

The Consortium's Heir by Benjamin

Chapter 206

Elizabeth boldly locked eyes with Darius, stating, 'You claim to be the major shareholder with more than half of this company's shares, yet I've never seen you before. I can, however, apologize for everything that happened today if you can prove it.' Darius' brows creased into a frown. He reached out an arm, resting it on the bench's armrest while tapping his fingers against the metal. Growing irritation radiated from his very being as he replied, "According to what I recall, I've proven it to you before." It was like a blizzard had erupted in Darius' gaze, causing the temperature around everyone to lower drastically. "And you should know that, as your superior, I'm not obligated to prove myself to you. Instead, you should correct your current behavior toward me," Darius added. He then stood and gazed at the group approaching them with a sneer. "Took you guys long enough." Shock coated the face of the control room personnel who went to confirm Darius' claim about the plane. Nevertheless, the personnel kept mum and merely shot a look at the other personnel accompanying the group all this while. The latter instantly understood the meaning behind that look. He nodded at Darius, announcing, 'The examination results have proved your previous claims are true.' That was no surprise for Darius, nor did he care to ask about what went wrong with the plane. He locked eyes with the personnel, stating, "I believe my secretary and I can now leave." His stare made the hairs down the personnel's back stand. Although the personnel did not want to admit it, he felt his palms grow clammy with fear.

at that moment. Even so, he did not let his emotions get in the way of his work, so he forced himself to speak.

"My sincerest apologies, sir. The two men that we've detained claim you killed their

mother. I believe we still need an explanation for that."

Darius returned to his chair, leaning against the backrest as he sighed. He had forgotten

about that matter entirely.

That was when Edward stepped forward with his arms folded behind his back.

A

murderer's aura exuded from his intense stare. He looked at the personnel and stated,

"I'll go with you guys, as I'm responsible for that."

The personnel's eyes narrowed, his gaze shifting between Darius and Edward.

Darius stood just then. With his usual stoic countenance, he stepped in front of Edward

and faced the personnel head-on. "Do you believe him?"

"I don't." The personnel waved dismissively, shook his head, and resumed,

But I don't

believe you either. I won't trust anything you guys say until there's evidence."

A frosty look clouded Darius's eyes as he chuckled. "So, if I said I had to leave this

place..."

The control room personnel understood what Darius meant, despite the latter not

finishing that sentence. He shot a fixed glare at Darius and emphasized,

"If what those two say is true, you'll have to return here even if you leave today. If we

meet under those circumstances, know that the consequences you'll suffer will be much

greater."

His features contorted bitterly by then. According to the rules, he had no reason to arrest

Darius unless he found evidence or a body to prove the latter was guilty. On top of that,

all the personnel's efforts in settling today's conflict were for naught. He could not do

anything as Darius walked away from his sight.

His bitterness did not go unnoticed. Darius sensed it, cocked a brow, then

tucked both hands in his pockets and left without sparing the personnel another glance. Erin was quick to shut her laptop and trail after him. Likewise, Edward, who had paled significantly throughout everything, chased after Darius too.

Only after Darius, Erin, Bridget, and Edward sat in the plane did Edward's breathing ease up.

Darius detected the former's change in breathing and said, "Should we encounter another issue in the future, I don't need you to step up."

Those emotionlessly spoken words sparked fear in Edward. He immediately stood, hoping to apologize to Darius, when an attractive flight attendant came over. The flight attendant knitted her brows while snapping, "Is this your first time on a plane? Don't you know you're not supposed to stand during takeoff?"

Edward felt even more flustered. He had already caused too much trouble for Darius, so he knew it was unwise to get into a conflict with the flight attendant now. At the same time, the flight attendant's loud voice caught everyone's attention, causing them to look at Edward.

Being a bodyguard, Edward had never been the focus of this many people's attention. Hence, his cheeks turned as red as beets. He did not even know where to place his hands. His lips quivered as all words failed him, and then he sat back in his seat and fastened his seat belt.

She did not hold back while turning to walk the other way, remarking, 'Tsk. Clearly, he's a parvenu. It's his first time travelling by plane, yet he's doing whatever he wants like he's always been wealthy and powerful.'

