

Divorced Me 821

Chapter 821

The aroma of grilled meat quickly filled the air, pulling Aveline's attention back to the present. She was genuinely hungry.

It was clear that the presence of the men at the next table affected Selena's mood; several times, she seemed on the verge of saying something, only to catch sight of them out of the corner of her eye and sigh in frustration. "So annoying," she finally muttered.

Aveline suggested, "Just enjoy the meal for now; we can talk about it later."

"Alright," Selena replied with a nod.

The atmosphere was somewhat awkward, but the meat was delicious, and Aveline ate quite a bit.

Meanwhile, the men at the next table were also getting fresh charcoal for their grill.

A man carrying a pan of hot coals approached and, just as he was about to place it in their grill, his expression sharpened, and suddenly he hurled the hot coals directly at Lucas!

If the burning coals hit Lucas, it would undoubtedly cause serious injury!

Everything happened too quickly. Although Lucas reacted in time, there was nowhere to escape, with the wall right behind him. He could only raise his arm to shield his head, but the coals still struck his forehead, and a searing pain shot through him! "Ah!"

Gasps of shock erupted around them!

Aaron immediately grabbed the man, his voice cold as he barked, "Call the police!"

The man struggled violently, glaring at Lucas with pure rage. "You scum! You dared to hit someone in the hospital, and you think you deserve to be Chairman of the Tudor Group? People like you should just die!"

The scene descended into chaos!

Aveline jumped up and rushed over to Lucas, anxiously asking, "Lucas, are you alright?"

Lucas' face was pale with pain, and a patch of his forehead was red and burned, but he seemed otherwise uninjured.

However, there was ash and dust everywhere.

Lance, sitting beside him, had also been affected, and his expression was just as grim.

The restaurant manager quickly

came over to assess the situation. With the police already called, he hurriedly explained, "He's just here to help today; he's not one of our employees! This has nothing to do with our restaurant!"

Aveline responded coldly, "Whether it has anything to do with you or we'll wait for the police investigation to find out."

His urgency to distance the restaurant from the incident was infuriating.

Selena glanced at the man pinned to the ground and couldn't help but give him a thumbs up. "Buddy, you've done what I never dared to do. Your courage is commendable."

The man struggled on the floor, his face flushed, but his eyes still burned with anger.

The police arrived shortly after, and the man was taken away for questioning.

Aveline suggested, "We should head to the hospital."

Lucas' eyes settled on her face. "Are you worried about me?"

Aveline frowned. "Is this really the time for that?"

"But I want to be sure of how you feel," Lucas insisted.

Aveline felt a strong urge to turn and walk away.

Aaron interjected, "Aveline, just humor him with something, or he'll keep pestering you."

Aveline sighed. "Let's get to the hospital now, or I'm leaving you here."

"Okay."

Lucas responded promptly, obediently following behind her.

Seeing this, everyone else looked surprised.

They had thought Lucas would be difficult to handle, but one cold stare from Aveline, and he was instantly docile. Aaron raised an eyebrow and glanced at Lance. "See? There's always someone who can keep him in check."

Lance replied calmly, "If he'd had that realization sooner, things wouldn't have escalated to this point."

Chapter 822

Lucas overheard the conversation, and his steps visibly slowed.

Aaron gave Lance a thumbs up and then joined the group heading to the hospital.

By the time they arrived, the burn on Lucas' forehead had already formed a small blister. The doctor treated it briefly and said there was nothing serious, and they were free to leave.

It wasn't a big deal, but Aveline had insisted on coming to the hospital to make sure.

As they exited the hospital, Selena clung to Aveline's arm, hesitating to speak several times.

Aveline glanced at her. "If you have something to say, just say it."

Selena looked back at the men following them, then tugged Aveline ahead a few steps until they were a good distance away. She finally stopped and whispered closely, "Aveline, are you having second thoughts? Are you thinking of not divorcing him?" Aveline's expression froze for a moment. "I'm not having second thoughts."

