

## Heiress 1191

### Chapter 1191

"Mr. Salvador... Could you please book a room next time? My back is killing me."

Justin teased with a smirk, "Is your back going to feel better if I book a room?"

Bella blushed with embarrassment and punched his chest playfully.

"Bella, almost all the prestigious families in Savrow will be at the weekend party."

Justin's expression turned earnest. "I would like to publicly announce our relationship there. Is that okay?"

Bella's eyes widened slightly as she looked into his earnest gaze, momentarily speechless.

Sensing she might be dissatisfied, he tightened his grip on her hand. "Actually, I want to propose to you. But I'm worried you might not be ready, and I don't want to rush things or make you feel pressured."  
"Why did you pick that day?"

"Because I couldn't wait any longer."

Justin's throat tightened, a myriad of emotions surging within him. "I can't wait to tell everyone that I belong to you and you only."

Steven returned to the Lovett household, his body weary. He had learned from Bella that Amelia had been crying, which made him call her numerous times, yet she had not answered once. In the end, Amelia even turned her phone off.

He could not understand why she suddenly refused to meet him after being inseparable from him the entire day.

What on earth had happened? It was driving him crazy!

"My dear little brother, how was your date with Ms. Amelia? Was it enjoyable?"

Hunter's teasing voice irritated Steven, prompting the latter to turn around and glare at the former.

"It seems that you didn't have much fun, judging by that sour face."

Hunter approached Steven, shaking his head while clicking his tongue. "What's wrong? Is your newfound wealth and success starting to crumble?"

"So what? You're nothing more than a lapdog raised by the Salvadors anyway," Steven retorted icily, brushing off Hunter's mockery.

"Even if I'm a lapdog, I earn my keep with my skills. At least I do it openly and honestly."

Hunter displayed impressive audacity as he mocked, "Well, I'm much stronger than you, who rely on cozying up to women to climb the ladder. Being a personal secretary requires adaptability. Since you couldn't win over Ms. Bella, you settled for Ms. Amelia instead. You've gone to great lengths to marry into a wealthy family. That's admirable!"

Unable to tolerate the mockery any longer, Steven's fist hardened like rock, ready to charge forward and break his brother's nose again. However, their mother arrived just in time. "Steve! Stop!"

But, consumed by anger, Steven refused to listen. He was already closing in on Hunter.

Hunter shuddered and hurriedly covered his nose.

"Steve! Are you really going to hit your brother over that bitch? Do you want to break your mother's heart?" Chelsea scolded him angrily, her heartache flaring up again.

"Mom, Amelia is the love of my life. Don't speak of her in such derogatory terms!" Steven shouted back with fiery determination.

Chelsea was stunned, feeling her heart twist with pain.

Her youngest son had always been the most courteous and considerate boy.

Chapter 1192

Upon hearing that, Astrid immediately grasped the situation.

Mrs. Lee, renowned in the elite circles of Savrow, was famous for her fortune-telling and face-reading services, even attracting wealthy individuals from other regions seeking her advice.

However, Mrs. Lee was involved in some questionable activities behind the scenes. She was also willing to offer her services to high-ranking officials and dignitaries for the right price. "Alright, I understand where you're getting at. Dad has always been superstitious, often consulting fortune-tellers every now and then. In that case, I'll arrange for Dad to meet Mrs. Lee in the next few days. He'll definitely be willing to see her."

Astrid schemed, "When the time comes, I'll discreetly bribe Mrs. Lee and persuade her to speak favorably of you. I'll tell her to mention that your astrological compatibility with Amelia is better than Christopher's. It bodes well for the Iversons' fortune. On the other hand, if Amelia ends up with Christopher, it will bring disaster to our family. Dad is deeply superstitious, so once he hears this, he'll definitely stop considering Christopher and instead focus on arranging a marriage between you and the girl."

"That would be great! Thank you so much, Astrid," Charles exclaimed excitedly, tightly holding his sister's hand in gratitude.

"Charles, we share the same mother and grew up together. Mom passed away early, and Dad married that woman who later betrayed him, giving birth to a child who's now fighting for our inheritance. We must stand united against outsiders. If I'm not on your side, whose side would I be on?" Astrid's words came straight from her heart.

