shopping at the mall with sis today, I think I saw Stanford.” _____

Chapter 998 Wait For My Good News

Although she couldn’t get a good look at that face, from his back and overall image, that person resembled Stanford a lot.

Joshua frowned, “Are you sure about that?”

Bonnie shook her head, “I didn’t see his face, so I can’t say I am one hundred per cent sure. But if I am right, what do you think he is coming to City C for?”

“He still dares to come here?” Joshua’s face was frigid. Bonnie hastily clutched his hand, afraid that he would do something reckless, “Didn’t mum tell us that we shouldn’t have anything to do with him anymore? Don’t you go look for him when the steam gets to your head? If mum knows about that, I wouldn’t know whether she would be angry. Things are looking fine as they are now.”

Although the one who almost caused Amanda’s death was not Stanford and no one would want him to pay up with his life, everything did still start from his divorce from Amanda. He wasn’t the direct cause, but he still indirectly led to the development of things.

It was best for everyone if they all had nothing to do with each other anymore. If she were to really see him again, all she would remember were those unhappy things in the past.

The best thing to do here was to turn Stanford into a stranger.

At least, this was what she thought.

Joshua replied, "I know."

He patted Bonnie and said, "Sleep earlier. I am going back to my room."

As he said that, he was getting up too, but Bonnie stopped him and looked up at him, "Do it discreetly. Make sure nobody knows."

Joshua was caught off guard for a moment before he broke into a smile, "How do you know what I am planning to do?"

"Of course I know. You still have the connections Mr. Adams have left for you, so I surmise that you must want to find people to give Stanford a good beating. However, you won't show up yourself so that you won't exactly go against your mum's wishes too. Am I right?"

"Do you know me that well?" This was what Joshua was planning in his heart.

“Of course, if I don’t know you that well, how dare I marry you? Some more...”

She knelt on the sofa and wrapped her arms around Joshua’s neck, “I agree with what you want to do. He almost caused the death of sis, so a good beating is already light enough punishment for him. I will keep this a secret for your sake.”

Joshua felt a warm current spreading out in his heart. He held her waist and carried her up, which caused her pyjamas to roll up and revealed her pale white waist. Joshua put her onto the bed and pulled down her pyjamas. He covered her with a blanket and said, “Sleep earlier. Wait for my good news.”

Bonnie nodded.

Joshua was a little hesitant at the moment. A dark hue entered his eyes as he wished for the fast advancement of their marriage. He wanted to hug her to sleep as soon as possible.

However, things as they were now, he wasn’t allowed to do that. He left the room and returned to his room. He took out his phone and made a call to send someone to investigate the tenancy of a hotel. He must first make sure whether Stanford was really in City C.

During breakfast, Matthew announced that he needed to make a trip to City B while eating at the dining table.

“Do you have some unfinished business?” Armand asked.

“I want to pay Noah a visit,” Dolores replied in his stead.

Everyone knew about the relationship between Noah and Dolores.

Armand stopped his probing.

“Let me book your flight for you.” Joshua offered as he was about to go get his phone, but Dolores stopped him, “Your dad has already done that.”

Joshua returned to his seat and said, “You should tell me earlier. I’ll do it for you.”

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Dolores added more milk for her son while her heart continued to go out for Joshua in the form of regrets and love.

Joshua was the one who left her the earliest, so she always felt that she didn’t bear enough responsibility towards him.

“You’re so busy. We can do such trivial things ourselves.” Her gaze fell on Bonnie, “Do you have anything you want? I’ll bring it back for you.”

Bonnie shook her head, “No, I don’t need anything.”

Matthew remained silent throughout the whole exchange. When City B was brought up, he would never fail to get reminded of those unhappy moments in the past.

Not long after breakfast, Joshua sent them to the airport.

It was a flight that was scheduled to depart at nine.

Noah was the one who came to welcome them when they arrived.

They didn't plan to overstay here, so they had travelled light without any luggage. All they had was a simple backpack which contained some change of clothes.

Noah took the backpack and said with a smile, "Knowing that you guys are coming, I can't even sleep well. The vehicle's out there."

He led the way in front.

Dolores scanned her surroundings and a familiar feeling gripped her. It had been some time since she last came here.

A military jeep was parked outside the airport, and it came with a driver too.

Noah was someone with admirable ranking nowadays.

He was still as respectful as ever towards Dolores and Matthew since he had come to get them personally.

After getting on the jeep, they were taken back to the Harris family home to enjoy a meal. After that, the three of them went to the study to begin some serious conversation.

"Noah, we come here this time because we have something we want to ask you." Dolores began, "You always tell us that Andrew is carrying out a special mission, and although I understand the nature of his work, we haven't heard from him for four months. So, I want to ask you, does this special mission not coming to an end anytime soon?"

Noah's face flashed a momentary discomfort when Andrew appeared in the conversation, but he hastily smiled, "It's not ending anytime soon. I figure it's half a year away from that."

After saying that, he turned around to get some water. He dared not meet Dolores' eyes.