Selena, however, looked worried. "But you don't look like someone who isn't regretting it. Lucas just got a little burn and you were so anxious. If he were maliciously attacked and stabbed a few times, wouldn't you be ready to fight to the death for him?" Aveline pursed her lips, saying nothing.

Selena felt her point was right on target. Seeing the men getting closer, she lowered her voice even more. "Look, the date is almost here. You can't waver now, or all your previous persistence will just seem like a joke."

As she finished speaking, the men had already caught up.

Aaron raised an eyebrow and asked, "What are you two whispering about that I'm not allowed to hear?"

Selena glanced at him. "If you were one of my friends, you could listen all you want."

Aaron's face darkened.

Lucas walked up beside Aveline, his dark eyes fixed on her. "Ready to go home?"

By now, the sky had darkened. The city's lights were just beginning to twinkle, and a cold wind was blowing; this was not the place for a long conversation.

Aveline looked at Lucas. "Who was that man?"

Lucas replied, "The investigation isn't complete yet. I'll let you know once I have the results."

"Alright."

Aveline nodded, then turned to Selena. "Could you give me a ride?"

Selena was just about to agree when Aaron grabbed her arm. "We still have unresolved matters. Besides, Lucas lives in the same building as her, why would you need to drive?"

Selena struggled, "No, I want to give her a ride! Let go of me."

Instead, Aaron pulled her closer, narrowing his eyes dangerously. "Selena, you still owe me an explanation for what happened earlier. Don't you think it's time to clear things up?"

Selena blinked guiltily. "What earlier incident? I have no idea what you're talking about!"

She reached out to Aveline, looking pitiful. "Aveline, save me!"

Aveline's lips twitched slightly, then she glanced at Lucas. "Let's go." Lucas' lips curved into a faint smile as he led her directly to the car.

Aaron let out a cold snort. "See? Your friend has abandoned you."

Watching

denly fetreating figure,

Selena suddenly found some pushing Aaron

all to

r might. Content net

"You stupid man!"

She spat angrily before stomping off.

Aaron frowned. "Who are you calling a stupid man? Explain yourself!"

He chased after her, demanding answers.

Lance stood there, looking at the two pairs of departing figures, and sighed at the sky.

Did he come all this way just to be a third wheel?

...

In the car.

Aveline closed her eyes, feeling exhausted, but Selena's words from earlier kept replaying in her mind.

Chapter 823

Was she wavering?

Backing down? Hesitating?

It seemed so.

When that answer appeared in her mind, Aveline realized that her persistence all along had indeed become a joke.

Reflecting on the past, there were moments of pain, but also moments of care. Why had she insisted on divorce so stubbornly?

Perhaps it was the repeated lack of trust, the stark contrast between who he was before and who he became after regaining his memory and identity. He was no longer the same man she once loved so deeply. His entanglements with other women, and his desire to repay favors, all while ignoring her role in his life.

Those disappointments eventually turned into despair. She didn't want to hold on anymore, and that was why she sought a divorce.

Her heart, once filled with love for him, had gradually dried up like a riverbed cracked with fissures, and every time she thought about it, the pain became unbearable.

She just didn't want to feel that pain any longer.

Her thoughts were chaotic, but she finally understood the reasoning behind them. Divorce was merely a step toward starting anew, toward a better life.

For both of them, it would be a good thing.

So yes, the wavering was real, the worry was real, and the desire for divorce was real too.

"Aveline."

A deep, magnetic voice suddenly sounded by her ear.

"Hmm?"

She turned her head to meet his deep, dark eyes.

Lucas gazed at her, his Adam's apple moving, and after a long pause, he asked, "You are worried about me, aren't you?" "Yes."

This time, Aveline didn't deny it, nor did she avoid it; she admitted it openly. His eyes widened.