Edward's eyes narrowed. He hesitated for a second before giving in and explaining, "I'm not someone wealthy. I'm just a regular bodyguard."

That was the second time Darius got angered upon hearing Edward's words. "As long as he purchased a flight ticket, he's your customer," Darius

interfered, crossing one leg over the other. He also turned to look the flight attendant in the eye. "Moreover, I don't see how him standing up has anything to do with his wealth. You should give me a reasonable explanation for your behavior, or I'll consider reporting this incident to your employer."

Then, he placed a hand behind his neck, massaging it to soothe his nerves. Although that was an insignificant action on Darius' part, the way his veins popped seemed incredibly sexy to the flight attendant, who could no longer tear her gaze away from him.

Chapter 207

The flight attendant's cheeks took on a bright pink hue. Even her voice sounded much gentler.

"Dearest passenger, we're about to take off, so that man shouldn't be standing up now as it will affect the take-off procedures. That's why I lectured him. My actions also make the overall flight smoother for passengers like you."

Her intentionally honeyed tone sounded like nails scratching against a chalkboard in

Darius' ears. He was not impressed and could discern the woman's nature, as well as

what she was thinking of at the moment.

"I don't care what your thought processes is," Darius said, "But I hope that you won't

cause me any more displeasure in the journey ahead."

The flight attendant's face turned pale, unable to accept what Darius said. It was

shocking to her that Darius, a gentleman from top to bottom, could utter such harsh

words. She stood rooted to her spot for the longest time before the in-flight announcement stated they would be taking off soon.

Nonetheless, she ignored it.

Her pointed gaze snapped toward Darius as she gritted her teeth, hatred gushing from

her every pore. She seethed,
“Don’t you know who I am? How dare you speak that way to me? Do you seriously think
I’m just an ordinary flight attendant?” 2
Darius reached up to massage his temples and responded, “Firstly, you’re too loud.
Secondly, your uniform tells me you’re exactly that-an ordinary flight attendant. Thirdly,
get seated because the announcement says we’re taking off shortly. You shouldn’t stand
now.”
The flight attendant completely ignored Darius. All her attention was on the second
argument Darius raised, and she growled,
“Let me make this clear. I’m no ordinary flight attendant! My dad owns this airline
company!”
“Is that so?” Darius raised a brow. “I got into an argument with your mother, Elizabeth,
earlier when waiting to board.”
He then leaned back into his seat, shaking his head while scoffing at the flight attendant.
“Now, Elizabeth’s daughter has jumped out of nowhere and has inappropriate thoughts
about me, even after I’ve clearly rejected her advances.”
The flight attendant’s eyes grew wide. Likewise, her voice sharpened like a blade,
piercing the air. “Enough! That woman isn’t my mother! She has no right to be anyone’s
mother! She’s merely my dad’s lover!”
Unperturbed by the situation, Darius asked, “Aren’t you going to return to your seat so
that this flight can take off?”
Silence filled the entire cabin as all passengers looked at the flight attendant. The passengers would not have kept quiet if it were any other flight attendant delaying
things. They would have yelled and reported her for causing trouble. However, this
specific flight attendant claimed to be the daughter of the airline’s owner. That meant she
was the future owner of the airline-someone they could not afford to cross.

Thus, everyone clamped their lips shut. No one spoke except for the captain's anxious voice behind the in-flight speakers, questioning, "Kate Anderson, are you on the intercom system now? Just answer this— are you seated, and have you fastened your seatbelt?" No one responded to him. The captain's frustrated tone rang out again. "Kate! Are you listening to me now? Are you encountering any trouble? Do you need assistance?" At that moment, Kate stood before Darius, hands on her waist as her breathing deepened. She fixated on Darius with a predator's smugness and determination. Then, she spoke loudly. "I won't leave until you admit you've underestimated my role. This plane won't fly unless I get seated. Should you choose to stick with your stance, this flight will get delayed no matter what you do. You'll never get to Almiron City on time." Darius raised a finger to massage his temple. He never imagined it would be this difficult for him to travel to Almiron City. It seemed like all the incidents leading to this hinted his trip to the city would yield a negative outcome. He let out a deep sigh, which prevented him from raging on the plane. Still, his eyes narrowed like frosty blades at Kate. "You claim your father owns this airline, yet you don't know who I am," he stated with a deep voice. That was when Kate realized the mockery lingering in his tone. Her eyes widened as rage filled her gaze. "Darius Reid! I've made my identity clear at this point. This airline company is mine! I can provide you with boundless wealth, one that's beyond your ability to earn, if you agree to be my boyfriend. Also, you should feel honored that I'm showing interest in you instead of the many other men in this world." Following that, Darius raised his hand and gazed at the front and back of it,