Astrid was already married. Her husband was involved in politics. Over the past few years, she faced hardships due to conflicts with her in-laws, often using her own funds to support her husband's endeavors covertly while maintaining the facade of a high-society lady.

If Christopher's influence continued to grow, she would lose even the last shred of dignity in the Iverson family.

When the family assets were divided, her eldest and second brothers would surely take care of her. As for Christopher, it would be a miracle if he did not cause her any trouble! That was why she was determined to support her second brother, no matter what.

"However, times have changed, and parents can't control everything."

Charles pulled out a cigar and twirled it between his fingers, his gaze revealing concern. "I've heard that Amelia and Bella's secretary, Steven, are getting quite close. Bella even supports their relationship. You know what Bella is like. She's not only highly favored by Chairman Thompson but also backed by Justin. She even dared to challenge the Hoffmans publicly. If she opposes my marriage to Amelia, things could get complicated."

Astrid's eyes gleamed, and she suddenly flashed a sly smile. "Charles, we can resolve this matter quite simply. We just need to use the most direct and forceful approach."

"What approach?"

"Make something out of nothing!"

This suggestion caught Charles off guard.

Despite his previous escapades, getting involved with someone from the Thompson family was an entirely different ball game, and he was hesitant to dive into it.

"Even if I seek help from Mrs. Lee, it's not a sure thing. Even if Dad agrees, Chairman Thompson might not. Since it's uncertain, why don't you just take her and force Chairman Thompson to let you marry his

daughter? In that case, even if Bella is influential in the family, she won't be able to stop it. Even if you can't win her heart, you should first win her over physically!"

Charles felt as though he was enlightened, nodding in agreement. "You're right."

With the plan set, the siblings raised their glasses and toasted, champagne flowing freely.

Little did they know, a discreet bug was quietly blinking with a red light under the table.

On the other end of the bug, at Pivotage, Christopher lounged comfortably on a luxurious vintage sofa, casually swirling the red wine in his glass with his slender, fair fingers. His androgynous, refined features exuded a mysterious air, making him look like an aristocratic vampire.

He listened to the Iverson siblings' scheme, finding it increasingly amusing as the conversation progressed.

"Look at Charles and Astrid. Aren't they quite the comedians? They're just a couple of jesters, nothing more."

"Your tolerance is truly admirable. With all these schemes plotted against you, aren't you angry at all?" Taylor, his secretary, asked. His expression was a mix of indignation and astonishment.

Chapter 1193

"Why should I be angry? What they're doing is exactly what I wanted them to do."

Christopher raised his glass, gazing at the blood-red liquid within, his smile cold and chilling. "Not only am I not angry, but I'll also lend my brother a hand. Consider it my gift to him and Ms. Amelia."

After some covert maneuvering by Astrid, Lance successfully met with the fortune teller, Mrs. Lee.

Under Astrid's instructions, Mrs. Lee delivered a well-crafted message to Lance, which seemed plausible and convincing. It left Lance with no choice but to believe it.

In truth, Lance also harbored hopes of arranging a marriage between Charles and the Thompsons. After all, Charles was his favorite son, and any advantages resulting from this alliance would undoubtedly be given to him first.

Despite Christopher's efforts to please him and everything proceeding smoothly, their bond had a gap of fifteen years. Thus, Christopher could not replace Charles' position in his heart.

However, Wyatt was a proud man. Even if Amelia wasn't his favorite, how could he possibly let his beautiful and talented daughter marry the crippled Charles?

Thus, Lance could only set this matter aside for the time being. He prepared to seize a suitable opportunity and muster up his courage to plead with Wyatt once more.

However, the hope for success seemed faint.

Time flew by quickly.

In no time, the eagerly anticipated weekend arrived.

The news of the Reed father-son duo from Journey Ventures making their first visit to Savrow and hosting a top-tier business banquet had spread among the major wealthy families and throughout the city's media.

Tonight, the castle resort on the outskirts of Savrow was completely booked by the Reeds. The driveway of the resort was bustling with luxurious cars. However, everything was orderly and well- organized inside, unaffected by the influx of media.

This demonstrated the high level of security and privacy of this event.