Matthew who was beside her noticed the fleeting panicking expression on Noah's face, but he didn't interrogate him in front of Dolores.

"Back then when you arranged for him to walk this path, we didn't object to it since naturally, this is what he wants as well. However, in hindsight, we are regretting the decision lately."

She missed him, and she was busy as ever. Ever since Andrew had enlisted in the military, she could even count on her fingers the number of times they had met.

"Drink some water. Everything will be okay. You know, it's a special mission in the end, and it's an order that came directly from our superior. Not many people know about this for his safety's sake, and those who know about his whereabouts are far and few in between. If his mission were completed, he would have informed you guys, no? Joshua is going to marry, and if he knew that, he would have come back here too. You can see that I can't get in touch with him too since he's in the thick of the mission, no?"

Dolores accepted the glass of water and clutched it warily in her hands. She gazed at Noah, "You're right. If you have any news, you must tell me immediately so that I can rest assured."

"Got it." Noah put on an awkward and unnatural smile as he replied. _____

Chapter 999 Lost Contact

After asking about her son, Dolores asked about Noah's son, "Why didn't I see Edmund when we were eating just now?"

"Alas." He wouldn't have sighed if his son was not brought up. Bringing him up would just induce his headache, "He was unwilling to enlist in the military back then as he insisted to do what he loved. Now, he doesn't even have any achievements. He has been spoiled greatly by his mum."

"Do you mean that he's my son and not yours?" Chloe came in with a tray of freshly sliced fruits and she happened to overhear Noah's words. She refuted, "You said that I keep spoiling him, but did you ever keep him in check?"

"You know that I am always swamped with work," Noah replied albeit a little unconvincingly and weakly.

"You are saying that you are busy, so you have no time to look after him. I am the one doing that, yet you are saying that I am spoiling him. You're putting me in a difficult position here." Chloe put the tray down on the table and smiled at Dolores, "Edmund is just like him when he was still young. He wouldn't listen to his parents, and all he knows is going out and fool around."

Dolores smiled back at her, "The son naturally takes after the father."

Noah didn't know what to say to that.

That was because when he was young, he used to oppose his father too.

"This is in the genetics. His temperament is successfully transferred to his son." Chloe remarked.

“Oh, right, I have something I need to discuss with you.” Chloe looked at Dolores.

Dolores urged her to go on.

“Then let’s talk out there.” Chloe came over and the two of them exited the study.

When the door of the study was closed, Dolores asked, “What do you want to ask me?”

“It’s about Joshua’s impending wedding. Should I prepare a gift or two gifts? What should I prepare?” Chloe thought about Boyce and how they were still talking after all those years, and it was because of Matthew too. To be more specific, it was his daughter who was going to marry, so Chloe was thinking whether she should prepare another present.

She didn’t need to think hard about Joshua as she would certainly prepare a present for him, but what about Bonnie? What should she prepare for her?

“One is enough.” Dolores didn’t mind this at all.

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“That won’t do.” Chloe still thought that the two presents were appropriate since both sides were familiar with each other. One side was getting a daughter in law while the other side was marrying away from their daughter.

Dolores smiled, "From what you say, I should prepare presents for Jasmine? Just because their daughter is getting married?"

Chloe smiled back at her, "I think that's what I mean. That couple will need to prepare presents too since your son is marrying a wife into the family."

"Don't you think things will get messy by that time?" Dolores poured herself a glass of water and gulped it down.

Back in the study, Noah wanted to go out too, "Why don't we take a stroll?"

He wouldn't have felt so guilty when Dolores was here, but when faced with Matthew by himself, he would still feel intimidated, even though he was not young anymore.

Matthew cut to the chase, "Tell me, what is exactly going on?"

"Do you think Andrew is met with some kind of danger?" Matthew stood up and walked to Noah, "Of course I will always wish for my son's well-being but I need to know his true condition. You can't hide that from me."

Noah sounded a little helpless, "Can't you see that I was just worried about you guys worrying? Amanda's incident has just passed, so do you think I can bring it up?"

Matthew's face immediately became tense. He was worried about his son in his heart, but his face showed that he was calm, "Just tell me. I will make sure word won't get out."

He was implying that he wouldn't break it to Dolores.

Noah pressed his lips and began, "When Andrew was doing a mission, to save a teammate..."

He really didn't dare to finish his sentence.

Matthew shut his eyes and tried his best to keep his facial expression in check. He forced out a word with his ominous, low voice, "Say it!" _____ Chapter 1000 I Have Booked the Hotel

Noah's face froze for a second before he finally revealed, "I have lost contact with Andrew. We are looking for him as we speak, and once we have anything we will inform you in the earliest timing."

Matthew's palms which were on two sides of his body slowly balled up into fists. His voice sounded a little exasperated, "How long has it been?"

"It's been... half a month." After saying that, Noah looked down at the floor.

Matthew's heart was in a mess now but it barely showed on his face. He was afraid that his composure would break, and he would disclose it to Dolores, which would complicate things. Based on how Dolores was holding up, the worst thing that could happen was her falling sick again.