Aveline continued calmly, "You once said that if I loved you, I couldn't just stop loving you. I didn't agree with you back then, but now I do. I

worried about you, deeply am

shaken at

times, but that doesn't change my decision."

Her clear eyes focused on Lucas' handsome face; her voice was soft, but every word was resolute.

"Lucas, I can't make peace with the past, even if I love you."

The flame of hope in Lucas' eyes was suddenly extinguished.

How cruel.

She had made it clear that she still loved him, but just as decisively, she rejected him. They would not be together. The past wounds had left deep scars on her heart, and so she said she couldn't make peace with it.

"Should I feel happy, or should I feel sad?" Lucas stared at her for a long moment before speaking.

Aveline said nothing.

How he felt was his business; it didn't seem to have much to do with her.

Suddenly, she felt a sense of relief.

Her heart was no longer conflicted.

She began to look forward to the future even more.

Lucas let out a low chuckle and said, "Aveline, you certainly know how to pierce the heart. Can I just say I'm now riddled with holes?" Aveline smiled slightly. "Yet you're still here talking to me."

Lucas fell silent.

The car grew quiet, and neither of them spoke again for the rest of the ride.

Back at Maple Garden, Aveline took a shower first, then sat in front of her vanity to do her skincare routine.

Just then, her phone rang. She glanced at it-Lucas was calling.

It was likely about the man who had been taken away earlier.

She answered and put it on speaker.

"Hello?"

Lucas' deep, pleasant voice came through, The investigation is complete. He was just an ordinary person, with no background and no one behind him. He simply wanted to hurt me out of spite."

Chapter 824

Hearing this, Aveline furrowed her brows. "The situation is getting more and more heated. Aren't you going to find a way to cool it down?"

Lucas replied, "It's too late to suppress it now. The capital has already gotten involved, and there are people fueling the flames behind the scenes. The attention is only going to increase." Aveline's worry deepened. "Then what should you do?"

If things continued like this, Lucas' situation would only become more precarious. It wouldn't just be pressure from the board; the public could turn against him too. If it caught the attention of the higher authorities, there was a real risk of him being blacklisted. "Hearing you worry about me, I should be happy," Lucas suddenly shifted the topic, "but why does it make me so sad?"

Aveline paused for a moment and then suggested, "Maybe I could do a livestream to clarify things."

"No need for you to appear," Lucas replied, "I'll handle everything."

His words brought her a strange sense of calm.

Still, she said, "If you need anything, just let me know."

"Alright."

Lucas agreed but didn't hang up immediately.

Aveline glanced at her phone and asked, "Is there anything else?"

"No," Lucas replied, "but I don't want to hang up. I just want to hear your voice. If you'd allow, I'd like to come over."

Aveline's tone was indifferent. "It's late. Go to sleep."

With that, she ended the call.

Lying on her bed, Aveline scrolled through videos on her phone. Out of every ten videos, six were about Lucas's altercation. The topic was unprecedentedly hot.

Who had released the footage during this period?

Was it Lucas's rivals?

Or someone specifically targeting them?

Aveline leaned toward believing that they were being targeted.

So, what other moves were waiting for them?

With her mind racing with these thoughts, Aveline soon drifted off to sleep.

The next day.

Tudor Group.

The spacious conference room was filled with numerous reporters; some were live-streaming on their phones, while others were holding cameras, ready to capture the moment.

The room buzzed with endless chatter.

The door to the conference room opened, and Desmond walked in first, followed by Lucas.

The moment he appeared, all the reporters' cameras turned toward him.

He was dressed in a black suit with a meticulously knotted striped tie. His short hair was neatly styled, and his handsome, captivating face bore a sharp and cold expression. His eyes swept over the cameras, sending an inexplicable chill through those watching the live stream.

The pressure was palpable!

"Wow, this man is way too handsome!"

"He just glanced at me, and I went weak in the knees, like, seriously."

"With his status, does he even need to personally get his hands dirty?"