The members of the four major families arrived one after another, all choosing to avoid the media and taking the VIP route set up for them.

Even the usually high-profile Hoffmans refrained from making a public appearance this time.

After all, it had not been long since the horse racing event, and they did not want to stir up any more drama.

"Grandpa, will Uncle Gregory announce the news of my engagement to Justin at tonight's banquet?"

Inside the luxury car, Zoe leaned against Logan like a pampered cat, her brows furrowed with unease.

"Do you think Uncle Salvador will be able to persuade Justin? Justin is quite stubborn, and I'm worried..."

"Persuade? Do you think Justin can refuse to do so? Unless he's willing to give up his status in the Salvador Corporation and step down as CEO!

Logan exhaled heavily, his expression darkening. "I've already discussed it with Chairman Salvador, and he's satisfied with this match. With the dowry I've prepared for you and the conditions the Hoffmans can offer, he has no reason not to agree."

"But... Grandpa Nigel has always supported Bella. He treats her better than his own granddaughter. If Grandpa Nigel disagrees..."

"How long do you think Nigel can hold sway? Now, Chairman Salvador calls the shots in the Salvador Corporation."

Logan could not help but sneer, "Chairman Salvador's stance is crystal clear. He'll never let a woman like Bella, who manipulates his son and refuses to stay in her place, into the Salvador family. That crazy girl from the Thompson family is smart, but she ended up outsmarting herself! Zoe, rest assured. She won't be able to block your path into the Salvador family anymore."

"If that's the case, then that's great! Thank you, Grandpa!" Zoe's face flushed with excitement, and she began to act coyly again.

Initially, she had planned to deliver a fatal blow to Bella tonight, in front of both the Salvadors and Thompsons, as well as the Reeds, to humiliate the Thompsons. However, if Logan had already settled things with Gregory, then it would make things much easier for her.

## Chapter 1194

Zoe thought to herself, 'I'll let Bella off the hook for now. In the future, there will definitely be another chance to embarrass that bitch so that no man will ever want her again.'

At the banquet hall, beautiful music filled the air along with the lovely scent of flowers. Elegant guests, celebrities, and aristocrats were gathered.

Justin didn't come with any of the Salvador family members. Instead, he arrived with Ryan, as if trying to avoid gossip. "The Dynamic Duo" made quite an entrance, attracting numerous admirers.

Although Justin arrived without a date, those women didn't dare pursue him since they knew he was already taken. They were smart enough not to bring trouble upon themselves.

Who would even try to compete with the heiress of the Thompson family for a man? The problem was that they wouldn't stand a chance, even if they tried.

However, when those women looked at Ryan, it was a different situation altogether. Their gazes could easily be described as hungry or aggressive.

The relationship between Ryan and Carrie had only been publicly revealed once, on the day of the horse racing event. Thus, most people were still unaware of it. Therefore, Ryan remained the ultimate fantasy for the women of Savrow.

But in Ryan's eyes, there was no longer any allure from the female sex. These flirtatious women held no attraction for him compared to Justin by his side.

"You didn't bring Carrie along again? Have you fallen back into your old habits?" Justin gave a cold look with eyes as dark as ink. "You're sneaking around without Carrie again, trying to show off like a peacock and attract attention, huh?"

"Do I need to go to extreme lengths for you to change your attitude toward me?" Ryan's intense eyes blazed with anger. "Even prostitutes can turn over a new leaf, so why can't I?" Justin averted his gaze. "We'll have to wait and see."



" attended an event last night, and those clueless women swarmed around me, seeking my company. was ready to explode right there! If they weren't women, would've punched them one by one!" Frustrated, Ryan took a deep breath and thought about his beloved girlfriend waiting at home. "Carrie doesn't enjoy these types of gatherings. She suffers from severe social anxiety and would be very uncomfortable. didn't want to come either, but now that I'm stepping in for Liam and assisting Grandfather with the Hoffman Group's matters, must be here tonight."

Justin smirked slightly. "That's good news coming from the delivery room." "Huh?"

"You've been promoted. Congratulations in advance, President Hoffman."

Ryan suddenly froze, and a wave of joy surged in his heart. 'President Hoffman. What a pleasing title.' Previously, both within the Hoffman family and to the general public, people only referred to him as "Young Master".