casually
stating, "I've never disliked a woman so much in my life."
She blushed, feeling humiliated by her current state. Thus, she shot to her
feet and
pointed a trembling finger at Darius.
"Wait and see, Darius Reid! Thanks to your actions, you're banned from
taking any of
our airline's flights. It's a price you'll have to pay for what you did to me."
Kate clambered over to the intercom system, grabbed the handheld
transceiver, and
spoke while smirking at Darius. "Captain? It's Kate here. I order you to stop
the plane
and remove Darius Reid, along with his group of friends, from this flight! Also,
inform our
airline company to ban these guys from purchasing another flight ticket from
us! Those
orders are finite until Darius complies with my wishes!"
With that, she hung up the intercom system and stood proudly with her hands
on her
waist.
It was then that the airplane's door opened.
Darius' brow quirked upon seeing that. He did not feel the door had opened
because of
the mindless woman before him.

Chapter 208

Darius was still curious about the situation. After all, according to the airline
company's
rules, a flight was unlikely to take off within an hour and a half if its door
opened.
The passengers were losing their patience at that point. They grew restless
and began
clamoring, causing a racket in the cabin.
Only Darius remained unbothered by things as he sat in his seat.
Meanwhile, Kate assumed that the door had opened because of her. A proud
grin spread
across her face just then. She was pleased with how quickly the captain had
acted upon
her orders.
"How about it? Are you afraid now? Know that a plane won't fly if I don't allow
it. So, do

as I say if you want to continue your flight comfortably,” she said, smirking while raising her chin triumphantly at Darius.

She felt as though things were going her way.

Darius ignored her as he heard some familiar footsteps. He turned toward the door and

saw two security accompanying Elizabeth into the plane, their hands on her shoulder.

However, the two were different from the ones before at the check-in gate.

That caused Darius’ eyes to narrow.

Next, something even more shocking happened. They led Elizabeth to sit two rows

behind Darius.

Kate’s eyes rounded with shock. Nevertheless, she soon composed herself and

approached Elizabeth with a snobbish sneer.

“I never thought I’d see you here after our last encounter at that hotel. I told you never to

show up before me again, or I’d make you pay. Yet, I’ll have to break my promise and

greet you merrily since you’re showing up before me in such a shameful manner.”

Darius let out a long sigh.

He then looked at Erin, instructing, “Call Zack. I don’t want this airline company

anymore.”

That was when another person showed up at the airplane’s door. His clothes ripped from

squeezing past the thin gap from the almost closing airplane door.

Darius sighed again.

In the meantime, the entire plane fell silent as Erin made a phone call.

The newcomer’s gaze lingered between Kate and Elizabeth before eventually locking

onto the latter. “Miss Wilson, I’ve got some bad news for you.”

Darius could tell Kate’s breathing became heavier and faster after hearing that. He

arched a brow, feeling uninterested in the situation. Subsequently, he took out his laptop

and wanted to continue reviewing contracts.

“Shelvin, you’re my father’s secretary! How dare you look at someone else?”

Kate

suddenly bellowed. Again, she placed her hands on her hips and widened her eyes.

“This company belongs to my father, which means I’ll own it in the future.

Therefore, you

should inform me whenever anything happens!”

Although Shelvin was too afraid to continue speaking to Elizabeth, he did not tell Kate

what happened either.

Silence engulfed the entire plane.