"By the way, it's been two days since that video went viral. Why hasn't he been arrested?"

-"Abusing his power to bully people, no matter how handsome he is, he's still trash!"

The comments continued to flood in, and the heat kept rising.

Lucas sat down on the chair, his expression calm and indifferent.

Desmond pointed at a reporter, who immediately raised the microphone to Lucas and asked, "Mr. Tudor, was the person in the video who hit someone you?" Lucas replied, "Yes, it was me."

The reporter continued, "Can you

explain why you hit them? I watched the video repeatedly and saw that it was just middle-aged woman with no strength to fight back. Don't you think it's inappropriate to use your youth and strength to hit someone like that?"

Lucas' sharp gaze fixed on the reporter's face. His thin lips curved slightly as he replied coolly...

Chapter 825

"Desmond," Lucas called.

"Yes," Desmond responded immediately.

Desmond quickly took out his laptop and projected a video onto the screen behind them.

He said, "I'm sure many of you haven't seen the full video yet?"

As his words fell, everyone's attention turned to the screen.

The video showed a hospital corridor, where a middle-aged man and woman stood at the doorway of a patient room, shouting.

A young woman approached them, trying to reason with them.

Due to the angle, her face was not visible in the footage.

However, it was clear that the middle-aged woman attempted to hit the young woman, and only then did Lucas step in.

"Here's the full video," Desmond said, pausing the footage at the right moment. "As you can see, Mr. Tudor was just defending the lady, not abusing his power like some people online are saying."

If Mr. Tudor had really done something wrong, it'd be a police matter, not a matter of public opinion."

After watching the video, the reporters in the room were stunned.

Was this what really happened?

Defending a lady?

- "I knew it! How could someone so handsome do something like bullying others?"

"I suspected there was more to this from the beginning. The video was so short, and it kept going viral these past two days. Could this be some sort of corporate battle?"

"So, a corporate war now involves smearing the rival Chairman's reputation?"

"Even so, it's still no reason to use force. The other person is much older; what if something serious happened?"

The comments continued to flood in, filled with mixed opinions.

Lucas stood up and said coldly, "The facts are right in front of you. I have nothing more to add. If anyone still has doubts, report it to the police directly."

With that, he turned and left the conference room.

The reporters were left bewildered, expecting to uncover some fresh scoop by coming here.

Instead, it turned out to be a clarification press conference.

Once the full video was released, the online narrative was bound to shift-unless another twist emerged.

At the same time.

Aveline watched the live stream.

Seeing Lucas handle the situation so calmly and methodically, a faint smile appeared on her lips.

He clearly didn't care much about it, yet he still showed up at the press conference. And while everyone was focused on the video, he was casually looking at his phone,

showing that this whole thing didn't

affect him much at all.

Throughout the entire video, she hadn't appeared, and not a single word about her had been mentioned.

This matter should be close to being resolved, right?

Tomorrow, they could finally go and get the divorce certificate.

Thinking about it made Aveline quite happy.

"You seem pretty pleased to see he's okay," Sidney's voice came from behind her.

Aveline turned around to face him. "When did you get here?"

"I've been here since the live stream started," Sidney replied.

He looked at her with a complex expression, as if he wanted to say something, but in the end, he held back.

Right now, he didn't have the right to say those things.

Aveline said, "Of course I'm happy he's okay."

Sidney looked at her, surprised. "Did you two... make up?"

Aveline shook her head. "No, we

haven't, but I won't let our personal issues drag into anything else.

Besides, he's not exactly a villain."

Sidney's expression grew even more conflicted.

"Phew... I'm

austed. Finally made

it back,

it doordria's voice came from

the

drawing everyone's attention.

They saw her looking utterly worn out.

Aveline asked, "Where did you go?"

Chapter 826

"I had to take care of some personal matters," Maria replied as she walked in, giving Sidney a playful glance before winking at Aveline. "Did you miss me?"