Ryan had always found it difficult to get close to the center of prolonged Ea he hadn't expected this day to come so soon.

"Hey, haven't been formally appointed yet. am Suite a bit but his eyes flickered with anticipation.

"You are the only eldest grandson. It's appropriate and inevitable for him to promote you," Justin said, patting his shoulder reassuringly.

"Ryan, I'm genuinely happy for you. Since you're stepping onto the right path, you should quickly divest yourself of business! At the very least, don't let there be any more public entanglements. It will affect your future image within the Hoffman family and in public. Also, don't want to worry about you every day. Take care of yourself, okay?"

## Chapter 1195

At that moment, Ryan felt like Justin had become more than just a friend. He was now like a big brother to him, and his words held deep meaning. Ryan's throat tightened, tears welling up in his eyes. "Geez, you're making me emotional."

Deep down, even though he hadn't voiced it, he had already thought about it. He was going to make sure Carrie had a bright and wonderful future. "The Thompsons are here!"

Someone yelled, causing Justin's entire body to tense up as if he were struck by lightning. His previously calm heart was racing. He took a deep breath and straightened his bow tie, his eyes fixed on the banquet hall doors.

Ryan stood nearby, trying not to burst into laughter. For those who didn't know, it would seem as if Justin was standing at the altar, preparing to welcome his bride.

Shortly after, Wyatt and Asher made a graceful entrance into the banquet hall, accompanied by two striking women, Bella and Amelia.

One exuded the captivating allure of a red rose, while the other possessed an elegant charm akin to that of a white rose. Their presence overshadowed all the other women in the room. "Tonight's belle of the ball is definitely Ms. Bella Thompson," remarked one guest.

Another added, "And beside her is Chairman Thompson's lesser-known youngest daughter. The one that he had with Madam Celeste?"

"Yeah, that's the one! She looks great, too. Even when she's standing next to Ms. Bella, she holds herself quite well. Each of them has their own unique appeal."

Someone else chimed in jokingly, "If someone were to marry this pair of sisters, they'd be living a dream life indeed!"

"Why would you even think about adding another trouble to the one you've already got by marrying someone? Keep dreaming, but don't be surprised if you end up exhausted in your dream!" The men were fantasizing about the Thompson sisters.

Justin's expression turned grim, his fingers clenching tightly as a wave of bitterness swept over him.

"Hey, calm down, man." Ryan nudged Justin's ribs with his elbow, offering a comforting smile.

He continued, "They didn't mean any harm. You know how guys can be. They just talk nonsense sometimes. The more they joke around, the more impressed they are with your wife." "You're open-minded. If it were Carrie, could you put up with it?" Justin's expression turned serious.

"Uh..." Ryan was surprised.

Justin took a deep breath and approached his beloved with determination. Their eyes met, and at that moment, Bella also glanced in his direction.

Their intense gazes connected, and her beautiful smile hinted playfully as she winked at him.

Justin fought the urge to nervously swallow, feeling like the woman had ignited a fire in his heart.

At that moment, two figures advanced and greeted the Thompson family before him. It was the Reed father and son.

"Chairman Thompson, great to see you again." Wilson shook hands with Wyatt and turned to Bella with a meaningful look. "And your lovely daughter. She really left quite an impression on us when we last met."

Chapter 1196

Wyatt narrowed his piercing eyes slightly while looking composed and refined as he firmly shook hands with Wilson. He didn't fall behind in any way.

"The commotion at the racetrack must have startled Mr. Reed. My daughter can be impulsive and inexperienced. If her actions were inappropriate, hope you can overlook them and forgive her." Wyatt flashed a graceful smile, speaking fluent French with a deep, captivating voice that exuded an air of authority.

The onlookers were shocked by the scene. Were they seeing things correctly?

The scion of Meridan's old money aristocracy, the heir to a royal castle, and the helmsman of a top-tier financial conglomerate actually extended a friendly hand to Wyatt first!

Although the Thompson family was wealthy and influential, they only dominated in the local area of Hatchbay.

But the Salvador and Iverson families were the top financial conglomerates in Savrow, so why were they being overlooked by Wilson? Wyatt's dignity was truly unyielding!