At that moment, Erin leaned closer to Darius’ ear, whispering, “Mr. Reid, things on Zack’s

end are successful. All involved companies will now terminate their cooperation with this

airline company. Moreover, this company has many outstanding debts, so they’ve

current fallen into a state of economic crisis.”

Because everyone on the plane was silent, many overheard what Erin said.

Kate instantly turned to look in the opposite direction. Her actions were so quick that her

hairpin fell off, and her hair loosened from her bun. Even so, she could not care less.

All her attention was now on Erin as she stormed over to the latter.

“What do you mean by what you just said?”

A frown marred Erin’s face. Unsure of how to respond, she glanced at Darius, seeking

his advice.

Darius understood what her gaze meant and immediately stood, protecting Erin behind

him while lowering his head to glare at Kate.

Kate no longer focused on Darius. Money mattered more to her. Knowing her wealth was

suffering a major hit, she let out a skin-crawling shrill,” That’s enough! I just want to know

what the hell happened with the company!”

Darius raised a brow. He kept silent, placing both hands in his pockets while staring at

Kate like she was an idiot.

Despite seeing that reaction, Kate had no more energy to argue with Darius.

At the same

time, she knew he would never answer her, so she took a deep breath to calm herself.

"I don't know who you guys are or why you have such influence over things," she stated,

"But I can promise you this—I'll fulfil your wish if you guys spare my father's company. All you have to do is ask."

"Perhaps you're unaware, but I own 51 percent of this airline company's shares." Darius cocked a brow and added, "I'm not interested in acquiring this company, nor do I care about whatever you can offer me."

After that, he sat down, fastened his seatbelt, and reclined the back of his seat before

shutting his eyes. He continued, "I'm now in a foul mood because there have been many

obstructions on my trip, stopping me from leaving this place, even now."

Kate clenched her jaw.

Although Darius heard her action, he did not want to express his opinion anymore, so he

kept his eyes shut.

Opposite him, Kate stomped furiously, turning on her heel to thunder at the captain, who

had come over but was too afraid to speak.

She bellowed, "Take off as quickly as you can. I want us to land in Almiron City within 50 minutes."

The captain's eyes broadened. He did not need to think twice to know that was

impossible, so he voiced his concern.

Miss Anderson, that's unattainable. Our regular flights take several hours."

Chapter 209

Kate intended to say more, but Darius suddenly opened his eyes.

His icy glare sent chills down everyone's spines while he ordered the captain, 'You may

fly this plane at its regular speed if you're able to take off within ten minutes."

Anxiously, Kate chewed on her bottom lip while scrutinizing Darius' face. Only after

seeing his blank look did she realize he was serious. Thus, she nodded at the hesitant

captain beside her.

"Go. Get the plane to Almiron City as quickly as you can."

The seat in front of Darius was empty.

Kate did not hesitate to sit there and buckle her seatbelt.

"I don't think that's your seat," said a frowning Darius. "Besides, it bothers me. He felt a hitch in Kate's breath but did not dwell on it. Instead, he shut his eyes.

The plane soon took off.

Silence ensued in the cabin as no one wanted to bring up what had happened before

taking off.

Throughout the journey, Kate kept looking behind her, but Darius' eyes did not open, nor

did he show signs of wanting to speak to her.

Some time passed when she could not hold herself back. She gazed at Darius, opening

her mouth to speak softly but clearly. "Mr. Reid, I believe we can discuss things. We

have the same enemy, after all."

Erin's features stiffened with discontent as she mused, 'This woman eyed Mr. Reid from

the start and kept trying to seduce him with her wealth. Ugh, I can stand that. Sadly, I

had to tolerate her actions due to my inferior status and because Darius was awake. But

I can't keep my anger in anymore! Besides, Mr. Reid is currently napping, so this is my chance!"

She parted her lips, wanting to shut Kate up, but Darius spoke beside her."

We may

have the same enemy, but that doesn't mean you're not my enemy as well."

Darius' eyes had opened again, revealing his stormy gaze.

A chill tingled down Kate's spine, causing every muscle in her body to tremble.

She clenched the hem of her skirt tightly, no longer daring to look at Darius.