Aveline, a bit exasperated by Maria's antics, pushed her hand away. "Actually, there are a lot of files that need your attention. Get to work and don't delay the progress of our studio."

Maria sighed dramatically. "Workaholic!"

If she'd known it would be like this, she wouldn't have come back so early!

However, she couldn't say too much about what she'd been up to. If Aveline found out, she might get angry. Things between the boss and Aveline seemed to be easing up, and the last thing Maria wanted was to mess it up now and become the eternal villain in their story. "Fine, I'll get to work. But feel free to slack off," Maria said with a slight smile before heading to the office.

As she passed Sidney, she gave him a meaningful look.

Sidney frowned but ignored her.

Aveline turned her attention back to the screen and ended the live stream.

It seemed like the matter was finally resolved.

Just then, her phone rang. She glanced at the screen-it was a call from Lucas.

"Hello?" Aveline answered.

Lucas' deep, pleasant voice came through, "Did you watch the live stream?"

"Yes, I did," Aveline replied.

Lucas chuckled softly. "Did my appearance charm you?"

Aveline was speechless for a moment.

She stared at her phone, thinking she might have misheard.

She had assumed he called to discuss the video incident, but instead, he was asking if she found him handsome?

Feeling slightly annoyed, Aveline said, "Is this matter settled now?"

Lucas replied, "Why are you avoiding my question? I watched the replay, you know. The comments were all about how outrageously handsome I am. Aveline, are you sure you don't want to reconsider? I'm quite the catch." Aveline's mouth twitched slightly. "No, I'm sure I don't."

With that, she hung up the phone.

This man could be so childish!

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Tudor Group.

President's Office.

Lucas stared at the phone that had just been hung up, letting out a small sigh.

He opened the weather forecast, checking the conditions for tomorrow. He really hoped for a snowstorm-something that would make it hard to go out. But what did he see instead?

The forecast showed a clear, cloudless sky, with temperatures rising several degrees.

His expression darkened. This weather forecast was unreliable.

He tossed the phone aside and pressed the intercom button.

"Yes, Mr. Tudor, any instructions?" Desmond's voice came through.

Lucas asked, "What's my schedule for the rest of the day?"

Desmond quickly ran through the upcoming tasks.

Lucas replied, "Push everything to tomorrow."

"What?" Desmond was stunned. "But some of these can be finished today."

Lucas said, "I want to rest today. Is that not allowed?"

Desmond paused and thought, "... Of course, you're the boss. If you want to rest, who would dare to say no?"

"Alright," Desmond reluctantly agreed.

"Forget it." Lucas suddenly changed his mind. "Let's finish everything today."

Desmond was speechless. His boss'

road with endless turns were truly like a winding path. Content belongs to Wists

and to

With the video clarification, the hype was slowly dying down.

Netizens, known for following

trends, had shifted their focus back

to discussing Lucas' looks.

Thankfully, the buzz wasn't as high as before, gradually being replaced by other news stories.

Evening.

Aveline finished work early and went to the supermarket to buy groceries, planning to cook a nice dinner at home.

Just as she was about to leave, someone called out, "Aveline, check the news!"

Chapter 827

Sidney walked over, holding his phone out to show her.

Aveline, who was packing up her things, glanced over in confusion. "What's going on?"

Another video had taken over the trending topics.

In the video, the middle-aged couple from earlier were crying in front of the camera, and behind them was none other than the hospital owned by the Tudor Group!

The middle-aged woman was sobbing hysterically, "My daughter's arm was broken in a car accident caused by that big shot's wife, and we had no idea!" the middle-aged woman sobbed.

"They've kept my daughter locked up in this hospital and won't let us see her! It's been over a month since she last came home. When I tried to visit her, that boss hit me! Can you believe it? Is it so wrong for a mother to want to see her own child?"

The middle-aged man, his face full of anger and helplessness, added, "I only saw my daughter because I was sick and went to the hospital. I hadn't seen her in over a month, and she looked so thin, like a ghost!