This made Gregory uneasy as he watched from the sidelines along with Logan and Lance, each lost in their own thoughts. Others seemed okay, but Gregory's face couldn't hide his unease. His jawline tensed.

Everyone in the Savrow circle knew that Journey Ventures' first domestic business collaboration had fallen through with the Salvador family.

During this uncertain period of their relationship, Wilson showed indifference toward Gregory and instead seemed closer to Wyatt, despite having no collaboration with the latter. This was quite embarrassing for Gregory. It felt like a subtle humiliation.

"Hahaha... Chairman Thompson, you're too modest." Wilson continued to compliment Bella, "Your daughter is truly exceptional. Not only is she stunningly beautiful, but her equestrian skills rival those of professional jockeys. Her technique stands out among female riders in our country. She's really top-notch."

Wilson added, "After the racetrack event, Wilson Jr. couldn't stop praising Ms. Thompson and hoped to see her again. They both love horses and understand them, so they'll surely have plenty to talk about." Wilson beckoned to his son, Wilson Jr., who quickly adjusted his tie before heading over. He cast a sly glance at Justin, smirking in a way that unsettled others.

Justin felt fury welling up inside him as he clenched his fists, and the look in his eyes turned icy cold.

"Damn it! Is that blond guy trying to provoke you, Justin?!" Ryan noticed it too, clenching his fists. "This is Savrow, not Meridan. What's he acting all cocky for here?! Damn it!"

"He's into Bella. could tell from the moment saw him," Justin said with furrowed brows and a heavy expression clouding his features. Jealousy consumed him, leaving bitterness in both his heart and mouth. "Your wife stands out too much. Any man would be captivated by her beauty, or else I'd question whether he's gay." Ryan complimented Bella appreciatively.

Ryan was glad to know Carrie was an exceptional gem-the kind of beauty that only he could like Bella, who was not only beautiful but also talented, was enough to break one's heart into pieces.

"Ms. Thompson, it's a pleasure to see you again." Wilson Jr. at her with eyes ding his hand in a gentlemanly manner.

Justin's eyes were bloodshot, and his breath caught in his chest. It was just a polite gesture, but he knew this foreigner had ulterior motives.

As Justin prepared to step forward with his imposing figure, ready to confront the situation, Ryan stopped him just in time.

"Hey, don't act hastily. That blonde guy is just shaking hands with your wife. If you're Same OG EUEEs you'll only as petty. Or

orse, it'll show that you don't trust Bella and are constantly worried about her being seduced by other men."

"That guy has a hidden agenda."

Chapter 1197

Justin's eyes flashed with anger, and his temples throbbed noticeably. "I don't want that man laying his dirty hands on my woman."

"Have you thought about what will happen if you do that?" As an observer, Ryan calmly pointed out the potential consequences.

"The Reeds are holding a banquet tonight to find new business partners. Everyone is eager for the opportunity, including Chairman Thompson. If you cause trouble, it could ruin any chance Chairman

Thompson has of making deals. Bella warned that her father holds grudges, so don't mess things up. You don't want to risk your dream of marrying Bella being shattered!"

While Justin hesitated, Bella smiled charmingly and said, "Mr. Wilson Jr., it's a pleasure to have you here in Savrow. To show respect, please allow me to reciprocate using the etiquette of your country." With that, her melodious voice trailed off, and the enchanting woman lowered her long eyelashes, gracefully lifting the hem of her red evening gown in a dignified and elegant princess-like gesture. The men around her, including Wilson Jr., couldn't help but be mesmerized.

In an instant, it seemed like they had been transported back to a fancy medieval European ball. Everyone was captivated.

However, only Bella knew she simply didn't want to touch this man's hand.

She knew Wilson Jr. was a dashing playboy, even more rampant than Ryan had been before.

Bella reckoned he could probably field a football team with his illegitimate children.

Justin could see through her thoughts, and the corners of his lips curled into a gentle smile filled with sweet affection.

Wilson Jr. remained smug, believing that Bella was interested in him, his eyes revealing an air of self-assured foolishness.

"The first purpose of this gathering is to announce upcoming business collaborations, and secondly, it is also my son's hope to provide both parties with an opportunity to understand each other better, as well as to get to know Ms. Thompson better."