Eying his

shoes, she squeaked,

"Everything that happened earlier was my fault. I'm willing to pay the price. All I ask is

that you spare the airline company. Not to mention, you have shares in the company too.

If you resent my behavior, feel free to punish me in any way fit. I'm willing to put up with

anything. Please spare the company. That way, you'll suffer fewer losses, even if you don't care about it."

Darius softly chuckled, but everyone could sense the sarcasm dripping from his tone.

"That's impossible. Then again, a better way to phrase it is, 'you're too late.'" Knowing he could no longer rest on the flight, he opened his laptop to read through various contracts.

Kate could tell Darius did not care about her. She pursed her lips while biting on her

lower lip. Such pain was the only way she could stop herself from crying. Many overwhelming emotions washed over Kate then, but it was evident Darius could not care less.

Kate knew that, so she stood and let out a long exhale before speaking loudly.

"I'll give you all the airline company's shares for free. Just, please, spare my dad. He

raised my family from scratch and did many things for this company. It doesn't matter if

Elizabeth or I upset you. Both of us will bear the consequences."

Darius raised a brow and thought, "When I first met this woman, she seemed unreasonable. On top of that, she was full of inappropriate motives and wanted to turn

those thoughts into reality. This woman was so selfish then. Yet, now that things are bad,

she managed to snap out of her previous mentality and sacrifice herself for her father's

sake. What a complex individual."

Despite the shock in his heart, he kept a stoic expression without reacting to Kate at all.

Meanwhile, Elizabeth had overheard the entire conversation and could no longer tolerate

things. She raised her voice at the two, objecting,

"I disagree with what you're doing! Your father has already agreed to give me the

company's shares. We planned to head to the relevant departments and legally transfer

all the shares to me, which means the company is already mine! Your father may spoil

you, Kate, but such an offer isn't yours to make!"

Kate met Elizabeth's gaze with a look of mockery. "What do we do if Darius refuses to spare my dad? Huh? That guy is filthy rich! There's nothing else we can give him to appease his anger."

"No one said your father is in trouble. You're the one making all of it up!" Elizabeth rolled her eyes, determination filling her eyes. She continued confidently, as though her every word was the truth, 'You've already made your intentions obvious. You had a crush on Darius, someone affluent, but he turned you down. All your actions now are to prove to Darius that you're as wealthy as he is, that you're worthy of standing by his side as an equal!' 'T-That's not true!' Kate retorted, her eyes rounding with betrayal. "You know it's untrue, yet you're using that lie to criticize me!"

She took a deep breath, her hands forcefully gripping both sides of her waist as she could not stand such slander. Wanting to fight back, she parted her lips. That was when Darius' irritated tone rang out, interrupting, "I'm uninterested in the airline company. But I won't spare your father either."

Elizabeth's eyes rolled while Kate paled.

At that point, Darius was aware of who was genuinely worried about the man locked up in the detainment center and who was selfishly looking after herself.

The women's conflict improved Darius' impression of Kate. Thus, he offered her a solution. "I believe I can spare your father this once. That is, after I discuss with him and arrive at a happy conclusion."

Kate finally released a deep sigh of relief.

Chapter 210

Kate bowed at Darius with the utmost respect just then. "There's nothing much I have to repay you. Regarding the company's shares, I'll contact my dad and discuss things clearly with him. Also, my dad previously gifted me two companies within the

entertainment industry. While I can't do much, I can give these companies to you."

Both Darius' brows raised.

He was very much surprised by the generosity of the woman before him, so he asked,

"What do you want in exchange for giving me those companies?"

Kate did not expect Darius to react so candidly. Nevertheless, she knew he had likely

agreed to her request then. After sighing in relief, she answered, "I hope my dad can

have a better experience at the detainment center."

Darius' hand that swiped at his laptop's touchpad froze.

He looked up at Kate, examining her serious expression before grinning. Yet, his grin

was not because he was happy.

"You think," he suddenly said, "That your father can't contact you because I had

someone lock him up at the detainment center?"

Kate gritted her teeth. She was unable to maintain her polite smile anymore.

"Indeed,

that's what I previously believed before you asked me this."