"Her arm hasn't recovered, and yet the person who hit her still won't let us see her. They even moved her to another hospital. There are security guards at the entrance, and we can't get in! We just want to see our daughter. Why are you stopping us? Are you doing experiments on her? Let my daughter go!"

Their words were earnest and filled with righteous indignation, and their pitiful tears painted them as victims, perfectly portraying the image of a powerless group facing injustice.

Below the video, the comments section was filled with supposed "witnesses" chiming in:

"I was at the hospital that day and saw everything. The Chairman of the Tudor Group was abusing his power, kicking the woman in the video. When she said she would call the police, he just said, 'Who saw it?' and no one dared speak up. That's the power of capital!" -"I also saw the whole thing. Those parents just wanted to see their daughter, but they were constantly blocked. It makes no sense."

"I've seen that girl too, and she really is shockingly thin. If you hit someone, you should compensate and treat them properly. Why not let the parents see her?"

"Where did these so-called 'witnesses' come from anyway? And why isn't anyone talking about the horrible things this couple said at the hospital? The CEO was just trying to protect someone. Plus, the girl herself admitted she was the one who hit the other person. Out of kindness, they let her stay in the hospital and paid for everything. How on earth did this turn into some story about imprisoning her and keeping her parents away?"

Even when a genuine witness tried

to explain the situation, the comment was quickly drowned out by a flood of opposing voices, and the controversy once again reached a fever pitch on the internet.

Aveline's expression turned grim.

How could this happen?

How did Annie's parents find out that she had been transferred to a hospital under the Tudor Group?

Was it the person behind all this?

Sidney noticed her troubled expression and asked, "Do you want to call Lucas?"

"Yeah, I'll ask him," Aveline replied, taking out her phone to call Lucas.

However, the call didn't go through immediately, and she didn't try again.

She decided to wait patiently.

If there was anything urgent, he would contact her.

After packing up her things, she left the office directly.

Her

to the supermarket

she headed straight home

As she stepped out of the elevator, she saw Selena standing at her door. The moment Selena saw her, she quickly asked, "I saw the news and came right over. What's going on?"

Chapter 828

As Aveline unlocked the door, she said, "I don't know yet. I called him, but he didn't answer. What is certain, though, is that someone is targeting us." Selena followed her inside, frowning. "Aren't they going after him? What does this have to do with you?"

Aveline pressed her lips together slightly. "I have a feeling things aren't as simple as they seem."

Selena sighed. "Oh, my dear, you're scaring me. Why does it sound like it's getting more complicated?"

Aveline sighed helplessly. "We still don't know what the other side wants, so we'll just have to take it step by step. But I'll be fine."

At least for now, all the moves seemed aimed at Lucas.

Selena took out her phone. "I'll ask Aaron to help investigate and see what's really going on."

Aveline replied, "He and Lucas are like brothers. Don't you think he's already involved?"

"True enough," Selena said, putting down her phone. "I suddenly feel so powerless, like there's nothing I can do to help."

Aveline smiled and said, "Just focus on our own things and don't get involved. That's the best way to help them."

When the front lines are on fire, the rear must stay stable. Otherwise, getting hit from both sides would overwhelm anyone.

"Yeah, you're right," Selena agreed.

Aveline asked, "Have you eaten?"

Selena shook her head. "I saw the news and came straight over. I even had a fight with my boss over it. That lousy boss of mine, always obsessed with meetings! Every day it's another meeting about pointless stuff; it's so annoying." Listening to her rant, Aveline felt oddly more at ease and said, "All bosses are like that. Just bear with it."

Selena slumped into the sofa. "Yeah, I guess there's no other choice."

Aveline went to the kitchen and quickly cooked some pasta. Before long, she called Selena to the dining area to eat.

After their meal, the two of them kept an eye on the situation, watching the news on their phones.

This time, the response was the same as before.