Wilson's intentions were too obvious! He had his eyes set on Bella and intended to make her Mrs. Reed in the future!

Asher's expression suddenly turned serious as he looked at his father with a mix of emotions.

Out of the blue, Wyatt's following words caught both the Reeds off guard. "Mr. Reed, are you interested in making my daughter your daughter-in-law?" Everyone was shocked!

Bella was also taken aback. She had not anticipated Wyatt to be so blunt! He was a man of reputation, yet he lacked insight.

Justin felt his heart tighten, and a cold sweat broke out on his palms. He had always trusted Bella without hesitation, but Wyatt was another story.

Wyatt could marry Amelia off to someone as evil as Christopher for the sake of the conglomerate's interests, so why wouldn't he consider the offer extended by the Wilson family?

On top of that, Wyatt had never held Justin in high esteem.

As Wilson struggled to find a response, Wilson Jr. couldn't contain his eagerness and spoke up, unabashedly expressing his admiration for Bella. "Yes, Chairman Thompson, I am very fond of your daughter. I would even say it was love at first sight."

The crowd gasped in shock, and the socialites were seething with jealousy. What luck did Bella have to attract so many suitors, each nobler than the last?

She was clearly a divorced woman, so how did she become the coveted prize in the eyes of these wealthy young men?!

"I cannot forget Ms. Thompson's heroic performance at the racetrack. She's the most dazzling girl I have ever seen. When I laid eyes on her, my heart and my eyes could no longer accommodate any other woman. That's why I wish to court your daughter, Chairman Thompson, and I hope Ms. Thompson will give me the chance to pursue her."

Wilson Jr.'s words sounded humble, but the arrogance in his demeanor was unmistakable.

Chapter 1198

Wilson Jr. made it sound as if the women courted by him should feel grateful.

"Bella..." Amelia said, anxiously holding onto Bella's hand.

Surprisingly, Bella stayed composed, her tone cool and distant. "Mr. Wilson Jr., I'm a divorced woman. It's a fact that everyone in Savrow is aware of. You know that, right?"

The Reeds visibly panicked, exchanging uneasy glances.

People around them began to cast sidelong glances at Justin.

With a tight-lipped expression, Justin fixed his gaze on Bella, prepared to step up and address any speculation, fiercely committed to defending her.

"That girl from the Thompson family is way too arrogant and irresponsible!"

Logan stood beside Gregory, shaking his head disdainfully. "Is divorce something to be proud of? It's not something to boast about, especially at such an important event. Not only is she shameless, but she's also trying to bring Justin down with her. Chairman Salvador, this girl clearly has no respect for your family and looks down on the Salvador family."

Gregory's face darkened gradually, his expression growing increasingly grim.

Zoe playfully joked. "For some women, divorce may be shameful, but for Ms. Thompson, it seems like she's wearing it as a badge of honor."

She walked alongside her grandfather and said sarcastically, "Mr. Wilson Jr. is actively pursuing her. By speaking out about this publicly, she not only subtly offends the Salvador family but also showcases her charm to everyone else at the same time. It's a win-win situation for her. Can you blame her?"

Gregory's expression turned incredibly cold and dark as ice.



"There are plenty of fish in the sea. Mr. Wilson Jr., with your status, you won't have trouble finding a suitable match. Obviously, I'm not what you're looking for." Bella refused him with a gentle smile. Even though it was polite, she still turned him down.

Wilson Jr. felt intense frustration surging up in his chest.

Initially, when Bella mentioned her divorce, he felt uncomfortable due to his lack of experience. But what hurt even more was the feeling of being rejected!

So, taking a step closer, Wilson Jr. looked at Bella with tender affection, as if she were the only one he could ever marry.

"Ms. Thompson, whether you've been married before is of no concern to me. I'm drawn to your personality. Your experiences and openness only add to your charm, deeply captivating me. Your ex-husband may not have cherished you, but in my eyes, you're a dazzling star in the night sky, a radiant pearl in the vast sea. I will cherish and protect you. Please, give me a chance to court you."

"I swear, I can't stand these men and their sweet talk! They may seem passionate, but deep down, they're shameless!" Ryan bent over and pretended to vomit.