"I see. You must keep it a secret. You can't even tell this to your family." He meant to hint that Noah shouldn't tell this to Chloe too in order to prevent her from accidentally spilling the beans to Dolores.

"I got it. I never tell anyone yet. You're the only that heard it from me." Noah looked torn as he said that.

“Was the situation precarious at that time?” Matthew wanted to find out more.

“I heard that it’s dangerous, and it’s not just only him. His whole team had faced much difficulty.”

Noah wasn’t with them at that time, and he only learnt about this when he heard it from survivors of that mission himself.

Matthew told him, “Tonight, we will stay at the hotel.”

“We have space here at home.” Noah tried to make him stay, “We have tidied up the room too.”

“You can’t even hide it from me, so what if she found out? It’s not like you don’t know about her health condition.” Matthew had made up his mind.

Noah had nothing to say to that. Indeed, he was not a good keeper of secrets, and he had revealed the chinks in his armour in front of Matthew just a moment ago, even though not many people could fool someone like Matthew even if they wanted to.

He was like a clairvoyant.

“That would do too. However, since it’s been decided that you are staying here, how should you explain to her about the sudden change in staying place?” Noah asked worriedly.

“I will explain it to her. You don’t need to worry about this.” Matthew’s voice turned a notch lower.

He had some ideas circulating in his mind, so Noah said nothing to that. In fact, he was fearful to face

Dolores too. What if Dolores noticed something strange about him? He wouldn't know how to explain.

It was a good idea for them to stay outside later on. At least, he wouldn't appear very nervous if she were to ask about Andrew again.

Matthew loitered in the study for some time before finally getting up. Chloe was still talking to Dolores in the living room.

"Let's go," Matthew announced.

"Aren't we staying here tonight?" Before Dolores could ask, Chloe had asked in her stead.

"It's been too long since we were here. There's a place we need to go to." Matthew simply answered, and Noah added to his excuse on the side, "They haven't come here for a long time, so they must have many places they want to visit."

Chloe stopped asking and Dolores got up and looked at Matthew. She asked, "Where are we going? Why didn't I hear about this before?"

Matthew answered noncommittally, "I just didn't tell you about this in advance. Let's get going now."

"Okay." Dolores agreed, looking like she didn't get suspicious.

After that, they left the Harris family house. When Noah and Chloe returned to their house and no one was around, Dolores asked, "Why do I sense something off about you?"

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Matthew glanced at her out of the corner of her eyes, "What's off about me?"

"Didn't we agree to stay here? Why are we suddenly going to some other place? Was the conversation with Noah just now end on an unhappy note? Did you make him angry?" Dolores asked.

However, thinking back to the time they came out of the study, nothing unusual could be seen about them. The two of them acted and looked normal. They didn't look like they just had an argument or a fight.

Matthew took her hands and said, "I just want to go around the city with you. It's not too comfortable with them around."

Dolores was in a daze as she pondered the possibility of him getting emotional as he had returned to City B now, "Don't you think that time has wings? In the blink of an eye, the children have all grown up and we are getting older. Coming back and taking a stroll in this familiar city really is a nostalgic feeling."

The two of them walked on aimlessly.

Matthew said calmly, "With you by my side, everywhere is the same to me."

Dolores commented that he was being sentimental.

After some unknown period, Dolores felt a little tired, "I am feeling a little tired now. Shall we rest at a place?"

Matthew replied, "I have booked a hotel."

“Then let’s go there.” She said.

Matthew agreed with her and he hailed a taxi to bring them to the hotel.

After washing up and getting ready to sleep, Dolores told him that she was thirsty. Matthew went to pour a glass of water for her, but his mind wandered when he was pouring the water to the point that he didn’t notice the glass overflowing. Dolores hastily came over and took away the water glass, “What are you thinking about? The water is overflowing.”

If this were the past, something like this would never happen. However, he was old now, and although his heart was still strong as steel, he wasn’t that steely and stony about accepting certain things.

His son had gone missing for half a month, so there was no way he could be always calm and chill. How could he look unperturbed? His facade would break and show the tiniest flaw from time to time.

However, Dolores didn’t notice that. She just thought that he was ill, “What’s wrong with you?”

As she said that, she touched his forehead to test the temperature.

Matthew replied, “I am fine.”

Dolores asked him to go into bed first. She went to wipe the table clean of water.

At this moment in City C, when Amanda heard that Joan was leaving, she offered to see him off.

After all, Joan came back to the country because of her. Now that he’s going back, she should send him off due to courtesy.

However, Joan rejected her knowing full well that Amanda was seeing him off due to certain reasons.

He didn't like to force things on others, and he also didn't like to feel indebted to others.

In fact, Amanda was never indebted to him, and back then when he came back with her, it was his own free will.

However, Amanda insisted, and she ended up sending him to the airport anyway. While on the way back, she bumped into Stanford. This was not a coincidental meeting. Stanford was here to look for her. _____

The Novel will be updated daily. Come back and continue reading tomorrow, everyone!

Next chapter