The Tudor Group did not issue an immediate clarification; instead, they maintained a wait-and-see attitude.

It was almost comical-just that morning, netizens had been apologizing over the clarified video and by the afternoon, they were already back to their usual insults, not even waiting until the next day to change their tune.

Selena put down her phone, exasperated. "I can't watch this anymore. They're all nuts." Aveline, however, continued to watch.

Seeing Aveline's unreadable expression, Selena asked, "Ave, what do you plan to do next?" Aveline looked up and replied, "I think I'll start a live stream and clear things up." Selena's eyes widened in shock, and she immediately tried to dissuade her.

"No, you can't do that! If you start a live stream now, all the backlash will be directed at you. Don't do this! At least Lucas has the Tudor Group and a professional PR team. We have nothing! If you draw their attention, they will come after you, and it won't be hard for them to find you."

Fearing that Aveline was serious, Selena grabbed her hand/ "Didn't you just say we should focus on our own things and not make it worse for them?" Aveline was amused by Selena's anxious reaction. She put down her phone and said, "I was just kidding. Why are you so worked up?"

Selena remained serious. "How can

you joke about something like this?

You were clearly thinking about it and planning to go through with it. I'm telling you, no way, absolutely not!

Chapter 829

"Alright, I get it," Aveline said, gently patting Selena's hand to reassure her and temporarily abandoning the idea of going live. However, Selena, worried that Aveline might still consider doing a live stream, stuck close to her all evening, refusing to leave her side.

It wasn't out of selfishness.

Lucas, after all, was a powerful man with resources and influence, and he could easily suppress the situation.

A few insults wouldn't bother him much.

But Aveline?

She had nothing like that to protect her.

She couldn't afford to be exposed to the public eye. These netizens could turn vicious on a whim, and Aveline, with her gentle nature, would undoubtedly be deeply hurt by an online mob attack. Selena was worried sick about her!

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Meanwhile, at the Tudor Group, the lights burned bright late into the night.

The PR manager brought in the emergency response plan, only to hear the sounds of a heated argument coming from the office.

Desmond stood at the door, took the documents, and said, "You should head back."

The PR manager nodded and left.

Desmond glanced at the documents, then pushed open the office door and stepped inside.

Inside the office, Mark was angrily pounding the table, his displeased eyes fixed on Lucas.

"Lucas, explain to me what's going on now. Wasn't the situation just calmed down? Why has it flared up again? It seems you can't handle this matter. I propose we call a shareholders' meeting to re-elect the president!" Several other executives in the room also wore grim expressions.

Just when one crisis had barely been resolved, another was already brewing.

Now, public opinion online was overwhelmingly against them!

Everyone was demanding Lucas' resignation, calling for him to release the woman they claimed he was holding captive!

Lucas sat in his leather chair, his expression cold and indifferent as he watched the furious executives in front of him.

Lucas spoke calmly, "So, after electing a new president, then what? How do you plan to handle this situation?" Mark maintained a stern face, "That won't be your concern anymore."

Lucas continued, "Let me guess: you'll dump all the blame on me, announce that I've resigned, and claim that everything, from the incident at the hospital to hiding the woman, was my personal behavior and had nothing to do with the Tudor Group, right?"

Mark's expression didn't change, but deep down, he was shocked. He hadn't expected Lucas to see right through their plans! That was exactly what they had been discussing.

It seemed like the best course of action.

So, the first step was to force Lucas to resign on his own.

Another board member, Winson Watson, spoke up, "Lucas, it's clear that someone is manipulating things from behind the scenes. Their target might not be the Tudor Group but you. You can't let your personal affairs drag down the entire company. Think about your father; this is his life's work. Can you really stand to see the company

destroyed?"

"I can," Lucas replied with a slight smile. "Your suggestion is actually a good one. I'll drag the entire Tudor Group down with me. We'll all perish together."