"It's all my fault." Justin's heart churned with bitter emotions, his trembling fingers clenching. "If only I had been a better husband to Bella. If only I hadn't been so foolish, so blind... None of this would have happened. It's all my fault."

The onlookers were dumbfounded. Even Wilson was astonished. His son, usually so proud, was now humbly courting a woman for the first time in his life.

Bella seemed to be either a rare gem or a harbinger of trouble.

Bella did not expect Wilson Jr. to continue. Her beautiful lips turned cold as frost, and she was ready to give him the cold shoulder.

Suddenly, she felt a weight on her shoulder.

Wyatt stepped forward, placing a hand on her shoulder, and smiled at the Reeds. "Gentlemen, my apologies. My daughter is already spoken for. She has a fiancé."

Chapter 1199

Fiancé...?!

Bella's heart skipped a beat, and her eyes widened, staring directly at Wyatt.

Justin's eyes brimmed with infinite tension and concern, his body tense like a drawn bow, as if he might dash forward any second to grab Bella's hand and leave, disregarding everything else.

Gregory and members of the Hoffman family also looked extremely pale, especially Zoe. Her heart was beating so fast that it felt like it was going to burst out of her chest.

Zoe stared anxiously and maliciously at Bella, her mouth dripping with contempt as she said, "Oh my, Ms. Thompson actually has a fiancé?! I wonder which young master is so lucky to marry into the Thompson family."

Gregory gritted his teeth fiercely. "Regardless of who she is betrothed to, it will never be someone from my family!"

Zoe smirked upon hearing this.

Wilson Jr.'s expression visibly darkened. He felt that Wyatt was just trying to save her from this situation and looking for excuses to placate her.

On the racecourse, he could see that Bella and Justin were close, but back in Meridan's upper-class society, he had seen too many of these romantic affairs. They were merely having an affair.

If Justin was really her fiancé, Wyatt would have long made it public after that incident at the racecourse. Why wait until now to bring it up?

Wilson, on the other hand, remained composed, smiling as he asked, "Ms. Thompson, you already have a fiancé? That's truly delightful news. I wonder who the lucky man is." Curiosity surged among the onlookers.

Wyatt smiled lightly, his gaze suddenly drifting toward Justin.

Following his line of sight, Wilson Jr. also looked over, knowing whom he was looking at. His gums were sore from clenching his teeth.

"OMG! Justin! Am I seeing things? Or is Chairman Thompson looking at you?!" Ryan pinched his throat, shaking Justin's arm wildly like an over-caffeinated groundhog.

Justin felt his breathing quicken. Fine beads of sweat formed on his forehead, and his voice was low as he said, "Don't read too much into it. Chairman Thompson may just be using this as an excuse to reject Wilson Jr.'s advances."

"Then why is Chairman Thompson looking over here? Why not just lie?" Ryan remained excited and optimistic. "There are only two of us here. Chairman Thompson must be looking at you. He surely wouldn't be looking at me!"

Justin's heart fluttered violently as he tried to control his breathing. Bella was the focus of his piercing gaze.

"The Thompson family has always been discreet, including my daughter. We are not the type to expose our private lives to the public for attention. Tonight is a business banquet meticulously prepared by you, Mr. Reed. It wouldn't be appropriate for us to steal the spotlight with personal matters. Both Bella and I believe that now is not the right time to announce the engagement. When the time is right, we will naturally make it public."

Wyatt looked away from Justin and said, "When the time comes, Mr. Reed, I will personally send you an invitation to come to Hatchbay for the ceremony."

"Haha! Coincidentally, I've never been to Hatchbay myself. I've heard it's a great place with deep blue waters and fine white sands. You must make sure to let me know when the time comes!" Wilson was diplomatic.

Bella's heart was in turmoil. Seeing that Wyatt smoothly diverted the topic, she breathed a sigh of relief.

Lately, Wyatt seemed to be on some sort of medication rollercoaster, sometimes behaving bizarrely and other times surprisingly sensible, like he had a split personality.

Everyone couldn't get enough of the drama and started gossiping.