Gulping, she forced her body to stop trembling and added, "But it seems like I've

mistaken things. I'm sorry."

She immediately bowed again, asking, "Can you please tell me where my dad is now?

And how do I contact him?"

The corner of Darius' lip quirked upward, indicating his sudden interest. He rubbed his

chin before replying, "Your father got arrested by the authorities for speeding on the

highway because he wanted to rush to Elizabeth's aid. According to our country's law,

there's no way for you to reach his phone now unless you know where the authorities

are holding your father. If so, you can head there and visit him."

Darius expected Kate to react with utter panic, but that did not happen.

Curious, he

remarked, "You don't seem worried."

Kate nodded. "Although what I'm about to say will upset you significantly, I feel you'll be

even angrier if I don't."

Briefly quirking a brow, Darius' expression returned to its usual blankness as he silently

continued reading through the contracts on his laptop.

Although Kate did not understand what he was thinking, she made her next move based

on what she believed and her opinions of Darius.

She said, "You seem like someone who often dirties his hands. That's why I was worried

before that you had kidnapped my dad, who I can no longer contact, and tortured him.

However, I believe it's fair if my father pays for his wrongdoings in the detainment center.

And since he's safe there, I'm not worried."

"You can sit down now if that's the case," replied a smirking Darius. "I'll discuss things

with your father before he gets released from the detainment center. Then, I'll decide on

a suitable outcome for today's incident based on his behavior."

Kate nodded.

When she saw Darius was about to shut his eyes, she bit her lips.

Darius was quick to sense a change in Kate's breath. He opened his eyes again and

looked at her. "Is there anything else you wish to tell me that you haven't already?"

Kate stepped forward to open up Darius' laptop again. She explained, "I doubt you'll be

able to rest after what I'm about to do next, so I suggest you continue scanning through

those contracts of yours."

Locking eyes with her, Darius realized she behaved differently from when he first

boarded the plane. That piqued his curiosity, so he flashed a smile at her.

"No, I can watch you while simultaneously flipping through my contracts." As he spoke,

he extended an arm as though motioning her to proceed with her plan. "Go ahead and

do as you please. I'm on your side."

Kate could not suppress the wildfire burning in her chest anymore. Thus, when Darius

approved of her actions, she did not hesitate to storm before Elizabeth.

The two security personnel that restrained Elizabeth grew anxious upon hearing Kate's incoming footsteps.

Their breathing quickened, and their muscles contracted. Even their hands had reached

down, ready to deploy the weapons attached to their waistbands.

Darius watched everything transpire from his seat. An amused smirk appeared on his face.

Meanwhile, Kate was unruffled by the two personnel's reactions as she approached Elizabeth.

That was the first time Elizabeth felt anxious throughout all of today. She could tell Kate

seemed different from before. Gulping, Elizabeth wanted to get up and run. Yet, before

she could do anything, a resounding slap broke out while a burning sensation spread across her cheek.

Then, she felt the sharp pain seeping into her skin.

Elizabeth cupped her sore cheek and cried out. She had never experienced such

humiliation before. Her eyes widened, hatred burning like a flame as she glowered at

Kate. "How dare you hit me? The relationship between your father and me is enough to make me your mom-"

Another slap rang out.

Kate's voice lowered to a frosty growl. "My mom was a superb woman, not some whore

that would break up someone else's family! On the other hand, you are a lowly mistress

that used the body to attain riches and influence!"

All the passengers' eyes were on Elizabeth right then.

Elizabeth flushed with humiliation. She had never been the focus of so many contemptuous gazes before, so her body quivered.

At some point, a few flashlights lit up.

Elizabeth knew those were cameras aimed at her, and she desperately wanted to

change everyone's view of her. Hence, she forced her eyes to redden as she spoke with

a miserable and trembling voice.

“K-Kate, you’re still very young, so you’ve misunderstood several things. Your parents’ relationship was in tatters long before I came into the picture. Your mother currently resides in an eastern country and hasn’t seen your father in many years. So, according to the law, they aren’t husband and wife anymore, meaning I’m not a mistress like you claim I am.”