"You...!" Mark's face twisted with anger. "You are being utterly unreasonable. A shareholders' meeting must be held! The Tudor Group cannot be led by someone like you!"

Lucas slowly stood up, the smile on his lips fading into a cold line, his entire demeanor imposing.

"All this fuss over a minor public opinion storm shows just how complacent you old guys have become. It seems you've lived in comfort for too long and can't handle the slightest bit of turbulence anymore.

"Let me make this clear today: the

Tudor Group belongs to me, Lucas Tudor. None of you can remove me. If you want me to resign, I won't mind dragging everyone down with

me. If you don't believe me, just try it.

Chapter 830

He was extremely arrogant, his confidence overflowing with an almost unbearable swagger. The expressions on the faces of the shareholders weren't looking good, but despite his audacity, there was nothing they could do. They had initially thought they could persuade him to resign, but it was clear that this approach was not going to work.

Now, who could possibly rein him in?

Frederick was already paralyzed by a stroke, Yvonne did not involve herself in anything, and Barbara had grown senile.

At this point, no one could control Lucas.

Mark was initially intimidated by the aura surrounding Lucas but quickly recovered, narrowing his eyes as he stared at him. "Lucas, you're really quite arrogant, aren't you? Do you honestly think there's nothing I can do about you?" Lucas raised a sharp brow slightly. "Oh? What exactly does Mr. Lewis plan to do?"

Mark replied in a cold voice, "The Tudor Group needs a qualified and responsible person to lead it, and you are not that person."

Lucas looked at him with a faint, mocking smile. "It seems Mr. Lewis already has a suitable candidate in mind. Who might that be?"

Mark sneered. "You'll find out soon enough!"

With that, he turned and walked away, followed by the other shareholders.

Desmond, standing nearby, took the opportunity to speak up, "Mr. Tudor, the PR department has prepared an emergency response plan regarding the online controversy. Would you like to take a look?" Lucas responded coolly, "No need."

Desmond seemed to have anticipated his response and didn't bother to pick up the documents.

Instead, he continued, "Mr. Fletcher's side has sent a message. The people overseas have already detained the head of that jewelry company, so there shouldn't be any further escalation."

Lucas, however, replied, "The person behind all this hasn't been found yet. Everything is still uncertain."

He took out his phone and noticed a missed call from Aveline. His eyes darkened briefly before he dialed back.

"Hello?"

After three rings, the call connected, and Aveline's soft, gentle voice came through.

Lucas spoke, "You don't need to worry about the online matters. They won't have any impact on me."

Hearing this, Aveline finally felt relieved.

As long as everything is fine.

Even over the phone, Lucas could sense the shift in her emotions. A smile tugged at the corners of his lips as he asked in a low voice, "Worried about me?"

Aveline replied, "I am worried about you. I'm worried you won't be able to show up on time tomorrow."

The curve of Lucas' smile took on a hint of bitterness. "Don't worry, I promised you, and I'll keep my word."

Outside, the sky had completely

darkened it was just a month away from New Year. If they hadn't divorced, he and Aveline would have been married for two years by now.

He took out a cigarette, lit it, and held it between his lips, squinting slightly as the pale smoke spirated upward. The call didn't end immediately, but neither of them spoke.

After a long silence, Aveline's voice finally came through, "It's getting late; I should get some sleep."

"Mm, good night," Lucas replied.

The call ended, and he stood in front of the large floor-to-ceiling window, his figure looking incredibly lonely.

At Maple Garden, Aveline stood on

the balcony, wearing a knitted sweater, gazing at the cold stars hanging in the night sky, unable to describe the emotions in her heart. Her resolve seemed to be wavering even

more.

"Ave." Selena approached, wrapping her arms around her. "It's so cold; don't stand here and catch a cold."

Aveline smiled slightly. "I'm fine."

Selena urged, "Come back inside. I know you're worried about him, but he's so strong and stubborn; he definitely won't let anything happen to himself."