"Who exactly is Bella's fiancé? I remember that Christopher Iverson had a close relationship with Chairman Thompson before. Both Chairman Thompson and Chairman Iverson are also like brothers. I bet the fiancé is Mr. Christopher, right?"

"If it's him, will he show up tonight? I doubt there's a strong connection between Ms. Thompson and Mr. Iverson. I bet it's definitely Mr. Salvador!"

"I think so too. Wasn't it obvious enough at the racecourse? When Ms. Thompson was injured, who was the man by her side? If the fiancé was Mr. Iverson, how could he not show up? That would be too inhumane!"

Amelia looked at Bella's blushing face with envy, tiny drops of tears swirling in her eyes.

Her father's intentions were clear-her sister's fiancé could only be Justin Salvador.

How wonderful it was to have the approval of their parents and to be able to stay with the one she loved.

Amelia did not harbor any hatred toward her sister or toward her father or mother.

Hunter Lovett aided Bella's and Justin's enemies to get away with their crimes. It was true that the Lovett family was not of any help to the Thompsons.

#### Chapter 1200

As Amelia thought about it, she felt the weight of her emotions, and tears filled her eyes. She could only endure the pain in silence. She felt like the least capable member of her family and was willing to make any sacrifice. If her marriage could benefit her family, she would do it.

...

After the interlude, the banquet carried on.

The attempt by the Reeds to form a marriage alliance with the Thompson family fell through, which undoubtedly gave the Salvadors and Hoffmans some confidence. Even James Iverson seemed to be eager to make a move.

Wilson Jr. looked depressed after being rejected by Bella. Wilson noticed his son's embarrassed expression and tried to maintain a neutral face, but could he really hide what he was thinking?

It seemed like the opportunity to work with the Thompson family on the racecourse hotel project was likely off the table.

As the music changed, everyone paired up and started dancing gracefully, livening up the atmosphere at the banquet hall.

Bella knew Amelia was shy. She had never been to such a fancy dance before and probably felt nervous in social situations. Instead, they both sat in one corner of the room, chatting and sipping juice.

The young men around couldn't take their eyes off Amelia, each hoping for a chance to ask her to dance. But no one dared approach because Bella had such a strong and oppressive presence. They could only admire Amelia from a distance.

Amelia kept her inner struggle to herself around her sister, barely speaking.

Bella held her sister's cold hand tightly and took a deep breath. "Amelia, you can't just give in to an arranged marriage. Trust me, I'll make sure you marry the person you love."

"I'm fine, Bella," Amelia said with trembling fingers and a forced smile. "I'll go along with the marriage set up by Mom and Dad. You focus on being with Mr. Salvador and stop worrying about me."

Bella immediately exclaimed, "Silly girl! What nonsense are you talking about?! How could I ever sacrifice your happiness for my own? What kind of person would I be then?!"

Bella's voice was hoarse. "If things don't work out between you and Steve, I'd rather not get married for the rest of my life!"

"Bella, please don't be stubborn. I am doing this willingly, and it's not related to you," Amelia reassured, about to continue persuading when they heard a voice.

"Ms. Bella, may I have the pleasure of sharing a dance with you?"

Both sisters looked up simultaneously.

They saw the well-dressed Wilson Jr. standing before Bella, politely offering his hand and eagerly awaiting her response. Bella maintained a neutral expression, but before she could reply, Wilson Jr. said, "If you won't let me court you, would you at least give me the chance to dance with you? Dancing is merely a social activity. Please don't read too much into it. I really admire and respect you. There is no hidden agenda here. Ms. Bella, you wouldn't say no to me, right?"

All eyes turned toward them.

Amelia frowned. She could clearly tell that her sister truly disliked this blond man. But with him clinging to Bella like that, refusing would make Bella seem arrogant and stuck-up.

After a moment of awkward silence, Bella couldn't think of an excuse to refuse, so she hesitantly raised her hand.

All of a sudden, a mysterious figure rushed in, bringing in a light breeze.

Before Wilson Jr. could do anything, the soft and slender hand in front of him was abruptly snatched away.

Bella's gorgeous eyes widened a bit as everything around them quickly became blurry. After a few elegant twirls, her graceful form was whisked into the center of the dance floor, under everyone's watchful eyes.